



“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Gospel of Luke, 2:14

Dear friends and our partners, Mission Committee,

Greetings from Poland and Ukraine!

You are receiving this email because you have been a supporter or have shown interest in the Lord's work in Poland and Ukraine. We decided to give you an update on our current mission work, **connected to 2 projects the Lord laid on our hearts**. Maybe one of these projects could be for you a great way to praise and thank the Lord Jesus this **Christmas Season**.

New Church Chapel in Łódź

The **First Evangelical church in Łódź** (a city right in the center of Poland) is located in a city neighborhood that is very poor physically and spiritually. Łódź used to be a prosperous Jewish city in the 19th century and later in the 1920s and 30's, with many investments and support from wealthy Jewish businessmen to the Polish industrial community. WWII and the Holocaust changed all this in a very tragic way, as you all know. The prosperous city of 1.5 million people is now a city under 700,000, with poverty evident in its neighborhoods and people's lives. But spiritually, it is even worse ... it has approximately 600 believers - that is, less than 0.1 % of Evangelical believers - one of the lowest percentages of believers in Europe! This is why the Lord led us to start visiting that church and being a friend and mission partner with **pastor Janek Puchacz**. **From 2012 on**, our visits and Canadian teams helped them with evangelism, camp ministry (Soccer, English, and family), and other support (youth, English club). We have been busy there! 😊

This is a joyful picture of the Canadian team, led by **Pastor Bruce Christensson**, who helped the church in Łódź back in April 2022 to respond to the needs created by the arrival of many war refugees from Ukraine.



This **partnership became very intense when Janek and an elder asked me to help them when the war broke out in Ukraine on February 24th, 2022** – a time when they saw thousands of Ukrainian refugees showing up in their city and at their church. We worked together to provide physical support, better local logistics, personal care, and evangelism to those whom the church took under her wings and care. Almost 4 years later, more than 35 people from Ukraine stayed in the church, and the Lord has added every year 8 to 10 new converts to Christ (as I mentioned in our last August-September 2025 newsletter). It is a very dynamic and growing church, in spite of the great challenges pastor Janek has to lead God's people in that city.

Now the church has grown to the point that the old building no longer provides enough space for the new 120+ people attending. The Board and the church unanimously decided **to build a new**



This is how the outside of the building looks as of November 2025. A local company built the structure and made the outside insulation. But as you see below, the inside finishing is in our hands! We will come in probably by February 2026, and organise our construction Team with Swiss and Canadian volunteers in April 11th to 25th! Please come if you can join and help!



150-person chapel, which they began in March 2025.

As of November 2025 (as shown in the picture on the right), the exterior of the building structure now stands! We are now at the stage where plans are made to finish the interior, so that the congregation can legally use it for the church activities.

So, the challenge is now to find praying people and appropriate funds **to support this work by**

prayer (because it is God's work) and **by helping to purchase the materials** necessary to

complete what is required by the Law for the use of the building: the heating system, the tiling and plumbing work in the kitchen and bathrooms, ceilings and lighting, the safety systems (stairs, fire, etc.), and some hardscape and landscaping. ***Much to do! We are looking for hands to help out!***

This represents a need for a minimum of 360,000 Polish

zlotys (with simple finishing inside), which amounts to about **\$144,000 Canadian dollars**. We need to raise these funds, as we plan to do the work ourselves (with many Ukrainians who are skilled builders) and with the help of a **Canadian Swiss construction Team in April 2026 (11th to 25th)**. **Please get in touch with us if you would like to JOIN US!**



We are looking for partners who could help us out in this need - **to PRAY for this very challenging time for the church, and to GIVE for the resources needed**. The situation is already quite pressing, as the actual 120-person congregation does not fit in the old 70-80-person building. A video and interviews with pastor Janek are accessible below with a Click on the appropriate **LINK**:

- **GENERAL PROMOTIONAL VIDEO** about the First Evangelical church in **Łódź**, their mission, and their construction project:



[KECH LODZ for Canadian churches - Chapel construction project 2025.mp4](#)

- **VIDEO** of Interview with Pastor Janek, and the present state of construction, in **English**: [KECh Lodz Chapel Project - Interview in English Polish.mp4](#) l

Let me know your thoughts and whether you would like to partner on this mission for the growth and blessing of the **Evangelical church** in **Łódź**. Contact me using this e-mail address, or at **The Fellowship**, phjutrass@fellowship.ca – where the Account called “**Jutrass-Poland, Special Projects M115**” is where donations for this project are received at the Fellowship Office.

Option to give **Online** (DONATE, JUTRAS, to Special Projects) – click on this link: <https://www.fellowship.ca/qry/page.taf?>



Pastor Janek and his wife, Marta, say “THANK YOU”!

Renew of Education in Ukraine

Our second project is connected with our **wonderful friendship with 2 Baptist churches** and their work to alleviate the suffering and the needs caused by the war in Ukraine. This year has been a focus on renewing the way they teach their children at the local Christian school in their church facilities. The war has brought chaos to the educational system. Over the past four years, the number of first-graders in Ukraine has decreased by 31%. Every seventh educational institution (13%) in the country has been either completely destroyed or damaged as a result of



Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine.

Our sister **Olena Didukh**, a representative of the Ministry of Education in the city of **Kostopil**, said that Educational losses (with much lag from the curriculum) are huge. The psychological state of teachers and students is deeply affected by frequent air-raid alarms and the need to hide in shelters. The school materials are missing, and there is a need for books and better preparation for computer use.



So we decided to help the school Director Olena Didukh, and her assistant Iryna, to **provide support for the Christian school of 60 students, from grades 1 to 8.**



By the grace of the Lord and your generosity, **we were able to provide funds** for the school to purchase books, some computers, and other teaching materials for their classes. The Christian staff prefer, by far, to teach their children in classes rather than online or in small, cold, humid bunkers.

We share this with you because we rejoice in **the provision of \$6,300.** that **Canadian churches and believers provided** for the school and their vision of better and in-class education for 2025-2026. They work hard to expand the quality of teaching and provide better support for their teachers. **We rejoice that education can become BETTER, even in wartime in Ukraine!**



Our brother Ivan is at the front lines, not by choice, but by mission obedience. His wife, Olena, has to work, so their daughter has to go to the church's Christian school alone because he is not home. He is thankful that the school helps their daughter Julia and many others from families affected by the war to continue their education.

You can watch a short video of me handing the funds over to **Iryna Kriskho and her sister, Olena Didukh**, both of whom lead the work done every day at the school. Please pray that the Lord will use this school to impact their children with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to help them not be burdened by the consequences of the war in the country.

→ Video from the Christian school “*Word of Life*” in Kostopil – mission: [Ukraine - Video School Word of Life, Kostopil - As of 2025-11-07.mp4](#)

→ Video with Olena and Iryna in English: [Ukraine - Video of Olena and Iryna, English - VID-20251203-WA0008.mp4](#)

We are THANKFUL for the provision of the Lord!

As we approach **Christmas**, we are preparing to lead two caroling events at two churches, where we want to reach out to people who do not know about the coming of Christ, the Savior. We pray for a blessing from heaven Above, from where the angels once sang: “**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.**”

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of you ! A **Blessed Year 2026**, being willing to fulfill the **Mission the LORD has for our lives!**

Pierre & Hanna Jutras

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