

PRAYER LETTER – DECEMBER 2021

“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.” (Matthew 11,3-6).

Contrary to appearances, this is a difficult passage of Scripture. After all, John the Baptist knew Jesus, but when his circumstances changed and he did not see his situation change, he sent his disciples with a question to Jesus. Perhaps the ideas, knowledge and experience he had had before now stand in opposition to what was going on in his life. When we look at the lives of the people we serve, we sometimes see the same things. We recognize that we are unable to change all situations according to our desires, but we know we are blessed when we accept what comes as God's will permitted to us.

How good it is that the Lord gives opportunities for service.

It is our joy to help Adrian in his new ministry, feeding the homeless. Every Saturday at 3:00 pm, various people are helping him to prepare and distribute soup to the homeless. Our brother Blazej - he is a baker - delivers the bread, and the sisters prepare hot tea and coffee. We have great joy in proclaiming the Gospel to these people. We hope that Jesus will come into their lives to save them and deliver them from their enslaving sins.

Our annual St. Nicholas Day evangelistic event has been successful. Within an hour, many books were distributed, titled "Jesus is our Destiny," New Testaments, Christian calendars with Bible verses, testimonies of conversion, and information about our community (how to find us). In total, several hundred items were distributed. People were very eager to accept and were surprised that nowadays there is still something for free. We had a few conversations, hoping someone might visit our church during Sunday service. After the action, everyone was chilled (it's winter here!), but happy, they came to church for pizza and talks. We thanked the Lord for such a privilege of sharing the Gospel. We pray for those people who have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as Lord, we pray for the fruits of this evangelization.

We completed a 9-week course of spiritual growth. Looking at the life of Simon Peter, we could observe Jesus building his faith, we saw his ups and downs, and yet what Jesus started in this man He had the power to finish. Now we go further. We look at the now mature Peter, studying his two letters. Tomorrow the second part. I can see how much it helps meeting participants.

I'm very glad about the successful conference at the Christian Center in Ruptava. The topic was "Ministry to the new generation of the Church." We talked about new methods of evangelization, the changing mentality of people in the younger generation, ministry in the times of the COVID pandemic, and about personal spiritual development that is so important in the ministry. Almost 40 young people who serve in their own evangelical churches (aged 25-35) were present.

We pray for Ewa and Damian, who made the decision to be baptized. Three months ago, they came to the service and something happened in their hearts. Although there was no exhortation to give up sin - they both converted, quit smoking, had no withdrawal symptoms (which in their case should be considered not in terms of willpower, but a miracle), started reading God's Word, and brought their daughter and granddaughter to Sunday school. They attend all community meetings available to them.

We pray for Basia and Mariusz. Once, four years ago I helped Mariusz overcome his alcohol problem, but then he did not convert and did not stay with us. This week, Basia appeared for the first time. They both converted during one of our services this spring, broadcast online via the Internet, but only now did Basia dare to come to the community. She told us that she listened to our services and sermons weekly that kept them alive. Please pray about them.

Difficult things are happening in our country, as we have another wave of coronavirus. Our daughter-in-law, Jadzia, is again leading as the head of nurses of the covid hospital ward. This time a lot of younger people end up there in bad condition (40-60 years old). We have a huge public discussion on vaccination. Unfortunately, there are undesirable symptoms after vaccination but of course not often (quite strange like a few days' loss of sight, hearing, anaphylactic shock, or other - I am writing only about people I know). For this reason, people in Poland are afraid to vaccinate. Although there are few cases, they are very much publicized. We have 50% of people in Poland who do not want to do it, and the same number of people who do it.

Our church is remarkably preserved in unity, peace, and love. Everyone decides on their own. In Poland, unvaccinated people either lose their jobs or face rejection for lack of vaccination. I do not know why this is so, but we can see that the vaccinated, and therefore protected, people are more afraid than the unvaccinated.

In Germany, without a covid passport, you cannot go to a shop, restaurant, or swimming pool, just a grocery store, pharmacy, or stores with other household goods. People here in Poland are afraid it is the future times described in The Book of Revelation. What I do is encourage people to spend more time with the Bible than with the TV, because TV is a source of fear for many people. It is not easy to help those who live in fear. Someone, we've heard, has kicked her unvaccinated son out of the house, and a daughter's mother refuses to see her for fear of covid. Increasingly, those who are vaccinated blame the unvaccinated for the pandemic. And among the unvaccinated there is an objection and a will to fight for the rights of freedom, resulting from the Constitution.

Of course, nothing bad is happening in public, but I am presenting only the public mood.

Nobody wants his freedom to depend on a semi-annual subscription from Pfizer or another company. Everyone wants this freedom based on constitutional laws. And these rights are broken, limited, and not respected. I understand some things, like the state of higher necessity, but politicians, instead of using the official path, introduce certain bans through the "back door", which raises even greater opposition from part of the society.

If someone is punished for not following the rules, he wins in the courts, he even receives compensation! And this is a paradox because people see that the courts have the social side, not the government side. Medics in Poland are divided - some believe that the vaccine saves lives because it alleviates the course of the disease, and others say that it cannot even be called a vaccine - only an experimental preparation for depopulation. It's shocking. People listen to these voices - and they are confused. It's a hard time. Whoever has the foundation of the Word has peace - whoever does not have it trembles every day. This is the social reality of the Church's ministry. Please pray for our country and the Gospel that we preach.

Finally, something very nice. My 50th birthday was honored by the congregation. I received a small financial gift and good wishes. It was very nice. So, I bought new glasses which I badly needed, because my eyesight deteriorated a bit, and the old glasses were already damaged. I am thankful to God for the congregation and this place of service.

We are grateful to God for you - our partners in the ministry. May God bless you! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and the presence of our Lord on every day in 2022. We trust that the Lord will come soon.

Tomasz & Kamilla