

IN TOUCH MISSION

i n t e r n a t i o n a l

Monthly

1 September 2014

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12

Shattered

*How moving 200 miles away from his family...
brought them together.*

POLAND

Not long ago, **Slawek's** alcohol-induced tantrums estranged him from his family. He was unable to hold a steady job in the shifting construction market. His entire life's work, everything he's been working so hard to build, turned into a million tiny, almost un-reconstructable pieces.

He was doing his best to kick the addiction on his own. He trained his will power muscle. All for nothing.

"The longer I went without drinking, the harsher the blow was for my family when I inevitably got wasted and reset the clock all over again."

Slawek's life capsized as he succumbed more and more to his alcohol addiction.

Slawek's passion was ship modeling. But unlike me and my Dad, he quickly left the beginner level behind and graduated to advanced, thousand-piece projects. His works took part in championships and received national acclaim. But Slawek's ship building days were long blurred by the years of alcohol abuse, as if part of another life.

Slawek needed help, and this was no entry-level project.

Real Help at the New Life Center

Then, a believing friend referred Slawek to the [New Life Center](#), a recovery house for the homeless and addicted led by ITMI's [Bread of Life](#).

The transition required Slawek to leave his home and family in the north of Poland and move some 200 miles to Nowa Goślina, and not for a mere couple of weeks, either. NLC's Christian oriented recovery program takes up to 12 months to complete.

Slawek was determined - but his determination would count for nothing were it not for NLC's dedicated

workers, and specifically, the genuine concern of NLC's onsite director, **Marcin Lukaszuk**.

"At several times in the program, I was ready to run," remembers Slawek. "In fact, I was already sitting in the director's office, explaining how ready I was to leave. He listened to me intently. Then he ripped all my arguments apart, point by point. All I could say was, 'Well, I guess you know where to find me.'"

Marcin's firm hand and gentle heart were precisely the kind of concrete support Slawek needed in his time of crisis.

Apart from psychological counseling and on-site chores, NLC residents are involved in numerous social projects,

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I built a model of Columbus' Santa Maria with my Dad (ITMI's [Piotr Zaremba](#)), a long time ago. Though it was a beginner level project, some of the pieces were so small you had to use a magnifying glass to paint them. The brushes were as thin as matchsticks! We both felt like we were all thumbs.

But what joy to look at a finished model! If you're ever in Poland, you'll find the Santa Maria proudly displayed in my Dad's office, among the rows of Hebrew dictionaries and Biblical lexicons.



Online.

There's a growing group in every Polish city that used to be unreachable.

We're reaching them.

A doctor works in Poland on the weekdays, then hops to Ireland over the weekend for a marathon of back-to-back surgeries. Students patchwork their degrees from universities in Portugal, Switzerland, and France while logging charity work in Latin America. Businesspeople arrive in a city only for a day to cinch a well-timed deal, then are off to the next thing. How can those embracing the modern, mobile world be reached and connected to God's people and His Word?

Modern life seems designed to cut us off from things that keep us grounded and motivated; connection with God's people, scripture, or quiet, uninterrupted moments with Him. Poland, too, is embracing the modern world. Advanced technology, open borders in the United Europe, and lower cost of travel have created a generation of modern nomads. Anyone caught up in the hectic tempo of the modern life can end up spiraling out of control.

Here in Poznan, at ITMI's [Polish Bible Translation Project \(PBTP\)](#), we recognize our people's need for connection. For grounding. For hearing God's quiet voice in a chaotic world. We want to reach out to today's "nomads" who are more likely than ever to drift away from what really matters. Our solution? Access to our direct-from-ancient-language, easily-read-in-current-language translation of the Word of God - in 21st century format!

"Creating an audio version of the Scripture [to accompany our soon available printed version] was a natural extension of the translation work," explains **Karol Dziwior**. At 16, Karol got so excited by the news of our translation he offered his services as a voice actor. To date, he has read and recorded both the New Testament and Psalms, the first work of this kind and scale ever done in Poland! The ensuing Polish speaking world's excitement is extending the reach of this project many fold. The project's reach was further extended when **Faith Comes by Hearing, Albuquerque, NM** used our translation for their recording of the Bible in Polish!

Darek Banicki, our Project Coordinator and President, (long-time ITMI readers may recognize as the father of [Eliza Banicki](#), who suffers from Niemann-Pick disease) is quite modest,

"Our basic premise has always been to reach everyone. Everyone!" He adds, "Today's digital world needs a Bible that

can easily fit in your pocket, in your cellphone, in your e-reader, so the Scripture is always just a click away."

No one is to be excluded, even if they as an individual, are not on the church's radar. That is how powerful they believe God's Word to be, and how deeply they are convicted that God's people are called to get it in the hands of *literally*, well, everyone.

Since the launch in the fall of 2013, our New Testament remains the *only* one in Poland available in the electronic format. In 2014, a bilingual Polish-English New Testament was published electronically worldwide.

Electronic versions have proved a very cost effective way to get the translation into as many hands as possible. Printing can be expensive.

But we will not stop at audio Bibles and e-versions of the Scripture. Our chief translator, ITMI's **Dr. Piotr Zaremba**, has long been talking with Christian professionals about launching an online platform with live services, sermons, real-life testimonies, and Bible studies inspired by this new and vibrant translation. The goal is to reach those who, in today's highly pressurized world, fall through the cracks of a regular ministry.

Those who jet-set from one city to the next and miss their small group meetings but still desire to grow spiritually. Those who live in the virtual and may never make it to a physical church pew on a Sunday morning. Those who don't even know where to look for the answers, just know that for them, it won't be in any church! If they are to be reached with the Word of God, it will only be if the Word is where they are: online.

It's an exciting time to be a part of the Polish Bible Translation project! As Piotr says, "After years of backbreaking work, the time has come when we can finally sit down and play with what we've got." You should see the team jumping up and down at the big kitchen table, guzzling coffee till the wee hours and brainstorming the new ways to get the Word of God in more and more hands!

The best part? *You* have made this stage possible. *Your* prayers, *your* encouragement, *your* loving support have kept us going all those years.

Your faithful presence has enabled us to leave a mark in the rapid current of today's world, a lasting imprint that will not be washed away.

-Carolyn Zaremba

*How can
those
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From the Director

Dear Team,

A few months ago Darlene was rudely awakened from peaceful slumber one night when a terrifying creature - an eight legged, twin clawed, singularly curved and poisoned tailed predatory arthropod - stung her finger. The alternating intense pain and deep numbness engulfed her whole arm.

Well, that was enough for me. They - those scorpions - started it. I hope to finish it!

Since then, I have been on a mission. Armed with a UV light, a jar with lid, tweezers and a can of automotive brake cleaner, I head out each night into the back yard and make my rounds.

Despite their defenses of camouflage and immunity to chemicals, I'm slowly gaining the upper hand. In the pitch black of an unlit back yard, Steve-the-hunter, armed with a UV flashlight, can see these glowing florescent bodied hook-tailed nemesis with exceptional clarity. Their bodies glow like moving night-lights under a UV light.

Sometimes, in our mission as believers, we may feel as though we're wondering around in the dark, hunting something fearful. We may feel as though we aren't making a difference; we gain victory over one problem only to have another problem grow bigger or multiply. Fear of the unknown paralyzes us. We wonder if God is pleased with such meager progress.

After a few weeks of nightly prowls in my backyard, I have learned a few things that I hope, when applied to the bigger story of life on mission with Jesus, are encouraging.

1. I'm not as afraid of them now as I was in the beginning. Fear of the unknown has turned to experiential knowledge.
2. If I am faithful to my mission each night, I can see real progress in the reduction of numbers.
3. It is worth the time and energy to wonder around in the dark night after night, putting myself at risk, even if progress seems slow. It's a way to show my wife she is important and I love her. *It is our faithfulness that demonstrates our love, not our success.*

As we stay faithful to our mission, we also see that it is totally worth the time and energy to brave the unknown, showing our loving Heavenly Father that we love Him and appreciate His gift of life given to each of us. It is because of the faithfulness of ITMI supporters that we are seeing real progress in God's Kingdom. The poor are rescued, the hurting are loved, the gospel is preached, His Word is in more hands, joy is found and lives are changed!

Lord willing and as you are reading this, [John Jere](#), [Tim Keller](#), [Gerhard le Roux](#) and I will be in far western Zambia drilling five more water wells. We are seeking to help those with very real needs. We also hope to earn the right to share God's wonderful saving Gospel. One village we have targeted for a well has lost (12) women since the first of the year to crocodile attacks at the river's edge. Once the well, or as they call it, "bore hole" is complete, this village will not only have clean water but safe water. They will also have Living Water. We share God's truth at each well dedication and we also leave with them a large special, solar powered audio New Testament MP3 player that will be used around the camp fires at nightly gatherings.

In His Service,



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which help to reintegrate them back into the society. They work with the local government to deliver food to those receiving public assistance, keep the neighborhood clean, and help out at charity events. They also participate in services at the nearby **Gniezno Baptist Church**, where ITMI's Pastor **Janusz Fredyk** openly welcomes all.

Slawek always believed in God's existence. However, "there was this huge gap between my belief and my life. I honestly didn't know how my belief was in any way related to the choices I made every day."

As Slawek slowly made his way through the recovery program, God was molding his heart.

Putting the Pieces Together

"One day, I was in the kitchen with the other men," he says. "As usual, we were preparing the evening meal. I was peeling potatoes. Then all of a sudden, it all came together for me. I realized how much Jesus loved me. I realized that it was for my sins that He bled on that cross. I realized how terribly it hurt Him when I trampled His sacrifice underfoot with my incessant drinking. It was like a series of blows to the heart. I ran out of the kitchen with tears pouring down my cheeks. One of the guys ran after me. He thought I cut myself with a peeler."

That happened in November 2013. In June 2014, Slawek got baptized and sealed his commitment to God. He finished the recovery program and is back together with his family, working as a house-painter in Denmark.

This is not to say that all the pieces in his life are back together again. But he is back to working on his model ship building with a new Friend who will never abandon him, and he now benefits from the perfect vision that comes from walking in God's amazing light.

You Are Building Something Amazing

When the box with the ship model kit is first opened, all the tiny pieces may be overwhelming.

The New Life Center is there to lend a helping hand to people who are overwhelmed by the task of putting it all together again. Through support of the NLC and its dedicated workers, *you have been a part of this amazing construction work!*

Slawek is living proof.

-Carolyn Zaremba



For Praise

1. India - Paul & Molly are praising God for allowing them to introduce their work to village leaders at a recent celebration.
2. Poland - Daniel Machlowski reports that 30 of 60 kids attending English Kids Camp gave their lives to Jesus.
3. Poland - Gospel Joy received a generous and timely gift that will allow their 6 new home churches to continue multiplying.
4. Zambia - Plans are coming together for the water well drilling trip to remote western Zambia.
5. South Sudan - Jahim's successful training for pastors and leaders where "Hammer" (Secret Govt. Police) was saved!
6. USA - God's medical and physical help to Mark Burritt's wife, Vanessa, as she continues chemotherapy.
7. USA - A new ITMI website is just around the corner.

For Prayer

1. Poland - Daniel Machlowski reports open doors in Krakow, which may lead to a 4th plant of the K5N college ministry.
2. Zambia - Replacements for two teachers who left Excellence Christian Academy for better pay at government schools.
3. Uganda - Construction of the mission house on the property of the International School of Missions.
4. India - The great need for Christ-centered education in Paul and Molly's village would be met.
5. South Africa - Provision of funds for Kelly and Cherise Smith's Project Christmas Blessing benefitting children in Zulu Natal.
6. Zambia - Health and safety for Steve Evers, John Jere and Timothy Keller, the spreading of the gospel and the logistics of well digging in Lukulu, Zambia.

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