

## Prayer Letter – December/January

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (Jan.3,16)***

Christmas is over and we are thankful for all the opportunities to remind people about what God the Father and Jesus's wish for us was while celebrating Jesus's birthday, who is often forgotten about as people tend to focus on tradition and food. However, we were able to give people some food for thought this Christmas season: who came to this world, why He came and how can one be saved and have eternal life.

Every year, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, we hold a street evangelism. It wasn't the best day, as for the first time the temperatures were exceptionally cold, well below freezing level. People preferred to stay in their warm cars than speak to us about Jesus. Nevertheless, we managed to hand out 200 evangelistic books "Jesus is Our Destiny," about 250 Christian calendars explaining the way to salvation, and many Christmas cards with Bible verses. Those who stopped by were astonished that in these days you could still receive something for free. When possible, we would tell them about Jesus. This experience taught us something: the ability to share the Gospel in 1-3 minutes. After the evangelism, we returned to the church for hot drinks and pizza.

In December, we continued with the subject of the letter to Hebrews and we had an interesting Men's Breakfast meeting where we learned about the importance of our testimony of faith based on Hebrews 11.

Our Sunday School teachers were busy preparing children for their Christmas performance, which is our tradition.

On New Year's Eve, we gathered together to thank the Lord for all experiences and joys, according to the verse: ***give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thes.5:18.*** We had a lovely thanksgiving fellowship, followed by supper.

Last year wasn't easy for our church. After we lost our elder, who was an important pastoral figure and my co-preacher, we picked up many more duties. It's been so busy that for the first time I am seriously considering taking a break and going away in July because I feel I really need it. I pray for God's guidance and means in this matter. As a church, we want to devote the new year to studying more about the Church, membership, and leadership. After the letter to Hebrews, we are going to analyze Paul's letters to Timothy and look at the picture of the Church painted by the apostles in the Bible. We believe that all we need to know about life and the church is in the Bible.

The other day, we finished our last project which required much preparation. We organized a Christmas concert in a local old Lutheran church. We invited the same vocalist who sang at our church's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, accompanied by five experienced musicians. The repertoire was related to Jesus' coming and encouraged listeners to discover the reason for His coming. I briefly shared on the meaning of John 3:16. We wanted the concert to be a charity event, offering the opportunity to support the work of a children's center for mentally and physically disabled children. This fact made it interesting for the local government, the town mayor, and even Catholic priests who had invited their parishioners to attend. The turnout exceeded my expectations: nearly 700 people. I want to stress the fact that the concert was by no means ecumenical. All these people simply showed up to show their support and listen to the music. Isn't the Lord good! He is good for all those who trust in His name! When I write this, tears run down my cheeks with joy that so many people could hear the Gospel.

I didn't expect the church to be so full when we started. May the Lord bless His Word and the Gospel sang in the songs.

I pray for the children's center staff who struggle daily with the shortcoming and limitations of their hard work. Some of them asked questions about our faith after the concert. I hope for interesting conversations next time we visit the center.

Please support us in prayer. Last weekend, we held Men's Breakfast and afterwards, there was a message on the "spiritual battles of every man."

This month, we are starting another semester of our course for those interested in growing in ministry. One brother, who graduated, became a pastor straight after. We are grateful that God uses this to build His church. We are prayerfully considering a new educational project for 2021 or 2022. We want to bring it into God's hands.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, I will be speaking at a national youth conference on dating, engagement, and marriage planning. I want to speak about the rules and direction that the Bible offers with regards to searching for a partner for life, as well as preparation required before marriage. I will also speak about unconditional love and pre-marital purity. Please pray that the Lord will touch young people's hearts, bless that time and give me the wisdom to share this message.

We pray for Bartek and Zuza – two individuals who have decided to follow Jesus and get baptized in spring. We meet every other week to talk about the foundations of Christian faith and the meaning of church in a Christian's life.

We pray for Ewa and Damian, a married couple who recently became Christians and struggle with smoking. They both want to get baptized, but still need a lot of support with their new Christian lifestyle and faith. We also pray for a new married couple, Estera and Piotr, and for wisdom for them regarding everything to do with joining our fellowship.

We pray for our church building fund. We thank the Lord for every gift which slowly enables us to meet our goal. We will keep you posted about progress.

Soon, we will begin preparations for our church vacation: June 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. We are glad that Pastor Dave and his wife will be joining us, sharing their experiences and teaching from the Scriptures.

In the New Year, we wish you every blessing from Heaven, peace, joy, God's guidance, and much grace from our Lord Jesus Christ. May His grace multiply for you.

Tomasz & Kamilla