

Prayer Letter September 2017

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard, or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

Isaiah 64:1-4

Our God is amazing; He does things we don't expect. The things that happened in the summer were more than we could have imagined, they exceeded our possibilities and power, but in our weakness we waited for Him and He did great things!

The two-week long Bible exhibition began the summer period. It was wonderful to see over 1750 people interested in the origins of the Bible, its contents and message. Adults, teenagers and children alike came to see the exhibition; teachers brought their students during lesson times. We estimate that nearly 30% of the visitors were under 25 years of age. At the end of every tour, everyone could hear the Good News based on Luke 15 about the lost sheep, coin and the prodigal son. I hope and think that people still ask themselves the question where they got lost: far from home like the sheep and the son, or near home like the coin or the older son who did not understand his father's love and grace. Over 500 people have been inspired to read the Bible and got a free copy of the New Testament.

After the exhibition, we had a joyful day planned: Rafał, Asia, Joel and Daniel, with whom I had had meetings for 3 months, got baptized. We thank the Lord for that, and we pray especially for Rafal who needs our prayers due to pressure he's been receiving from his Catholic family.

After that, we had a youth camp that focused on becoming like Jesus. We learned the lessons Jesus taught His disciples. Young people from Poland and the USA were able to serve one another and cooperate in order to, in the end, share the Gospel with the citizens of Jastrzebie. For that purpose, we went to the town center where we sang Polish and English songs on a stage, shared from the Bible and showed a drama performance. We also shared the Good News in one-to-one conversations. The Lord granted His salvation to Paulina and this week we've learned what a great impact the camp has had on Lukasz, who accepted Jesus and asked me if he could get baptized.

After the camp, Kamilla and I had a chance to get some rest. We needed that time to regenerate, talk and pray together. We thank God for that time and for touching the hearts of those people who made our holiday possible.

Our time of rest was very much needed as soon after returning, we took part in Christian Culture Days event in Katowice - the capital of our region. Another pastor and I were the main speakers there, which involved preaching and being available for private pastoral conversations. Other people from our church also took part in this event and we were truly blessed. That event was a fifth one; the previous four resulted in planting a new church in the city of Katowice (500 000 citizens). Currently, it has 15 members, who need our prayers.

A few days ago, our town celebrated 500 years since the Reformation. For that occasion, I accepted the invitation from our town's mayor and the Evangelic Church to celebrate with them in the Pszczyna castle. It was a time well spent, when we could hear many interesting facts about how the Gospel had reached our land during the XVI-XVIII centuries. I heard that many people were being persecuted. The churches - where the Bible was read - were closed and people were expelled. At that time pastors could celebrate devotionals with reading the Bible only in the forests. I thank God for those steadfast people who made our country accessible to the Word of God. We pray for our generation, to receive Jesus Christ as a Lord and Savior.

September has already begun and we need your prayers.
In the coming months we are planning the following things:

- increase the number of Church Council members. Please pray that we will make the right choices.
- offer training on preaching for those willing to share from the Bible and leading Bible studies in small groups.
- start the final year of a mission course for those who are entering into or already are in ministry. There are 19 students that need your prayers.
- organize a picnic evangelism event and baptism.
- meetings in high schools.
- run a training event to do with evangelism, as well as a street evangelism.

We need special prayers as an opportunity has arisen for our Bible exhibition to become a permanent feature in our town. The talks are ongoing, so is looking for the right venue. The foundation that supplies the exhibits has expressed their willingness. If the Lord opens the door for us, we will then have a conversation with the castle museum's board and the town's council.

We have begun preparations for our church's 20th anniversary and are looking forward to having Pastor Dave Tebay with his wife with us. We pray for the logistics and Dave's ministry to us.

We thank the Lord for His grace and guidance. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

God bless,

Tomasz and Kamilla