

## PRAYER LETTER - FEBRUARY

**Psalm 121** asks a question: where does help come from? We, the believers, know where we can find help, however, so many people seek solutions for the lives' problems and fears away from God. In the Psalm, we are reassured that God will watch over our coming and going. We need His protection and providence in our ministry, travels and plans – when we begin and end them. It's amazing how He has led us this month.

I was invited to speak at a Christian conference entitled "Love Is More Than Valentines" that took place around Valentine's Day. Youth from all over the country attended: some newlywedded, some engaged and some looking for that one special person. I spoke about the depth of God's love (agape) as well as what the Bible teaches about engagement in general; I spoke about looking for the right person (Genesis 24) and the role of God, parents and church in this search. Everyone listened attentively and when we ran out of time, everyone gave up their free time to listen to more and allow me to finish the topic. I felt blessed to be there and I believe God had sent me there to speak about being unevenly yoked, premarital purity and the dangers and mistakes young people make when they look for the right person. I pray for good fruit for the evangelical youth in Poland to be born from this.

Not long ago, I asked you to pray for Jacek who came to faith while suffering from cancer. He fell in love with the Bible and even when he had no means of getting to church, he walked a few kilometres to be with us on Sunday morning. When he first came to us, cancer was so widely spread his esophagus and vocal cords were affected, therefore he wasn't able to phone anyone and ask for a lift. He would gesticulate to ask for prayer, express his faith and ask if he could listen to the Word of God. We would pray with him and for him, but this past week I heard that he had passed away. In his last days, when he was suffering greatly, I had a conviction that I would be the one conducting the service and preaching at his funeral. Initially, his Catholic family was against such arrangements; one family member wanted to physically fight the person who had shared the Gospel with Jacek and helped him "change his faith." There was another problem: the only place he could be buried that was affordable was a Catholic cemetery, but this required the parson's approval. Every circumstance was against me preaching at his funeral and proclaiming the Gospel.

However, this is what happened. Jacek's family began listening to testimonies from Jacek's last days of how our brother Andrzej looked after him, changed his dressings, fed him and gave him shelter, treated him like his own son, took him to church and read the Bible to him when he couldn't walk anymore. It was as if the story about the merciful Samaritan which touched the hearts of Jacek's defiant family members and made them unanimously agree that I should lead the funeral. They were stunned and wondered what kind of church that was whose members treat others – nonrelatives – with such kindness and mercy.

I asked them to speak to the local priest as the cemetery was Catholic and we needed his permission. Then, another miracle happened: for the first time ever, I was told, the priest agreed to bury a non-Catholic and allow a pastor to lead the service. Usually, in such cases, people are buried in a communal cemetery in another town or in an Evangelical one (if one can afford it).

God gave us sign after sign; I felt peace and the Lord guiding me as I was preparing for the sermon not knowing what the decision was going to be about Jacek's burial. I asked the Lord what He wanted me to preach about to those people and I chose Luke 23: 33-43: the story of two criminals crucified at both sides of Jesus' cross. Almost a 100 people attended the funeral and listened attentively to the sermon, despite awful rain and low temperatures. God was working. The people that came were criminals, alcoholics, debtors and lost people – we would call them dregs of society.

Then, I knew exactly why I had felt I should preach on that passage. They all listened to the calling to consider their life choices, confess their sins and turn to God. Now, we can only pray and wait for the Lord to bring those people into His family.

It appeared that a few of Jacek's family members, some from abroad, were Christians. God is awesome – the way He leads us and looks after our souls. May His be the glory!

We had another successful and blessed Men's Breakfast – a meal for our bodies, followed by a feast for our souls. This time, we were taught about "Man and the Scriptures" based on Deuteronomy 6:2-12. It was emphasised how important it is for a man/husband/father to have a regular and systematic relationship with God through His Word, which is our only authority in the matters of life, ministry and faith.

The Lord made it happen for us to have a time of evangelism and a guest from Slovakia (one of Poland's neighbors). The church was filled to the brim, with no room for extra chairs. The guest speaker spoke about the comfort God gave us in Jesus based on the Book of Isaiah. It was a good time, attended by unbelievers as well. Some had to stand up for the whole time due to lack of seats!

#### Upcoming plans:

In March, we are planning another ladies' meeting and men's meeting: the ladies will talk about forgiveness while men will tackle the topic of the role of church in society.

The preparations for Zuzanna's and Bartosz's baptism are well underway (28<sup>th</sup> March). We will have evangelism; we are expecting non-Christians to attend, and we pray for a fruitful time.

In April, I will be ministering in two other evangelical churches as well as attending the National Church Synod with other brothers. Although every church

is a separate unit, it is important to make sure each and every one of them maintains the right course in teaching and practice, as well as for the Church council to truly represent evangelical values before our government in the times of more and more liberal trends in our society these days.

We pray for The Bible Week in May. The preparations have begun; we have a few evangelism events planned and a conference about the meaning and the role of the Gospel.

We pray for a church retreat in June together with members of your church. We have rented accommodation and have begun the signing up process.

We pray for our church council meetings. We are planning to extend the number of trustees this year.

Thank you for all your support and prayers.  
May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Tomasz & Kamilla