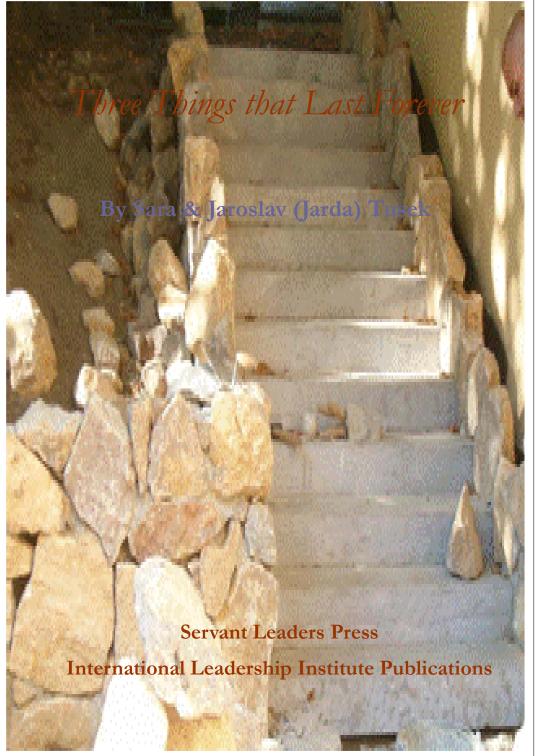


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Preface

Preface and Acknowledgements

Not long ago, we heard an address by the president of an American liberal arts university on the topic of living as a Christian. One idea suggested by the president, a professing Christian, has stuck with us: there are only three things that never die--

God

His Word, the Bible The souls of mortal men

In that context, life becomes refreshingly simple. If only these three things are eternal, and therefore have eternal significance, we need only love and obey God, revere and study His Word, and strive to bring souls into his kingdom.

Knut and Gudrun Peterson (the fictional heroes of our 2006 book, *Three Things You Can't Do in Prague*) know very well that these three things are what really matter. If life could only stay centered on these three things, they could live nearly perfect, productive and purpose-ful lives. Unfortunately, while keeping centered might sound simple, it is not easy.

Three Things You Can't Do in Prague

In *Three Things You Can't Do in Prague*, readers were introduced to Knut and Gudrun, a middle-aged couple who evangelize in the Czech Republic. Building on their long-standing friendships and contacts with Czechs developed through their business, the International Leadership Institute (a provider of U.S.-based executive education programs and English language immersion courses to East and Central Europeans), the Petersons move from Florida to Prague to become full-time missionaries. They work for the Communion of Christian Churches—USA (CCC-USA), a newly-formed relationally-based association of churches in the convergence model, offering worship that includes the liturgical, evangelical and charismatic streams of Christian practice.

With significant support from the CCC-USA, the fictional Petersons plant churches all over the Czech Republic. CCC-USA ministers and lay persons contribute their talents, their resources and their enthusiasm to the enormous task of introducing a new Christian communion into Europe, from the ground up. With so much assistance, both spiritual and practical, the Petersons are amazingly successful in planting churches, developing disciples for Christ and passing the established churches over to Czech leadership as they move on to plant the next church.

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Preface

Preface and Acknowledgements-continued

Vision vs. Reality

Three Things You Can't Do in Prague, published in June 2006, is set in the years 2007—2012, as my husband Jarda and I (through our fictional counterparts, Knut and Gudrun) envisioned our future ministry. It was, so to speak, a business plan for our proposed ministry.

However, as the saying goes, "Man proposes but God disposes." My brother John read our book and gave us warm congratulations, yet mildly warned us that, while "God will surely use you, He will not necessarily use you in the ways you imagine."

John's prophecy has been proven accurate. Over the past three years, Jarda and I have begun to live out the practical and necessary steps to achieving our vision, which is to help people in the Czech Republic to find a meaningful and purposeful spiritual life. And, as often happens, reality does not line up with our imperfect (although, we still believe, inspired) vision.

We've given serious thought to the immense resources (financial and bureaucratic) needed to satisfy Czech government requirements for non-profit organizations and provide the multitude of structures necessary for forming a new apostolate of a new (and still evolving) international communion, in Prague. These resources (at least \$250,000 and a panoply of forms, licenses and other legal work) would need to be in place before we could launch our envisioned ministry. Neither our own resources nor those the communion could provide were sufficient for such a comprehensive undertaking as we originally envisioned.

The start date of October 2007 became increasingly premature, as we realized that our U.S. and Czech obligations and responsibilities were far more extensive than we had imagined. Our methodology for the Cesta Tam ministry has gone through several transformations, based on our discussions with many friends, colleagues and family members, and the start date got pushed back to June 2010. The ministry we now envision is quite different from Knut and Gudrun's story in the details, but hasn't changed at all in the purpose: to help people living in the Czech Republic in their spiritual exploration, hoping to introduce them to Christ.

The second book of the Peterson's trilogy, *Three Things that Last Forever*, will take up the story of Gudrun and Knut from midyear 2008, dipping into their past and making forays into their future. We hope the Peterson's fans will be eager to know what Knut and Gudrun think about and will do with the three things that last forever. *Jarda and Sara Tusek, Lake Mary, Florida, January 2010* International Leadership Institute

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