

PRAYER LETTER – OCTOBER 2018

First, I am sending warmest greetings from the mission field in Poland. It's a great privilege for me to be able to serve our Lord in His Church and beyond. The Gospel is still alive, and He reaches out to those whom he's called to be saved. Praise be to Him for that!

It's my great joy to be able to share with you that Joanna (see picture), for whom I asked you to pray, has accepted Jesus as her Savior and her testimony is very special.

When her father was hospitalized a few days before his death, she was asked to stay with him overnight. However, there were no spare beds, or even armchairs, for her to rest on (some Polish hospitals are poorly equipped). It was a very hard time for her; she cried many tears. She decided to take a nap in her car in the parking lot. Before she fell asleep, she had thought about whether God existed, she prayed why He'd never answered her, and asked for a sign of His existence and care over her. Soon after, she fell asleep and when she woke up in the middle of the night, she saw a large stag staring at her in a secluded car park. It came out of the forest and didn't run away; it just kept looking at her.

Joanna got scared but thought that this might have been the sign from God she had asked for. When she arrived home, she looked it up in the Bible, believing that if it had been from Him, the answer would be in the Bible. She came across Psalm 42:

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. (42:1-6)

Joanna started crying; then turned the pages over and began reading Psalm 63:

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. (63:1-2)

She understood that she needed God like dry land needs water, and first she began looking for a Bible-centered church. She found our church via a friend on Facebook and started attending services. Last week, she asked to have a meeting. I shared the Gospel with her and she believed that Jesus was her savior and redeemer. She asked Him to forgive her sins and He became the living water for her.

Now we pray for her husband who works abroad and, so far, has been very supportive of her decisions. They are adopted parents to three little girls and we pray for her family as well as for Joanna's conversion to bear fruit.

October started with a ladies' meeting organized by Kamilla and two other sisters. The topic of the meeting was "Moderation in Woman's Life." Based on the Bible, women discussed various areas of life where a moderate attitude was of essence: money management, conversation, morality, and decision making. Moderation, i.e. restraint, is the fruit of the Spirit, which is why it's so important to look after our relationship with Jesus and live daily on the Word of God.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to how to bring your son up to be the head of the family. Here, it is most important to set the right examples. When a child sees mutual love, devotion and respect in their own home, they'll find it easier to adopt Biblical truths, and, when they give their life to Jesus, they will be able to build their own family based on their parents' example. All women felt very encouraged and we are praying for another meeting set for 25th November devoted to "How to Live a Moral and Pure Life."

In October, we've also had baptism and then a picnic (see pictures). We are very happy to say that Marek, whom we've been praying for, has accepted Jesus as his savior. Marek is an architect and he invited many friend and colleagues to this event to hear the Gospel. One of his friends told him she felt very encouraged to start reading the Bible again. At present, I have regular meetings with Marek, who would like to become a church member.

We pray for our youth. This month, we started the new season of the project "Through Sport to Jesus." We are glad we can make new friends who are not ready to come to church yet, but their friendship with us makes it a bit easier if they've known us through meetings and sport games.

We've also had a graduates' reunion of our course. Nearly 55 people arrived from across Poland to listen to the Word of God. I organized the event and Krzysztof Guńka's father was the guest speaker (Krzysztof was the interpreter in two of our camps). We all felt encouraged when we listened about Moses and his calling: when the Lord calls someone, He knows what needs to be done and when, and He provides everything that is needed for His work to be completed.

Finally, I want to share something that I have personally found very encouraging and helpful. On October 9th-10th, thanks to your support, I was able to take part in a conference with Mark Dever. His sessions on the Church exceeded my expectations. I knew he was an excellent teacher – I provided a review on one of his books, Polish edition – but I hadn't had a chance to meet him in person until then. There were three teaching sessions and three Q&A sessions. I found both very inspiring and practical.

Pastor Andrzej, who was there with me, said that Mark preached about the Church that's in his heart. At the end, we each bought eight 9Marks books (+ extra 1 for free – see picture) and I know I will use them a lot. I could say so much more about my thoughts and impressions – that was so inspiring to hear about a healthy Church! Thank you so much for this opportunity.

We pray for meetings in school with young people, which I am planning for November 13th. We want to share our testimony, warn against using drugs and abusing alcohol. We want to promote the right lifestyle as a result of faith in the Gospel of Christ. We expect to meet with about 400 young people (ages 15-17).

In November we also would like to start the new season of "Men's Breakfasts". This is a good time for sharing God's Word and praying one another.

May the Lord bless you,

Tomasz&Kamilla