

PRAYER LETTER – DECEMBER 2018

You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. Psalm 65:11

It's the last day of the year when I'm writing this prayer letter. I remember the many examples of God's goodness and generosity in 2018: together with you, we celebrated our church's 20th anniversary; it was wonderful to witness how God saved Marek who keeps growing in faith; then God led Joanna to our church and saved her through His grace.

The other day, we met with Joanna and her husband, Sebastian, who was back from his business contract abroad. He seemed quite open when I shared the Gospel with him. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will convince his heart. He's close to believing but needs time.

God is good! In December, we held a street evangelism. In the recent years, I noticed that fewer and fewer people were keen to go out and talk to people in the streets. Therefore, before the event, we had devoted sermons and prayer times to evangelism. I was very encouraged to see that 15 people were willing to share the Gospel with the lost. On St Nicholas day, when children received their presents and "Meet the King" tracts, we handed out Christian calendars, books and New Testaments to the parents. It was well received; the Word has been sown and we are praying for the fruit.

On another day, the band Druga Mila (Second Mile – founded by our previous youth leader who passed away) had a concert entitled "Do not give up" and I shared from the Bible on Luke 15 about the prodigal son. I spoke about his decisions that led him to live through a low standard of living. "Through" can be a symbol of spiritual death, but also of a turning point in our life; it's also the place where many people give up. We called for people not to give up but to come back to the Father's house. Five minutes before the concert was due to start, the hall was full. It was interesting to see that most listeners were 50 or older – people with a wealth of life experiences and decisions. We see God's hand in this that such people came to hear that despite mistakes that we had made, the good Father is waiting for them with His arms wide open.

Christmas for me was a time of sharing the Good News. It was the time when we saw people who don't come to church for the rest of the year. I was inspired to preach from Mark 1 about John the Baptist – the voice of the one calling in the wilderness who encouraged people to repent and prepare for the Lord's coming. More people came than we could provide seating for. There were people everywhere. Praise be to God – I love this hunger for God that makes people draw nearer to the Word of God.

The month of January is busy in terms of meetings for our elders, deacons and leaders regarding church admin and management. We discuss the vision for our church, as well as plan various ministries within it. We also hold a members' meeting when we evaluate the previous year and plan the new one.

Although Church is an organized body, we don't forget that it's a spiritual body most of all and needs to be fed with what is from the Lord.

Please, be in prayer for the following events in January:

- January 5th – we recommenced the project “Men’s Breakfast”. Last year, we spoke about a godly man and his responsibilities. This year, I’d like to speak about man’s character (the fruit of the Spirit).
- January 8th – The Bible exhibition starts in the city of Bielsko Biala (time of exhibition: 8-29th Jan). In a rented hall that belongs to an Art and Culture Centre, many Bible translations will be shown, including some originals from 16th and 17th century. There will be some manuscripts, texts on leather as well as some reprints of the following old Bibles: Puritan, Luther’s, Zwingli’s. Every visitor will have the opportunity to learn about how the Bible was created and how God has been protecting His Word till this day; they will receive their own copy of the Bible and hear the parable about the lost sheep.
- January 18th – we start the third edition of the ministry preparation course, which takes place at the camp site in Ruptawa. Nearly 30 people from 9 evangelical churches have signed up. First year is devoted to discipleship as part of evangelism preparation, second – the foundations of Biblical theology, and third – the basics of pastoral work and preaching. We pray for God’s leading. Some participants will travel 400km from the Ukrainian border.
- January 27th – Kamilla leads another ladies’ meeting on “How to be a submissive wife” based on Ephesians 5: 22-24; if time allows, the second topic being “To worry or not to worry” – something about self-control and healthy boundaries in worrying.
- We carry on with the project “Through Sport to Jesus.” Although we don’t have a football team anymore, we meet regularly at a sports hall where we invite people from outside the church. Every Wednesday, we also continue our devotion on the life of kings of Israel. So far, we have discussed Solomon, Rehoboam and Asa. I always feel very blessed and encouraged by it.

We are very happy to announce that on the 3rd of December 2018 we became grandparents to Anna. She is healthy, grows fast and has brought much joy into our lives. We pray for Denis and Jadzia who bring their daughter up while still leading our youth group.

Thank you for all your prayers, support and cooperation. God is good and blesses our years with prosperity. May He do that for you, too, in the new year!

Tomasz & Kamilla