

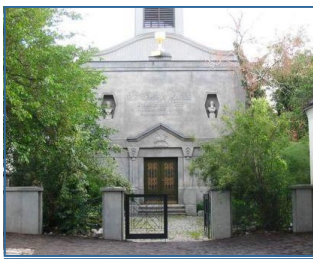
SERVANT LEADERS

Volume 4, Issue 11



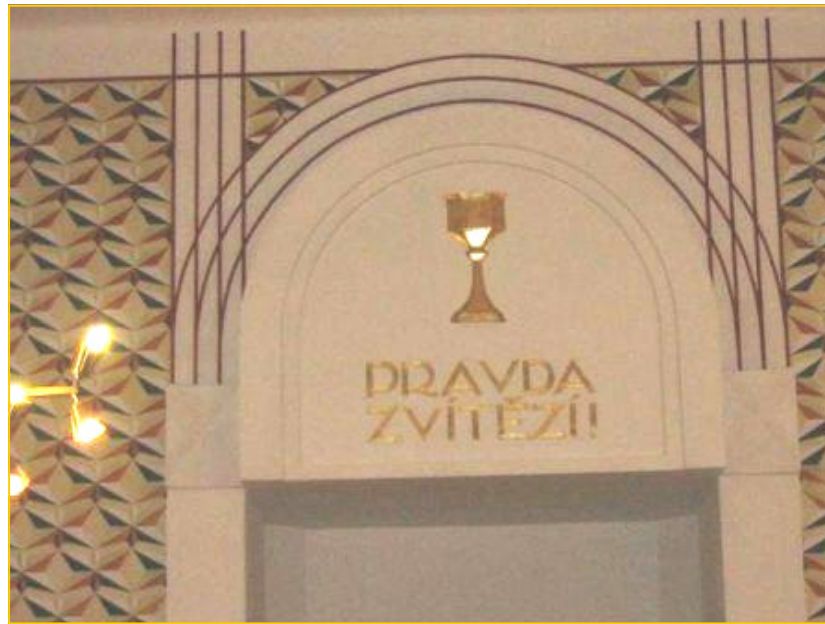
November 2008

*International
Leadership
Institute
Providing
Leadership
Development
Services and
Programs*



Betlemska Kaple , Zizkov

"The Truth Prevails"



"The Truth Prevails" is written in Czech on the wall of Betlemska Kaple (Bethlehem Chapel) in Zizkov, Prague 3. Zizkov was named for Jan Zizka, victorious general in the Hussite Wars who repelled an army of crusaders sent by the Church of Rome in a stunning victory on the hill known as Vitkov in Zizkov. The chalice (cup) became the symbol of the Hussites.

"Pravda Zvitezi" ("Truth Prevails" or "Truth Endures") is the motto of the Czech Republic and is attributed to Master Jan Hus (see below). *Photo courtesy Luis Blanco*

Master Jan Hus of Prague

Master Jan Hus was an esteemed professor at Charles University and Rector of the original Bethlehem Chapel in Prague's Old Town in the late 14th and early 15th centuries. Hus was a Church reformer (and, eventually, a martyr), an influential scholar of the Czech language and defender of Czech interests at Charles University, a respected theologian who studied well-

known English Christian reformers of his time, and a man beloved by the people of Prague for his unflinching honesty and integrity.

One of Hus' most famous sayings is " .. seek Truth, listen to the Truth, learn Truth, love Truth, speak Truth, uphold Truth, defend Truth until death; for Truth shall deliver you."

International Leadership Institute
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082
www.ili.cc

SPEAK TRUTH

This meditation on the nature and power of truth by Master Jan Hus has brought courage and tenacity to the Czechs, a nation whose history was one of political repression and social oppression for more than three centuries following the Hussite Wars(1620-1989, with a brief interlude of freedom from 1919-1939). The modern-day Czech Republic, which comprises the old kingdom of Bohemia (including the Moravian and Silesian lands), has a tumultuous history including times of power and influence (the Great Moravian Empire and the Golden Era of Charles the IV) and times of subjection (to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Germans under the Nazis and the Soviet Union).

These changing cultural conditions shaped the Czechs into a people who are resourceful and can adjust as need be, in order to survive. But Hus’ message about the ultimate triumph is also evident in the Czech national character: it’s very hard to fool a Czech, and nearly impossible to make him lie. The typical Czech will avoid a definitive response that would force him to be untruthful: instead, she will change the subject or, better yet, pose an unanswerable question to her inquisitor.

This respect for the truth has enabled the Czechs, even under severe oppression, to honor their national motto, and has helped them maintain their identity as Czechs. It also reflects a Christian worldview: in the end, truth will prevail.

DEFEND TRUTH

All Christians are intimately acquainted with the truth, for God Himself is truth. He embodies the truth about the nature of crea-

tion, and His word is always true. Christians bask in the wonderful and life-changing truth of God as revealed in His Son Jesus Christ.

Therefore Christians will by nature want to defend the truth, and will quickly sort out truth from lies. When faced with lying by others, Christians can speak truth into the situation by their actions, which speak louder than any lying words. Christians bear the truth about God in their souls, spirits and bodies, defending truth wherever they go.

" .. seek Truth, listen to the Truth, learn Truth, love Truth, speak Truth, uphold Truth, defend Truth until death; for Truth shall deliver you.. "

Master Jan Hus

TRUTH SHALL DELIVER YOU

One day, the Bible tells us in many passages, the earth as we know it will come to an end. We will all be judged

by God and given our appropriate reward or punishment. Of course none of us could stand before God and expect anything other than punishment for our weakness and lack of love, compassion, forgiveness and hope.

But here is the Good News! The truth shall deliver us! Instead of getting what we deserve, we will be delivered by the truth of God’s mercy and love. We will inherit His kingdom forever and ever.

In all truth, I can hardly understand this. How can my unworthiness be transformed into fellowship with the sinless, perfect, eternal God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the ruler of all that is? Only something as powerful as God’s Truth could possibly defend me against the harsh judgment I have brought upon myself by my disobedience.

So I will do my best as a human to seek truth, listen to truth, learn about truth, love truth, speak truth, and defend truth until my death, so that, when I face God, the TRUTH will deliver me.