



# The Polish Link

October 2019

<sup>4</sup> "But I tell you, my friends, never be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can't do anything more. <sup>5</sup> I'll show you the one you should be afraid of. Be afraid of the one who has the authority to throw you into hell after killing you. Yes, I tell you, be afraid of him!"

**Jesus** – Gospel of Luke, 12:4-5

## Greetings from Poland !

I thought I could start this news letter with a Facebook comment from an experienced pastor leading the Gospel Coalition in Poland and a small Evangelical church in Torun:

*"I have lived in (the city of) Toruń for 40 years, since then I have been associated with my local congregation, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year (Oct 2019). During this period many people wanted to join the congregation. One student confessed that he believed Jesus, understood the forgiveness of sins, the need for baptism of faith as well as the need to belong to a community of believers; it was evident that he had joy because of this, but when it came time to get baptized ... he backed up, reasoning: "if my parents hear about my baptism may stop sponsoring my studies. " An older couple, like that student, had the same testimony. The reason for their resignation from baptism and participation in the life of the church was the awareness of a possible loss of a burial place, they said: "We bought a burial place in a Catholic cemetery and if we joined the Evangelical community we do not know whether we could be buried in this cemetery." Uncertainty of the future, fear of consequences can be an obstacle for professing Christ.*

*In John 12: 42-43 we read: "Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God."*

*The possibility of losing privileges due to sitting on councils (including church councils), companies, parliaments, such as: respect, power, prestige, wealth, better income and much more - all this can be a "brake" to not get "on Jesus' side". What's more, in persuading others to stay where we were (in the Catholic church) we can use spiritual vocabulary like "God's will" and "God's calling", while in God's eyes the real reason is "love of human glory". ...*

*We live in a time when we less and less expect believers to give up secular ambitions, their egoism, love the world; and more and more often we don't see a problem in becoming similar to this world in behavior, music; we accept the style and priorities of life suggested to us by the world. ... "*

This is a quite sobbing reflection of a pastor, looking back at 40 years of hard work in Poland. Many, many, many have not received the Gospel for the fear of men, for the fear of rejection by the Catholic

church. The Gospel does cost something, in fact, all of you. We need to continue to keep Jesus's standard high. Less than that is not the Gospel, less than that is not to be a disciples of Christ. Let's not bring down the expectations Jesus gave – *"In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."* (Luke 14:33). As we serve here, we see each year the growing cost it takes to die to ourselves, take our cross and follow our Master in His will.

## SUMMER MINISTRY 2019

We had many camp last summer, helping in 4 different camps either for kids, families or Youth. Thank you for praying this intensive commitment, they were especially fruitful in the communication of the Gospel, and with at least 2 young adults who decided to follow Christ. **We praise the Lord for His grace!**



## CHURCH MINISTRY 2019

**Daniel and Jessica Fenske**, missionaries with us in Poland, continue to lead our Youth group at church, but we need to pray for the Lord to provide a **leader** that will continue their good work!

**Please pray!**



They also have their English Club for Kids (in their home) and in Łódź (youth).

This has created a way to be in touch with 3 families, and some have or will join a Discovery Bible Study at their home. **Pray the Lord will bless this new outreach.**



We did our best to sing Gospel songs in Polish! We are working on a strategy to encourage evangelism in our church – a great need for the many without the Gospel. **Pray for the Lord to lead us in His ways.**

We have done some street evangelism with them just by the busiest Metro station in Warsaw – a great

I (Pierre) continue to be involved with the **Timothy Leadership Program**. We just started our second year of discipleship with now 26 men. **Tim Savage** from the Gospel Coalition visited us for 3 days and gave us a great start with a special conference on leadership at Spirituality at home. **Please pray for this important spiritual initiative in our church.**



### Pray for ....

- A wise involvement in our church – the Youth group (with our kids Timothy and Rachelle), the Sunday school ministry, Preaching, Mission.
- Leading a group to Israel from Oct 31<sup>st</sup> to Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – pray for protection, teaching and discipleship!

**Oct 26 – Timothy program** at Warsaw church. Theme of Sin & Man. **PRAY** for discipleship.

**Nov 16 – Timothy program** at Warsaw church. Theme of God and Suffering. **PRAY** for discipleship.

**Dec 7 – Youth Christmas evening**, the last youth event led by Daniel & Jessica Fenske before they go back to Canada, **PRAY** for discipleship.

**Dec 15 – Kids' Christmas program**, at our church service on Sunday! **PRAY** for great joy and encouragement from knowing and telling the story of Jesus!

**THANK YOU** for being partners with God and with us in our work in Poland.

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**Below:** A great turnout at our English Camp in Łódź!

**Right:** Two new sisters in the Lord! Both of them (and 3 others) were baptized recently in Łuków, a city where we did park evangelism in the past – wonderful to see 5 years later a fruit of our common work with the believers there!

