

1 February 2012

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

John 15:11

From Despair to Love and Life

"I was emotionally damaged, spiritually dead and physically suffering from epilepsy."

Poland

I come from a broken family. My parents- father addicted to alcohol and handicapped mother struggling with depression- couldn't give me the love, care and safety I needed as a child. I wasn't aware of the destruction that was going on in me- I was emotionally damaged, spiritually dead and physically suffering from epilepsy.

After my parents divorced (when I was 11) the situation started to be worse and worse for me and I ended up as a street child, full of anger, pain and very self-destructive. After a few hard experiences (almost dead from alcohol, being caught by police after escaping from home and put into a child foster home) I came to a point in my life where I was suffering so much, not finding the love that I so desperately needed, that the only hope for me to end my pain was to give up my life. I desired to die but hadn't enough "courage" to kill myself. At the time I didn't know God as a person, loving and caring father. God for me was equal to the religion I grew up in- in order to get closer to Him you had to do a huge list of "holy" things (holy sacraments) and live a moral life (obey commandments). And I of course, didn't fit this model so I

didn't exist for God, I thought. But one day, when I was 13, I went to a mass with my mom (she started to look for a relief from her pain in religion) and I opened my heart to a God I didn't know. "God, I suffer so much, I hate my life, I don't want it anymore- please take it and do whatever you want to do with it. I give up."

From that day many things happened. God gave me hope and led me amazingly. He started to be someone real to me, a person who I desired to be closer to. And for the next few years I was doing all these holy things and even more. I was leading my spiritual life through the means that were given to me. In the religion I was brought up in, I was never allowed to have my own, true and intimate relation with God. Everything depended on the priests, because only THEY could forgive my sins through confession, only THEY knew how to understand the Bible and only THEY had the power to do all the sacraments, which I needed in order to be close to God.

Because I truly desired God, my heart was never satisfied. I've always been searching for more and through many years I've been attending many religious events, seminars, retreats and a few fellowships, many times as a singer in a choir. And one time, while searching for God's will in my life, I

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Dr. Piotr Zaremba is ITMI's European Director, providing oversight and mentorship to all of our European partners. He also pastors the **K5N Baptist Church** in Poznan, Poland. Currently, his focus is on finishing the Polish translation of the Bible.

Piotr is passionate about making God's Word accessible to the Polish people in a way that is true to the original and understandable to the common reader. He has revved up his translating efforts and is completing a rigorous schedule of one chapter from the Old Testament per day. Beginning at 4:30 am, some days he finishes early, but others he works through midnight to finish the daily chapter. At this rate, he is on track to finish his part of the translation by July of 2012, and hopes to see it published in 2013. Piotr says, "If not for ITMI, in MANY respects - software, expertise, financial, prayer - I would not be able to continue like this. Whenever I write that we do this project together, I DO MEAN IT!"

We pray you will be blessed by Piotr's inspiring insights from Amos.

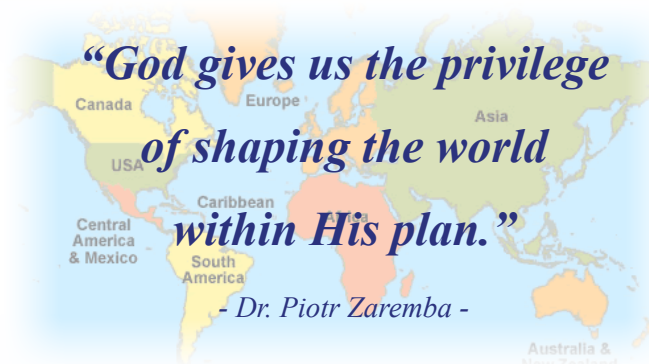
Amos 7:1-9 depicts a scene between the prophet Amos and the Lord. The Lord shows Amos the coming judgement on Israel and Amos says, "O Lord GOD, forgive, I pray!" (7:2) And the Lord, still maintaining His Sovereignty, agreed.

This tells us there is room in His sovereignty for our initiative. We shape history with our actions, by our proclaiming the Word and praying, we are changing history.

This is such a privilege. The opportunity to cooperate with Him in prayer is humbling.

After the Lord agrees to Amos' request, He shows Amos His "plumb line." You don't build without a plumb line or ignore it. God's plumb line, representing His plan is in the midst of the nations, and He keeps doing what is right. But God gives us the privilege of shaping the world within His plan.

We can feel secure that His plumb line is there, and trust in Him, but still shape history and the Kingdom of God with our actions - preaching the Word and serving. I get goose bumps knowing that ordinary people are called by God to influence the world!



Piotr Zaremba baptizes new believers yielded by the ministries under his oversight, including Gospel Joy.

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attended Poznan **Gospel Joy Workshops**. During the workshop there was a man preaching.

I liked it very much, so when the organizers invited people to a bible group as a continuation of what we had heard, I was happy to come. I got involved very easily and after few months during the study on Galatians God showed me that salvation was for free, I didn't need to earn anything and could be sure of my salvation in Jesus Christ!

For me it was like the missing part which I've desired for so long! From that moment in my life God has taught me so much and has changed my heart in amazing ways.

"Today I'm all new in Jesus, finding the greatest joy in serving Him."

I'm so thankful for everything God has done in my life and that He brought me to the point of surrendering all to Him. God had turned my painful and hopeless life into an amazing journey of being His child, friend and servant. There is NOTHING more beautiful and exciting in this world!

His ways are amazing! I was able to receive the Gospel because of Gospel Joy ministry led by **Andrew Gorski** who is now my beloved husband :) God had used Andrew to bring salvation to his future wife. Isn't it great? :) Now, we serve God as a team leading home and Bible groups and so often we are amazed by how God uses our marriage to bring glory to Him! What a joy to be free and have a new life in Jesus! What a privilege to serve the Almighty God and be His tool in bringing the Gospel to the nation of Poland! Glory be to Him forever!!!

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From the Director

Dear Team,

In July 1956, a few months after I was born, a B-47 Stratojet subsonic bomber crashed into a storage igloo twenty miles south of Cambridge, England. The plane burst into flames on impact but surprisingly didn't ignite the contents of the igloo. What a blessing that was...because the igloo contained three Mark Six nuclear bombs. Imagine what could have happened if just one of the nuclear bombs had exploded that close to London, much less what would have happened if all three had been ignited! It would have been insufficiently described as... "catastrophic."

Everyday we have unique chances to be a part in averting many "catastrophic" events. To me it is catastrophic for the Polish speaking world to not have a translation of God's wonderful and liberating truth to read and study on a daily basis. We - you and ITMI - are diligently supporting and empowering Piotr Zaremba and his team as they work through the 31,000+ verses we know as God's Word, so thousands of Poles can have the privilege and opportunity to savor God's love letter to mankind.

Andrew and Anna Gorski, along with each of our unique partnership offerings, are also averting a catastrophic event by taking God's truth and life changing reality to the many music lovers of Poland who are scared to death to be seen in what they would call an "evangelical church." The stories that Andrew and Anna describe of how the cold, dead, blind and self-serving souls that walk into their meetings end up walking or even skipping out, softened and broken with a whole new understanding of God's love for them, are also a testament to God's love for the unlovable. It would be catastrophic if even one never heard of this deep love Jesus has for them.

As I sat on the floor in a small, cold rented mountain home in the steep and wet hills of Kodaikenal, India with [Paul and Molly's](#) 19 precious rescued little girls, all of them singing and squealing over the joy they experience now that "mommy and daddy" have come back to them, I realized that again, I have been blessed to be a part of averting another "catastrophe." As Molly considers the catastrophic intent of each of these girls' parents, she asks in bewilderment, "How could anyone think of killing these little jewels?" What a blessing that these sweet little lives have a God that loves them enough to hand pick parents like Paul and Molly to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)

When I am reminded how generous God has been to me, giving me parents that used God's truth to help mold my direction in life, I again realize how blessed I am that the catastrophe of an unredeemed and un-directed life was once again averted due to God's love and care.

If we focus on what is important to God, we will all continually be reminded that God constantly gives His people opportunities to avert catastrophes; the catastrophe that it would be to not use our blessings to bless others and be used to advance God's Kingdom. As we lock arms and together do what God has called each of us to do, we serve and empower with a force that is unstoppable. May each of us be renewed in our understanding that we can make- and are making - a difference!! May God be praised!

What catastrophe will God use you to avert today??

In His Service,



Want to hear more stories like Anna's?

Contact us NOW to get your group on Andrew and Anna's spring US itinerary!



Anna and Andrew Gorski



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Before Gospel Joy, our partners in Poland long sought to bring Galations' message of free, unearned salvation to the largest segment of the Polish population: middle class church-goers who believe the only way to get close

to God is through religious rituals. Ironically, they are so hungry for joy and a real relationship with God, yet denied access to this message by a general distrust of anything outside the Catholic Church. So ITMI's European Director, [Piotr Zaremba](#) and his team got creative. They used something that was sweeping through the country and the church to reach empty people with the message of freedom: Gospel Music.

As the ministry has developed, they've expanded to training others who want to do their own gospel music workshops. By offering training and

resources, Gospel Joy seeks to be a catalyst that moves these leaders toward a relationship with Jesus.

God has used Piotr Zaremba, Andrew Gorski and Gospel Joy to write many, many stories like Anna's; lives that were buried in despair and hopelessness are now restored, revived and re-energized by Jesus.

Anna and Andrew will be in the US telling their stories this spring. You can partner with this fun and amazing work that God is doing just by being the matchmaker that sets up a time for your small group or church family to be blessed by this young couple. Call our office and set it up today!

-Summer Kelley



Gospel Joy Workshop

For Praise...

1. Zambia - Olivia Alice [Keller](#) made her wonderful and safe entrance into this world on Jan. 21.
2. India - [Paul and Molly](#)'s Sonia is home with her 18 sisters after her open heart surgery.
3. Poland - baby Julian, the son of [Jim LaRose](#)'s adopted son, Daniel, recovering from newborn pneumonia.
4. ITMI - a gracious gift from **First Baptist Church - Tempe** to replace our 30 year old carpet.

For Prayer...

1. Poland - [Brooke Nungesser](#) and baby's safety during a difficult and challenging pregnancy, due June 2012.
2. Uganda- [Lillian Kawede](#)'s ongoing diabetes has caused the need for double eye surgery.
3. Poland - safe travels and meaningful itinerary for [Andrew and Anna Gorski](#) in the U.S. this spring.
4. Zambia - construction of the Keller's home and mission compound.
5. Poland - [Eliza Banicki](#)'s battle with Niemann-Pick Syndrome and her need for medications and treatment.
6. USA - [Gary Howell](#)'s recovery from emergency gall bladder surgery.

itmi **In Touch Mission**
INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 7575 - Tempe, Arizona 85281 - (480) 968-4100

E-Mail: itmi@intouchmission.org - FAX: (480) 968-5462 - Outside Arizona: 888-918-4100

