

# POLAND: GREAT NEEDS



One may ask: why evangelise Poland? Every Sunday the name of Christ is ringing in the ears of crowds that attend Masses and fill the Roman-Catholic churches. Travelling through Polish villages one sees at many of the crossroads a cross with a small “Jesus” hanging there and looking onto passing-by travellers. Is there any other country in Europe that, in the name of preserving Christian values, so vigorously fights against homosexuals, euthanasia and abortion? So why bother to step into peoples lives and try to tell them that their religion does not please God? BECAUSE if you take a closer look at people and the official church you will see mainly people who are very religious but faithless and struggling with sins. BECAUSE you will see that Jesus seems to be only a necessary addition while the real object of worship is Mary. BECAUSE one may be going through all his or her life to the church and NEVER hear a sermon answering the question: *How to get saved from one's sins?* So, this is what did and still motivates us to stay in our country and be ready to serve the Lord as His missionaries.

Our desire is to preach the Gospel and plant new churches based on the foundation of the *solas* of Reformation (*sola* – only grace, only faith, only Scripture, glory only to God). Being “the fruit” of the mission among the students and then graduate of the ETCW in Wales we feel also the responsibility to share our knowledge with those Christians, who are involved in ministry but could not receive any

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theological training. For two and a half years (2002-2004) we had a chance to serve the Lord as full time church planting missionaries in our town of Police. This is how much time our former mission organisation has given us to plant a new church. We have failed and have not managed to plant a new church. After that period I had to start working in a secular work (as an engineer) to support our family. And this is what I (Tomasz) do to this

day. My wife Monika looks after our three children: Mateusz (8), Julia (6) and Bogumila (4). We still try to carry on our evangelistic ministry though it is very limited. My desire to teach the others how to exegete and preach the Word of God can be fulfilled only by occasional preaching in our home church and being an example of an expository preacher. We discuss, however, with our church leadership the possible development of our ministry and how to put into action our desires.

I had read somewhere that it is not wise to be driven by needs but rather by the call from God. Well said! So, concerning our call, up to this very moment, everything that has happened in our Christian lives let us have a hope that the Lord wants us to serve Him not only by faithfully sitting in a pew on Sunday, raising our children in the Christian faith or being faithful to Him in secular work (there are moments that even those simple tasks seem to be beyond our capabilities).

Concerning needs... For five years we have been living in Police – a small town in the North-West part of Poland. There are about 40,000 inhabitants. Besides the Catholics, there is one small Pentecostal church in our town and two Jehovah's Witnesses' Kingdom Halls (about 400 members). I was brought up near a city in the middle-west part of Poland. There are about 150,000 inhabitants and amongst them three Protestant Christian churches (one Baptist and two Pentecostal-Charismatic) – all together about 300 believers. There is no need to mention several hundreds of the JW's in that city. I am not very keen on using numbers or statistics to prove my or any point because certainly there are other towns and cities in Poland where numbers are much bigger. But still I feel very uncomfortable (guilty...) with the thought that there seems to be so few of us who have had a chance to listen to the true gospel and believed amongst so many, who have not even had a chance to hear the Gospel. Our prayer is that the Lord will send more of His grace to our wounded and dying nation. ■

Tomasz & Monika  
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