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"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." -Eph. 2:8

An Insider's Story

ITMI Monthly catches up with our own Daniel Machlowski, who's been part of our Polish team for over two years now. Raised in America but 100% Polish, Daniel uses his past to build bridges into people's future with Christ. Enjoy his unique perspective, from inside our dynamic team!

ITMI Monthly: You've been in Poland 2.5 years now. What have you been up to?

Daniel: I started serving with [ITMI's] Andrew Gorski, singing in the Gospel Joy Choir, serving at the workshops by leading a teaching time, a prayer time or sharing my testimony. I was part of the team that worked to start the first Word Zone. We decided to start a second one, meeting in homes and coffee shops. The third one met at my home, and I co-lead with another guy. It ended up exploding, in a sense, and now there's five, with plans to start more. I'm glad I got to be a part of it and see it multiply.

Gospel Joy is constantly developing leaders through training, so that someone's always ready to take the reins. It's so well-run by Andrew and what we put in place, it is a self-containing ministry in that it produces its own leaders.

Now I'm working directly with [ITMI's] Piotr Zaremba as he pastors **K5N Church**. K5N focuses on the New Testament, being open to new people, focusing on God and His work and allowing for ministries to be self-sustaining (like what happened at Gospel Joy with the Word Zones) The goal of K5N leadership, [which includes Andrew Gorski, Daniel and of

course, Piotr Zaremba] is for people to come and get plugged into community, where they can grow and serve.

Getting plugged in is actually pretty hard in Poland. That's why I transitioned, to start discipling new believers coming to K5N. Gospel Joy reaches people who aren't ready to go to an evangelical church. A group of guys from Word Zone joined K5N and needed to be plugged in. I transitioned to disciple them and help them plug in as they joined.

You said it's hard to get plugged in. Can you explain why?

To be Polish is to be Catholic. Anything else is foreign and unacceptable. The Polish national identity is in Catholicism, which is mostly political, not faith. Evangelicals make up less than 1/2 of 1 percent. There's a lot of social persecution and ostracism. All non-Catholics are viewed as a dangerous sect.

That's actually part of my testimony. I am an outsider because I'm an American, but I'm also an insider. I'm 100% Polish and speak the language. I used to be Catholic and did all the rituals. My story helps show people it's ok to be Polish *and* evangelical.



Daniel Machlowski with Damien, a man he discipled.

What is the biggest thing God's taught you during the last 2.5 years?

The short answer is to love people who are hurting.

The long answer is that people have a hard time trusting outsiders or foreigners. It makes sense, given the oppression from foreigners for hundreds of years. Many also have a hard time honoring authority - both government and in the church. It's hard for them to tithe, establish leaders and train them.

Poland is a pretty poor country. It's "first world," but the economic situation is still not great. There are lots of people in debt; there's no "protestant work ethic." They never learned how to save and invest as many in Western countries. As far as religious oppression is concerned, many equate religion with guilt and shame. Priests have been known to demand lots of money for the performing of religious rites, like weddings or burials - we experienced that in my family. Then the priests will live rich. Taxes, too, are pretty high.

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So there's a learned helplessness. People work hard and don't get much so they are discouraged and feel unloved.

All that to say that I've learned people need a lot of love and understanding. When people are hard to love I have to realize they are hurting and forgive them.

What is different about being in Poland than you thought it would be?

I ended up working the most with Andrew Gorski. That we would connect so well was unexpected. It really opened up my eyes to how God is working through those ministries, so much so that people are spilling into K5N. I also really thought I would do a lot with student ministries. I knew one day I would transition out of student ministries, but I didn't think it would be in the first two years. I started feeling called to the K5N adults getting out of college, since I myself am one of them. God is stretching me through it and teaching me to be elastic.

What have you enjoyed about being a member of ITMI's Polish ministry team?

I really enjoyed working with Andrew. He's a huge visionary when it comes to serving and equipping. I've also greatly enjoyed working alongside Piotr. Of all Polish people, Piotr is one of the most influential, in my opinion. He translated the Bible into Polish. He pastors the largest Evangelical church in Poznan. He encourages freedom in ministry; he gives his blessing for almost any ministry idea you can think of - as long as it's biblical and culturally respectful. He's always encouraging and supporting. He's a busy guy, but he'll drive out to kids camp for a couple days. I really enjoy his huge heart. He has a huge heart for helping people succeed. He's one of the few in Poland focused on helping others succeed. Not many in Poland will do that.

What will your role in K5N be when you return?

I'll be involved in giving sermons periodically. I just started leading a home group with about 10 regular members, and quite a few visitors, too. We are doing discipleship training with them, training how to share their testimony, evangelize, read the Bible - all the Christian disciplines - in preparation for them making their own disciples.

I meet together with Piotr and several leaders to prepare for preaching. We review Piotr's translation, and the original Greek. We go deep. We call it "Greek class."

I also teach an Old Testament class. We are going through from the beginning, focusing on truth and application. It's a unique class because most people do not know anything about the Old Testament. There's no other Old Testament class that I know of in Poznan. Other than that, I'll be involved with pastoral care, possibly teaching English, and translating services.

What could you say to help ITMI readers understand the needs in Poland?

People need Jesus Christ. They respond to the good news about Him with a blank stare; they don't know what to do with it. They feel unworthy to have free salvation. We really want to get to know people and share the good news in ways they can understand, life on life discipleship.

One guy in my home group does art galleries so we go to art galleries and evangelize. Another works at a recreation center so I help serve there. We serve at a local orphanage. We try to meet practical needs. We've helped



Daniel leading his home group.



Daniel meeting practical needs by serving food on the streets.



Daniel praying with some men on the street.

one guy who needs to learn English for school.

Then we share Jesus with them, get to know their friends, invite them all to get to know Christ, and many get saved and grow. Piotr baptized 66 people in the last 2.5 years. Of those 66, I've tried to get to know as many as possible. I follow up with them.

There's a lot to do. K5N Church in Poznan is a dynamic church and I rejoice in the opportunity to serve there!

Questions and editing by Summer Kelley

From the Director

Dear Team,

Greetings ITMI family, we are so grateful for all your faithful support, encouragement and continuing testimony of helping those that can't help themselves around the world. You are being used to make a difference. We hope to share some of those stories in the next couple of months.

Today, we are led to communicate not to you our supporter, but to a group that we have heard reads and reviews our newsletters. The group we are desiring to communicate with have - unbeknownst to them - been severely affected by the damage and blindness that comes from generations of godlessness in their society.

An Open Letter to Government Officials

The true God, the Creator of Universe, the Creator of every living thing, designed and created everything with a plan and a purpose. God has a unique and specific plan for each and every one on this planet, even government leaders who struggle to know the right path and plan that can and will lead your messed up countries out of their poverty of thought, poverty of hope, poverty of will, and poverty of life. When the Creator's purpose and plan are ignored, whether by choice, ignorance or cultural influences, everything - yes everything - breaks down. This colossal breakdown in your country and in your personal lives is why you wake up each day agitated, uneasy, angry, and fearful, with negative health issues and so many more negative emotions and feelings. There was a truth written long, long ago that says, "...for God gave us a spirit **not of fear** but of **power and love and sound mind**." You know, far better than even we know, how dysfunctional your country and culture currently is. There is great fear everywhere. You may not want to admit it in public, but fear of being exposed, fear of loss of power, fear of loss of control, fear of those who might take you down, and many other fears grip you deep down inside when you sit alone or as you lay down at night.

Please allow us to tell you this. *You were never intended to carry such fear.*

Notice that God, the one that created you, who has a special plan for you, said that He did not give the spirit of fear. He never, never intended for you experience this dreadful emotional bondage - yes bondage - called fear. He did intend, He did create you, to experience Godly power, Godly love and Godly sound mind.

Please consider what God clearly spoke, what He committed to, "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.*" This promise is yours, if you will humble yourself and take it.

You see, mankind is infected with a deadly disease. Yes, even you are affected with this deadly disease. This disease is called sin. Sin is doing anything that is apart from God's way. Man always messes things up. Even when we start out wanting to do right, our best efforts fall so very short.

ITMI and our partners are all about bringing the cure for this disease to your country. We have been cured, and we want you and all your suffering people to experience the same life changing cure. Please will you take a chance and ask us about this cure?

We want you and all your people to find real life. Real life without fear. Without bondage. We have seen other countries and cultures completely healed from their destruction and poverty. We have seen people who were gripped with intense fear freed and given unbelievable peace and rest. We have seen the lives and futures completely reverse for the good. We have seen people who were already dead in their many, many sins, be given a new life.

We could ask you to fear not what ITMI and our partners are doing in and within your borders, but we know that you are currently and completely incapable of not fearing. It is part of the disease that you are stricken with. What we can ask is that if you come to the place that you no longer want to be consumed with this disease, we can gladly share with you where you can find a cure.

In His Service,



Unbelievable.

The quaint square of Poland's oldest and very steeped-in-traditions city, Kalisz, was aglow with warmth and activity. Passers-by were drawn to the merriment, as delicious, warm food soothed their shivering, while contributing to a worthy cause warmed their hearts.

The square was lined with booths displaying gorgeous, homemade Christmas decorations sold to benefit several children of the community who were facing serious medical issues.

And the end result? Over \$7000 raised to help the families of these precious children. Two-hundred fifty audio versions of **Piotr Zaremba's** new Polish Bible Translation were distributed. Many heard about and participated with the local chapter of **Bread of Life**, which offers counseling, Bible studies, clothing closets and David's Club - a martial arts class for street kids - to the poorest of the poor families in Kalisz. Over 1500 families were served through Bread of Life Kalisz last year.

All this is the fruit of **Tomek Jezyk's** work, who himself found Jesus through volunteering with Bread of Life and translating the gospel to homeless men in the train station for ITMI's **Richard**

Nungesser years ago. Tomek is now the Director of Bread of Life, Kalisz.

Tomek says, *"We help their children fight for their lives. And then, when their parents ask us why---why we care? Why we help...we are able to share the unbelievable love of God with them---and their lives, hearts, and families are eternally changed."*

ITMI Director, **Steve Evers** describes Tomek this way, "Tomek's nothing's-too-big, little-by-little, bulldog attitude lets him pull things off that are unbelievable. He has become respected and very influential in Kalisz, and he's using that influence to help sick children."

Like the birth of a king some 2000 years ago that it commemorates, Christmas in the Square has become a life changing and life giving event that blesses the people of Kalisz in so many ways.

Christmas in the Square is a great example of Tomek's commitment to Kalisz and his ability to bless the city. It's also a testament to what can happen when many people come together to serve, just as ITMI's supporters come together month after month to accomplish so many great things!



by Summer Kelley
Photos courtesy of Bread of Life, Kalisz

For Praise

1. Uganda - The students of ISM have shared Jesus with 43 people this year, 14 of whom have accepted Jesus as their Savior!
2. Poland - Six sick children will benefit from funds raised by BOL Kalisz's Christmas in the Square.
3. Poland/US - Gospel Joy Choir shared testimonies, great music and the joy of the gospel in Atlanta and Knoxville last month.
4. Poland - Daniel Machlowski's passion and unique opportunity to evangelize and disciple many in Poland.

For Prayer

1. Poland - Piotr Zaremba and Daniel Machlowski's time sharing about their ministries in the US this month.
2. India - Provision for teaching trades to the widows of Harvest Chapel India, planted by **Paul and Molly**.
3. India - For the 500 in attendance at Harvest Chapel's New Year's Eve Service and for those working to follow up with them.
4. Poland - That **Leszek Wakula's** Education Center in Lodz, Poland would be a light in a very dark place.
5. Africa - Energy, wisdom and opportunities for Steve Evers, currently visiting ITMI partners in Uganda and South Sudan.



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