

Hello Friends,

I would like to write these few words to you about what has happened recently and leave a few items for prayer. The Church is growing. We recently accepted 3 new members to join the church (Grzegorz, Ania – his wife (photo), and Jola). Yesterday, Emilka came with the news of her conversion and a request for baptism. This is the girl who helps Kamilla to sing with the children at Sunday school. We will see after the holidays whether there will be any conversions at the youth camps, and maybe someone else will join the meetings preparing for baptism.

Yesterday, a difficult year of meetings for children ended. You can see how the children lacked community. As a special guest, I presented a lesson on forgiveness for the children. And Kamilla had various games with the children. Last Sunday I spoke in a group for women - it was a lesson about walking on water (Matt.14), and my wife and another sister had testimonies about trusting God and entrusting families in prayer. In a week's time, I will be speaking at a meeting for brothers on the same topic, but from a male perspective. We thank God for the opportunity to evangelize in the streets again (photo). God has opened the door for us, although there are still restrictions on so-called spontaneous gatherings until the end of the month. The Lord sent us a man who is on the crisis management board of our town, and he helped formulate the report for the organization of the event so that we bypassed the pesky regulations. Let's add that in our region there is a zero incidence of covid, but the government maintains the regulations nevertheless. Wacek, Denis, Adam, Zuza and a few others shared the Gospel, sang songs, and handed out tracts and New Testaments. These are the New Testaments that we purchased with your help.

During that same time, I was giving lectures on pastoral care for students. It was an amazing time. It was the first time in my life that I had the opportunity to share my experiences and God's Word with people who are entering the path of Christian counseling. Although these lectures were not published on the Internet, they were widely echoed and reached the chairman of our denomination. As a result, I was asked to share two hours with pastors on the same topic in the fall of 2021. Indeed, here in Poland, pastoral care is a pressing need of the church in times of a pandemic.

This week, another surprise happened to me. Without my knowledge, an application was made by my congregation to ordain me as presbyter. It is an honorary title in our church (not in the biblical sense) which ensures that a person, even if he is not working as a pastor due to retirement, retains all pastoral dignity. At first I thought someone might want to retire me (a joke), but the point is that the presbyter has the right to participate in the calling of pastors (the ordination prayer) and the right to care for the churches (if they need it, and they ask about it), beyond their local work assignments. It is certainly an expression of appreciation, but also a spiritual responsibility, as presbyters are like shepherds for younger pastors. An ordination prayer ceremony in the presence of two other presbyters will be held on September 5, 2021, during our Sunday service.

Of course, although this is an honor, I prefer to look at this in a biblical way. Looking at our circumstances, I believe I see God expanding the boundaries of my ministry. I want to be sensitive to it - and ask God: what do you want me to do, besides what you have already called me to do... that's my prayer.

All of this is coming together at the time we formally elected a new church council. I am happy to inform you that the congregation (almost unanimously - one person abstained) elected to the church council: Denis, Wacek, Wiesław, and Józef. Wiesław (ministry, preaching) and Józef (treasurer) are older in age and faith than me, and Denis (secretaries, preaching) and Wacek (evangelism, preaching) are younger and still need to learn how to lead the congregation. We are waiting for a response from Jonathan and Julia (to whom we proposed to lead the youth ministry).

We pray for marriages and families in crisis that God will give them strength to build up, humility, and a willingness to submit to God's Word.

We pray for evangelistic outreach in the second half of August - the Days of Christian Culture are coming back in the capital of our region.

We are praying for the five-day clubs that we want to carry out also in the second half of August. We believe that when the Lord opens the door to the preaching of the Gospel, no one will close it - not even the prime minister of a country that is already scaring us with new restrictions out of fear of what is happening in Great Britain - an increase in the Indian version of the virus attacks again (Delta virus).

I would also like to inform you that the musician from our worship group, Kuba, is engaged and intends to continue serving in our congregation with his future wife after marriage. His fiancé named Natalia, and comes from friendly evangelical church.

Our construction matters are pending. Now we have to wait for the official documents – at least half a year or more before we can buy the land. This is the land offered to us by the Lutheran Church. Everything is on the right track.

We are also constantly looking for a new place for us to live. There may be a chance to buy a plot of land to construct a home, but we have to wait until the beginning of July. It is not sure, but a possibility. We are praying about it.

If everything goes well, we will make a purchase with Denis. And then, we must secure bank credit. We keep putting aside what we can to prepare ourselves as best as possible. We are saving the funds Calvary sent, and they will be of great support in this matter. Then we want to build a small house with 2 apartments in a fast and cheaper technology. This will free the current church building and offer the possibility to sell it in the future to cover the costs of building a larger church facility. The plan is complicated and there are so many things beyond our will and capacity, but we trust the Lord to let us "walk on water" in this matter. Of course, we are theoretically open to various options, also to buy an apartment to live independently of Denis & Jadzia. For now, however, we are joining forces because our capabilities do not allow it. We trust that God will guide us based on what is, not on what is not. This teaches us a lot about character (patience & prayer)

So, we are still collecting the money for that goal and thank you for helping our church every month sending support.

Finally, I would also like to let you know that we have received three weeks of vacation at the end of July – first part of August. We pray for supplies and site selection. We have completely unspecified plans, as tourist travel regulations change almost every two weeks. However, if it were financially possible, we would like to spend this time somewhere by the sea, in a place where the pandemic has subsided. Personally, I would like it to be a special time to rest, build strength, catch the "wind in the sails", and I would like the place to be a surprise for my wife, because in August we celebrate 25 years after the wedding.

Well, during this year I have learned that absolutely everything is in the hands of the Lord - our work and free time, in health and sickness, in anticipation and in action, in helplessness and opportunities - all because of Him and for Him. The Lord teaches us that *"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me."* The Lord knows our hearts and desires, and we dedicate it to him. Remember us in your prayers on this matter as well.

Beloved, may God bless you and open the way to the hearts of all you pray for, that they may be saved for His glory. This is one of the greatest challenges in which we stand as the church of Lord Jesus.

Blessings,
Tomasz & Kamilla



