

Prayer letter - Summer 2018

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! The summer season has ended and, as always, it was a busy time of evangelism and, in my case, preaching across Poland.

I ministered in Bydgoszcz, Swiecie, Katowice, Bielsko-Biala, at the Christian Culture Days, as well as in Tychy and our church. I am still to preach in Palowice village church, on the unity of the Church in light of the Bible and the history of Church. Moreover, summer was filled with one-to-one evangelism and pastoral conversations.

This summer was particularly difficult for me due to my father's death. I am not sure if he gave his life to the Lord, but I committed him to God's mercy and His justice. I had shared the Gospel with him, and despite being a doubting agnostic, he managed to read "The Reason for God: Belief in Age of Scepticism" by Timothy Keller. We would discuss faith subjects a lot, we talked about the Christian life and the biblical approach to conversion and faith. All this convinces me that he was aware that only those who gave their lives to Jesus could be sure of eternal life.

Please pray for Marek (see pic) and Anna, his wife. Marek is an architect who likes to listen to sermons online – even in his office. While listening to a sermon, God touched his heart and he decided to give his life to the Lord. Shortly after, a client visited him and asked what he'd been listening to in his office – God made it happen that the client was a believer from our church who invited him for Sunday service! We met up frequently during summer; Marek had many questions and I was able to see how the Lord expanded his faith. Now, Marek is waiting to get baptized and has been attending our weekly preparation meetings, which have helped him to see God's plan for his life and understand that when God saves someone, He wants them to become an integral part of His Church.

Unfortunately, his wife was the first person who objected to his conversion and that's how their marriage problems began. One day when Marek couldn't cope with this anymore, he asked the church to pray for them. On the same Sunday, Marek understood that it's the Holy Spirit who convinces people, and he realized that he didn't need to desperately try to persuade his wife to believe in God. Then the two of them reconciled and forgave each other.

The Lord gave them peace and with it came reconciliation and mutual respect. Then a miracle happened: seeing a change in Marek, Anna decided to study the Gospel of John daily with her husband. She agreed to attend our evangelism picnic. Last week we talked a lot about Catholicism and dogmatism. Please pray for Anna and Mark's preparations for his baptism (which is always another opportunity for evangelism).

We pray for Joanna who has been attending our church for several weeks. She hasn't given her life to the Lord yet, but we can tell she's seeking God. It all started when her child returned from a Christian camp and told her about conversion. Joanna was sceptical at first, but her child's changed life made her think. She felt so intrigued and inspired that she began searching for a fellowship of believers. Then she came across our church. As far as we know, Joanna runs a family children's home. We pray that the light of the Gospel will bring salvation to her and all the children she looks after.

Kamilla, Magda and Bozena prepared another ladies' meeting (September 30th) on moderateness in women's lives: how to lead a humble life in Christ. It's quite a wide topic as it relates to the problems of the tongue, clothing, spending, temptations in the workplace, self-discipline in relationships as well as in other areas of life.

Please pray that what was shared at the meeting will bear fruit in the church's and those ladies' lives.

On September 16th the men will meet for the whole afternoon to consider the meaning of the Gospel in the everyday lives of Jesus' contemporaries. We will look at Gospel imagery and Jesus' parables that often disclose pieces of daily routines – how they spoke to people then and what message we can draw from them today.

September is a time of meetings in our church. Three people would like to become members. Before that happens, they go through a period of being candidates – it's a time when the church can simply get to know them better (not everyone takes advantage of this, but we believe that becoming a church member is like being accepted into a family where we are accountable to one another in this new spiritual family).

In those meetings we discuss:

- Leading a gospel-centred life (being a good testimony to others and sharing the Gospel with them)
- Supporting the church (giving yourself to God for ministry and tithe, gifts to church)
- Being involved in the life of church (ministry)
- Duties and privileges of being a church member (being members of one another and what that entails)
- Church discipline (how to deal with sin, the role of church elders, reprimanding and being reprimanded, why we should look out for one another)

In September we have a church members' meeting when we would like to present to the church the steps we have taken with regards to the new church building fund and discuss various plans in our church's future.

On September 8th we have the second half of the training on evangelism (whole afternoon). We will learn how to share the Gospel face to face effectively. The first meeting was about what the Gospel is and isn't, the importance of the Gospel in our lives, and how to take that first step.

This time, we'd like to have a discussion about our personal summer evangelistic experiences. We would like to talk about problems we might face when talking to people; we will consider the cultural and religious perspectives, as well as learn simple ways of sharing the Gospel and our personal testimony. Please pray for this meeting. We are planning the third and final part later in the autumn.

In our Wednesday meetings we have started studying the letter to Ephesians. Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance.

After the summer, we are recommencing meetings for children, teenagers and young people. We need to arrange times, choose topics and programs etc. Please pray for the Lord's leading in this.

Thank you for all your support and please know that we immensely appreciate your prayers.

May the Lord bless you,

Tomasz & Kamilla Chylka