

Dear ones in Christ,

I am delighted to share with you some of our reasons to be joyful.

Last week, my wife, Kamilla, prepared and led a ladies' meeting on how to love husbands, children and how to protect your household, based on the letter to Titus. A guest lady speaker from another church had been invited to share about this topic. It seems the ladies really enjoyed listening to God's word and had a very good time of fellowship. Not only were they encouraged by the Scriptures, but also numerous life-application examples. After the meeting, the ladies had supper together. The whole evening was so encouraging for Kamilla that she has already been planning another one in September.

At about the same time, we were celebrating completing the 3-year long course for people in ministry. Kamilla, together with another pastor's wife, had been responsible for preparing the meals for the students. We are so pleased that 18 out of 20 students completed the course, having submitted all the essays based on books on ministry. We pray for Wacek, Jonatan, Kuba and Monika who took part in the course from our church.

In June, the latest mission opportunity has been a trip for 11 young people from our church and the church in Ruptawa to Szczytnica to run an evangelism weekend.

Szczytnica is situated over 300km from us. During communism, this town did not feature on any map as it used to be a secret Soviet air force base. There was no religion and there still isn't a Bible based church in the area. Currently, there is a whole district of blocks of flats where migrants from all over Poland, as well as Ukrainian immigrants, have settled. Those people are hungry for the Gospel.

I preached there twice in open air. The youth had prepared songs, dramas, short Bible lessons for children, Bible verses to be learned by heart, quizzes and games. There were two theatre shows with an evangelistic message. We handed out many invites, some tracts and evangelistic books.

The Apostle Paul wrote that when he arrived in a new place to preach the Word of God, he found the doors open in the Lord, but there were also many enemies (1Cor 16:9). It was similar in our case.

On day one, we found out someone had reported us anonymously to the local authorities, disabling us from carrying on with our program. Someone else came and hit Pastor Andrzej, the coordinator of the trip, just because he admitted he was a follower of Jesus. Some other strange person called upon the name of the devil against us; someone else cried to the heaven asking whether Jesus would allow us to preach the Gospel there. Ultimately, the attacks got too much that we had to pack away all the equipment and move somewhere else.

As soon as we moved to a new place, trouble started again. One lady from local authority approached us and demanded to see a confirmation that we had been given permission to carry out such initiative in that place. As a church, in Poland we don't need to have permission. However, she was adamant that we needed one. Opposition was huge; that's when we sent out prayer requests to our

churches as we felt helpless. Someone even called the police to “deal with” us. They spoke to us in great length for hours; during that time, we carried on with our evangelism activities nearby. The trouble lasted from 10am till 5pm, but we almost managed to complete the whole program before we were officially asked to leave.

The people we came to see in the first place, the parents and citizens, were grateful and could not understand the opposition. They asked us to remember about them and visit them again the following year.

Only on the second day, were we told that the objections had been started up by a local Catholic priest who called influential people in the area demanding that they put a stop to our evangelism activities.

On the second day (Sunday), in a nearby village, we led a service – our prayers had worked as there were no obstacles. We handed out invitations and about 10 people came. I shared from Luke 19: 1-10 about Zacchaeus’ conversion.

During our mission trip, Denis led the drama group, Jadzia was in charge of the first aid tent; Kuba and others prepared songs, Lukasz led games and Sunday school – Pastor Andrzej from Ruptawa, together with his sons, dealt with the logistics of it all (meals, accommodations, equipment etc).

God truly blessed that time. We experienced that ***greater is the One who lives in us (1John 4:4)***; the Lord gave us victory through faith and we saw there’s no power other than from God. We saw how God stalled for 7 hours those who thought they could get rid of us in 5 minutes. It’s amazing – if the Lord is with us, who can stand against us?

We pray for spiritual growth to happen in that place. There is hunger for the Word of God, but there is also huge spiritual opposition like we have not seen before in our country. A few Christian families live there now. We want to pray for them, visit them and help them in their ministry. Please pray for them.

We also pray for various people who support Christian camps all over Poland.

Please pray for the trips I’m going to take to preach in other churches. During school term, I haven’t been able to travel much, but it’s more possible during summer. I am planning to preach in evangelical churches, some situated quite far. I may need to travel 2000 miles by car to do so.

Please pray about Karolina who converted last month. She is growing in Christ. We pray about one new family who joined our congregation – soon we will talk about membership with them.

Thank you very much for all prayers, support and truly friendship in Christ with us. We want to wish you God’s grace and His blessing for the summer season!

Tomasz and Kamilla