

## Prayer Letter June-July 2019

Summer holidays have begun; many of us go to summer camps, others go on holiday. I have looked up the origins of the word "holidays/vacation" (German: Urlaub). "Furlough" was a request made by a knight to his king in order to be relieved from his service to the country and allowed to serve his God instead. This meant that the knight would usually go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem or take part in a crusade to the Holy Land. It made me think about the number of us, the Polish people, who don't consider devoting our holidays to God's work. It's so important for the Gospel to be preached in our country. We should be doing this even more so when people have more time for conversation, rest, home visits or attending evangelistic events.

Today I came back from a funeral in our sister church. It was my privilege to lead it along with another pastor and preach the Gospel there. Usually in Poland at the funerals of people who passed to the Lord, there are people from outside of the church. I preached from the Gospel of John 14,6 - where we read, that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. People were touched in hearts, and the fruit of that was we distributed dozens of New Testaments in the cemetery.

We pray for evangelism in August. People from our church are taking part in Christian Culture Days in Katowice, the capital of our region. It's a week devoted to evangelism: concerts, evening Gospel preaching, handing out tracts, speaking to people.

By the end of summer, we would like to organize an evangelistic picnic and street evangelism in our town. Please remember about this in your prayers.

We thank the Lord for answered prayers. For the last few months, I have asked you to pray for a married couple (Lukasz&Dorota) I have been meeting with weekly. They went through a crisis and despite our meetings, their marriage was getting worse. They functioned as if they had individually built a wall around themselves and had been waiting for the other one to give up. Our last meeting was a breaking point. I read Ephesians 5:25 and told the husband that changes must start from the head; I said if he loved his wife, he had to be prepared to give himself up, and everything else that he cherished, in order to save something far more precious - his marriage. Christ gave His life for them, shared his blood for their salvation. God gave His most precious thing - His Son - for us. God touched their hearts and they united there and then. A few weeks later, they still seem determined to work on their marriage and prevent further crisis from happening in the future. Love that given and doesn't expect anything in return has become their reality; the Holy Spirit has spread agape love in their hearts. We have decided, that, if things keep going well, they will become church members on September 8<sup>th</sup>. I have prevented this from happening before as I didn't see much point - why should they become a part of one Body of Christ if they couldn't be one with each other? How could they take part in the Communion and pray for blessing? Unity in Church is so important - thanks to that, and love, the world recognizes we belong to Jesus!

We pray for Grazyna who had asked for a meeting regarding her son who had fear attacks. During the meeting, it became apparent that her marriage needed support and prayer as this had caused unsettlement and lack of security for their children, which then caused those fear attacks. We need wisdom in this matter as it also appeared that there had been some occult involvement in this family.

We pray for Magda who is a teenager suffering from depression. It all started when her mother learned she had cancer. Magda suppressed all her emotions and never showed how deeply she'd been affected. In the meantime, she would self-harm and isolate herself from other believers. Magda's mum has fully recovered now - you met her last year when she thanked you for your prayers. Now her parents are desperately trying to help their daughter. During our last evangelism at the Bible Week, the Lord touched Magda's heart as for the first time in a long time she lifted her hands up in

prayer. We hope that it was a significant moment in her life. Soon, Magda will be leaving for an evangelistic camp, so please remember her in your prayers.

We thank the Lord for Bartek. Last year, I wrote to you about his and his wife's terrible experience of a still birth two weeks before their child was due. This suffering caused great trauma; for many months later, they would visit the cemetery daily. Time had stopped for them. They required the help of many specialists and our church prayed for them too. That's when Bartek confessed to his father, who's a Christian, that he couldn't go on like that anymore and needed to turn to the Lord. Soon after that, Bartek prayed and gave his life to Jesus. Now, he wants to become a member of our church and get baptized.

We pray also for Bartek's wife, Marta, who is pregnant. Her second pregnancy was at risk and Magda had to take five lots of antibiotics due to the presence of some bacteria in the fetus, and had to be admitted to the hospital. In the meantime, Bartek stood up and asked the whole church to pray for her, which we did immediately. Then a miracle happened: the doctors found no more bacteria in Magda's body, the baby's healthy and its development's on track. They couldn't explain it and even suspected Magda of having used some unconventional methods of treatment to aid the recovery. God does amazing things! We still need your prayers and we are grateful for each and every one of them.

Lastly, the women in our church have finished their ladies' meetings. It was a good time and now Kamilla is praying for the Lord's guidance regarding the autumn meeting sessions. Our young people have ended their meetings as well and we pray for Denis and Jadzia who are responsible for youthwork in our church.

I have finished a series of sermons based on the book of Daniel and Esther. Summertime is a good opportunity to let other brothers take the lead under my supervision. We pray for guidance in sermons for September.

We have finished one term of a mission course for those who are interested in getting involved in ministry. It was a good time for us and the students. We pray for perseverance for them and wisdom for us.

We pray for Renata (Jacek's widow), who is having a difficult time, and we also pray for the Bible study group in Tychy.

May the Lord bless you.

Tomasz i Kamilla