



Three Things that Last Forever

International Leadership
Institute

PDF #6
2010



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 1-9

Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of the complete,
unabridged contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute
Publishing House

All rights reserved.

This file may be downloaded for free.
Charging a fee for downloading the file, or
for printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be excerpted (up to
250 words) if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

Three Things that Last Forever
By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute Pub-
lishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

John Lennon once remarked, “Life is what happens while you’re making other plans.” This was certainly true for Knut and Gudrun. While they were busy with praying about, thinking about, and talking about Cesta Tam, significant political and economic changes were happening all around them, both in the US and abroad. These changes fell into three broad categories:

1. The strengthening of the European Union (EU)
2. The election of Barack Obama as U. S. President in 2008
3. The U.S. “financial meltdown” of 2007—2009.

Knut and Gudrun’s plans (like those of millions of people around the world) were affected by these changes. More and more, too, they realized that they would be in the position of learners, not teachers, in the Czech Republic. They knew, however, that they could rely on the truths and promises of the Bible for direction in responding to those changes.



*“And we know that in **all things** God
works for the **good** of those who love
him, who have been called according to his
purpose.” (Romans 8:28)*

With this assurance, Knut and Gudrun maintained their physical, psychological and spiritual vitality as the changes swirling around them led them to new issues of political and economic urgency and a new location (still in the U.S) as they relocated to Lake Mary, Florida, in 2009, as a stepping-stone to moving to Prague in 2010.

Wekiva Springs, Florida (near Lake Mary)



Three Things that Last Forever

International Leadership
Institute

PDF #6
2010



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

The strengthening of the EU

The Czech Republic joined the EU in 2004. This move was a win-win, as entry into the EU brought immediate economic and political advantages to the Czechs, while adding another free-market democracy with a well-functioning economy to the EU. From the EU on-line gateway, www.europa.eu, here is some basic information on the EU (as of January 2010):

The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 27 democratic European countries. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 498 million citizens — in a fairer, safer world.

In 2009, the economy of the European Union generated a GDP based on PPP of over 12,256.48 billion Euros (\$16,523.78 billion US dollars) according to the IMF, making in the largest economy in the world. The EU economy consists of a single market and is represented as a unified entity in the WTO. In 2009, the U.S. GDP was \$14,261 billion in US dollars.

The main legislative bodies of the EU are the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe); the Council of the European Union (representing national governments); the European Commission (representing the common EU interest).

Obviously, the EU is a force to be reckoned with on the world scene. By moving to Prague, Knut and Gudrun would be living in the center of the largest economy in the world, with open boundaries between member countries that insure freely-moving goods, people and jobs. Far from moving to a country of 10 million people with a modest economic impact on the rest of the world, the Petersons would be moving to a member state in the world's largest economy. Far from bringing to the Czechs "advice" from the most successful economy of the world (a position the U.S. had held for decades, but which was being challenged on all sides), the Petersons would be humbly observing the EU's successes.

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 1-9

Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of the complete, unabridged contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute
Publishing House

All rights reserved.

This file may be downloaded for free.
Charging a fee for downloading the file, or
for printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be excerpted (up to
250 words) if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

Three Things that Last Forever
By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute Pub-
lishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc



Three Things that Last Forever

*International Leadership
Institute*

PDF #6
2010

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

The EU brings together a huge conglomeration of people from 27 countries, speaking 23 “official EU” languages, with vastly different histories, religious beliefs, cultural backgrounds and political heritages. What’s more, most of these countries had fought bloody wars against each other over many centuries, engendering bitterness, vengefulness and generational hatreds—yet they were now living together in economic and political cooperation! The U.S., in contrast, had endured only one great internal war (the Civil War) and, more than 140 years later, had not yet managed to allow those wounds to heal.



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 1-9



Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of
the complete, unabridged
contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership
Institute Publishing House

All rights reserved.

This file may be downloaded
for free. Charging a fee for
downloading the file, or for
printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be
excerpted (up to 250 words)
if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

*Three Things that Last
Forever*

By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership
Institute Publishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc

This map indicates the 27 member countries of the EU, as of January, 2010.



Three Things that Last Forever

*International Leadership
Institute*

PDF #6
2010



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

The election of Barack Obama as U.S. President in 2008

Both Knut and Gudrun were politically involved from their teenage years. They fervently believed in the premise that “all men are created equal,” as Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence. As earnest Christians, they supported all government policies that were derived from this phrase, including the guarantee of each citizen’s civil rights, especially the right of each citizen to have access to affordable healthcare, the right for access to a comprehensive and high-quality education for every child living in the U.S., the right to vote in open and honest elections, and the right to worship with no interference from civil authorities.

To put it another way, the Petersons fought vigorously against racial prejudice, economic injustice, cruelty and oppression in social relationships, neglect and abuse of people who can’t defend themselves, and uncivil behavior in the public arena, such as heckling and berating elected officials.

Barack Obama had a very similar outlook, as he communicated in the run-up to the 2008 presidential elections. His platform of health care reform, a new direction for public education, economic stability, a reevaluation of American foreign policy, and (most important) reaching out to and finding common ground with people who hold very different ideas, beliefs and worldviews all rang true to and seemed right to Knut and Gudrun. In fact, during the primary campaign and the presidential campaign, Knut and Gudrun’s admiration and respect for Obama grew. Obama’s calm demeanor, his refusal to make hot-headed and snappy remarks when challenged, and his evident love for his family made a powerfully positive impression on the Petersons. Knut campaigned for Obama, both in person and via the Internet (incidentally, Knut’s computer skills improved by leaps and bounds in this process; he became proficient in social networking and blogging; he used these technological tools to connect with friends from around the world.

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 **1-9**

Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of the complete, unabridged contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute
Publishing House

All rights reserved.

This file may be downloaded for free.
Charging a fee for downloading the file, or
for printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be excerpted (up to
250 words) if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

Three Things that Last Forever
By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute Pub-
lishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc



Three Things that Last Forever

*International Leadership
Institute*

PDF #6
2010



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 1-9

Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of the complete, unabridged contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute
Publishing House

All rights reserved.

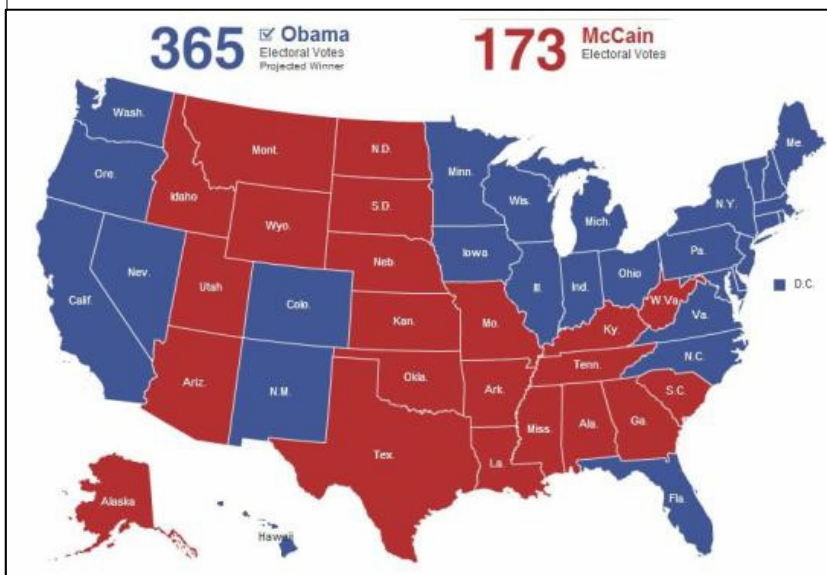
This file may be downloaded for free.
Charging a fee for downloading the file, or
for printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be excerpted (up to
250 words) if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

Three Things that Last Forever
By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute Pub-
lishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

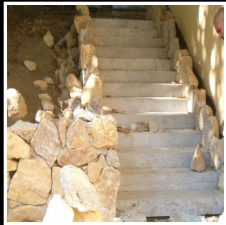
When Obama won the presidential election of 2008, Knut and Gudrun watched the returns with tears of joy in their eyes. After 400 years of racial injustice, exploitation and hatred, the U.S. had finally begun to heal its wounds. For the Petersons, this voting result was a signal that the U.S. had made a step in the right direction. Ironically, it took the election of a “black” man whose ancestors were never enslaved, a man with a white mom and a Kenyan dad, to bridge the gap between American whites and blacks. Apparently, Knut and Gudrun were not the only American voters to like Obama’s message of hope!



**OBAMA: Electoral
votes: 365. Popu-
lar vote: 53%
(66,882,230 votes
for Obama)**

**MCCAIN: Electoral
votes: 173. Popu-
lar vote: 46%
(58,343,671 votes
for McCain)**

Obama’s message of hope resonated not only with Knut and Gudrun, but with the rest of the country. The elation following Obama’s election was reflected with a 69% approval rate (Gallup poll results) in the first months of his presidency. However, even his emergency measures to stop the rapidly-worsening economic situation in the US could not immediately end the downward spiral, and he faced increasing criticism from both the Liberal left and the Conservative right during 2009, his first year in office.



Three Things that Last Forever

International Leadership
Institute

PDF #6
2010



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 1-9

Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of the complete,
unabridged contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute
Publishing House

All rights reserved.

This file may be downloaded for free.
Charging a fee for downloading the file, or
for printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be excerpted (up to
250 words) if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

Three Things that Last Forever
By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute Pub-
lishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

The U.S. “financial meltdown” of 2007—2009

On Oct. 7, 2007, the Dow Jones Industrial average, the leading indicator of U.S. economic growth and health, set its record high of 14,164. What seemed like good news, though, was not; what followed was a three-act tragedy.

- *For five months, from October 2007 through the collapse of investment bank Bear Stearns in mid-March 2008, the Dow fell 2,000 points in an orderly fashion as investors anticipated a “garden-variety” (not unusual) recession.*
- *From mid-March 2008 until Labor Day, the Dow rose and fell but was little changed.*
- *Right after Labor Day of 2008, four multi-billion dollar institutions (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers and AIG) failed over 10 days. The credit markets froze, and investors panicked, fearing another Great Depression. There were rallies amid the downward spiral that ensued, but overall, over six months (until the low on March 9) the Dow fell 5,000 points.*

These catastrophic events caused even the ongoing presidential campaign to pause, as both of the front-running candidates, Barack Obama and John McCain, stopped their scheduled events and took part in White House discussions of ways to proceed. The years-in-the-making “financial meltdown” that was coming to the surface became the hottest campaign issue, even overshadowing Republican Vice-Presidential candidate Sarah Palin’s wardrobe, as people lost their jobs, their homes, their belief in the strength of the American version of capitalism, and their faith in the American government.

The presidential campaign gave a platform for Democrats and Republicans to outline their plans for reversing the economic decline, giving Obama a chance to shine as he articulated his political and economic strategies during a time of crisis, as the US financial meltdown began to affect the rest of the world.



Three Things that Last Forever

*International Leadership
Institute*

PDF #6
2010



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 **1-9**

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

In October 2008, a global economic summit was held in Washington, D.C. In spite of their own economic woes, all twenty nations attending agreed in principle that protectionist economic policies and trade barriers were not the way to handle the global economic crisis. This kind of cooperative action was considered to be the best way to solve the current “meltdown” in the world financial markets—working not separately (each for his own benefit), but together. Even though that month the Dow stood at 8,451, a woefully low number, American began to have hope that one of the presidential candidates might have the right answers: Barack Obama.

Candidate McCain argued that only the government that had created such an interdependent bureaucracy as the US economic and political system possessed the necessary background and knowledge to solve these pressing issues. Candidate Obama disagreed—the “average person” may believe that elected and appointed officials are the ones who have the expertise and vision to provide innovative and original solutions to the unprecedented problems of our times, but leaving it all up to the incoming administration to untie the knots that caused the meltdown of American financial institutions and markets was not the solution. Obama’s message was clear—we ALL own the problems and can only find the best solutions together. His election was assured by his appeal to all Americans to join together in unity against the foe of financial meltdown.

In this climate of fear, financial wizards and political pundits were predicting a complete collapse of the American economic and political system. They were forecasting that the dollar would crash, trade protectionism would surge, and violent civil turmoil would become commonplace. The downfall of the U.S. and major world economies would drag down the rest of the world, causing untold destruction in world markets; this crisis would bring years, even decades, of hardship all over the world.

Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of the complete, unabridged contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute
Publishing House

All rights reserved.

This file may be downloaded for free.
Charging a fee for downloading the file, or
for printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be excerpted (up to
250 words) if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

Three Things that Last Forever
By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute Pub-
lishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc



Three Things that Last Forever

International Leadership
Institute

PDF #6
2010



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 1-9

Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of the complete,
unabridged contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute
Publishing House

All rights reserved.

This file may be downloaded for free.
Charging a fee for downloading the file, or
for printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be excerpted (up to
250 words) if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

Three Things that Last Forever
By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute Pub-
lishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

Into this scenario stepped a “savior.” When Obama entered the White House, he gathered his trusted advisors around him to craft strategies for reversing the downward spiral. By October 2009, as Obama’s economic stimulus packages began to show results, the Dow stood at 9,865, up 51 percent from a 12-year low of 6,547 on March 9 — when some investors feared the financial world was coming to an end.

In January 2010, the Dow Jones Industrial average stood at 10,581.39. Unemployment was still close to 10 percent, but other parts of the economy were stabilizing. Consumers were still hunkered down, but retail sales showed a slight gain in September 2009. The panic of Fall 2008 has been replaced by the recognition that the worst was over, but it might be years before the economy booms again. For the past decades, the process of government has been viewed as dauntingly complex and confusing, in a world of information overload and increasing speed. The average citizen has come to feel, very often, that he or she doesn’t have the capability to understand, for example, the puzzling gyrations of the stock market or the technical methods needed to provide full employment for all people who want to work. This feeling of being at the mercy of events has been slowing the recovery, as people hesitate to invest in the future.

In the meantime, the self-named “Tea Party” political activists have spread fear, frustration and violent anger as their “contribution” to the economic recovery. These protesters have had a negative impact on the United States, bringing their hatred and ill-will to the national arena through demonstrations, conventions and election campaigning. Smear and fear tactics against their opponents, racist threats against President Obama and a complete unwillingness to work in a bi-partisan fashion in Congress are their favorite tactics.

***And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so
that in all things at all times, having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work. (II Corinthians 9:8)***



Three Things that Last Forever

International Leadership
Institute

PDF #6
2010



Top left photo courtesy Daniela Paulova

In this PDF File

Chapter 5 1-9

Three Things that Last Forever

This is the 6th PDF file of the complete,
unabridged contents

Copyright 2010 by

Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute
Publishing House

All rights reserved.

This file may be downloaded for free.
Charging a fee for downloading the file, or
for printed copies, is prohibited.

Short comments may be excerpted (up to
250 words) if proper citation is used, as
noted below:

Three Things that Last Forever
By Sara and Jaroslav Tusek
Servant Leaders Press
International Leadership Institute Pub-
lishing House
830-13 A1A North, #317
Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082
USA
www.ili.cc

CHAPTER FIVE: The world changes around the Petersons

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

The good news is, though, that "you can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time," to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln lived through political turmoil and murderous hatred; he ensured the preservation of the United States of America, though he paid with his own life, as well as the lives of many thousand Americans. President Obama and his loyal supporters have taken comfort from the courage of Lincoln and others like him, who gave all they had to keep the U.S.A. together in rough seas. After two years of living through and intensely investigating these three immense changes in the world's economic and political systems, Knut and Gudrun felt much more qualified to live in Prague. More than ever, they remembered the words of President Abraham Lincoln in an 1858 speech, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." This statement is no less true today. By taking ownership of our current crisis, and acting as one united people, Gudrun and Knut reasoned, Americans could support and join their government in moving towards a better future for their children and our grandchildren.

But tempering their new-found trust in the American government's will to do good was the knowledge of the greed, selfishness, inefficiency and criminal behavior that had caused the financial meltdown in the first place. The entire global economy was affected by America's eight years (2000-2008) of political recklessness, poor stewardship, fiscal irresponsibility, and cynical disregard for the needs of those without great wealth. Knut and Gudrun felt shame over this fact. Coupled with a new understanding of the great success of the EU in making Europe more prosperous and more stable, Knut and Gudrun were at last ready to go to Prague not as "rock star" American heroes distributing largesse, but as humble, teachable human beings who knew quite well that they didn't have all the answers. Finally they felt prepared to "abound in every good work":