

*Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church*

# IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 July 2016

*"Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." Psalm 115:1*

## Celebrating 35 Years of keeping you "In Touch"



*ITMI was founded by Bill and Harriett Bathman 35 years ago as a link between believers in America and the persecuted church behind the Iron Curtain. In doing this, we discovered how effective national believers were at reaching the people around them. That's where you came in. At one time or another, you responded with a gift that empowered a national to make a huge impact. It's that impact we're celebrating. **Your impact.** You've put Bibles in people's hands, bikes under evangelists and pastors, medical supplies and relief in skilled hands, cared for the orphaned, widowed, elderly, poor and forgotten, equipped pastors, planted churches and shared the Good News around the world!*

*God has allowed us to do so many exciting things over the years. One of the biggest projects we have poured into is...*

### ...Piotr Zaremba's Polish Bible Translation Project.

Why have we allocated this level of time and resources to this project?

Three of the greatest achievements of the Reformation Era were: The translation of the Bible into languages of the people of Europe; mass publication of the Bible; and the

spread of literacy through reading the Bible. These achievements changed individuals and nations, indeed, all of Western Civilization.

Martin Luther, the Father of the Reformation himself, worked in vain to gain God's approval for years. But it was only when he got a red leather-bound copy of God's Word in his hands that he understood the truth of

justification by faith alone.

Empowered by God's Word, Martin Luther changed the world through the Reformation.

We envisioned, with long-time ITMI partner, Dr. Piotr Zaremba, a day when another great event like these would happen in our lifetime. It was this vision that led us to invest in this God-sized project.

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*We translate the Bible for revival. Together. And I love it.*

*And I love you." – Piotr Zaremba*



(continued from p.1)

Dr. Piotr Zaremba of Poznan, Poland, has recently finished the first ever modern translation of the Bible into Polish by evangelical churches. The actual translation was completed December 31, 2014. Piotr and his team have spent the last year proofreading it and laying it out. ITMI's partner in Poland worked from the original Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic languages to give the people of his country an accurate and readable translation. And by using such an accessible version of the Word of God, many people can be evangelized, then discipled thoroughly and made biblically literate. Discipleship on a large scale will change Poland.

The latest protestant translation of the Bible was the Warsaw Bible in 1975, 40 years ago. Several Polish versions have been translated for Catholics during the past 50 years, which were not acceptable to Protestants.

Piotr's work has been a 16-year labor of love. A gift for the Polish people, who world-wide comprise approximately 40 million citizens. Piotr trains and encourages Polish church leadership as ITMI's European Director, and all related ministries are growing. But the people he works with struggle to read the 400-year-old translation. They have a hard time learning the Bible because it has a centuries-old vocabulary and sentence structure, making it difficult for them to understand.

As the months and years crept by it seemed as if the project would never be finished, but Piotr and his translation team pressed on with prayer and diligence. In the midst of fatigue and discouragement, Piotr was reminded of God's encouragement to all believers facing great tasks, "I am with you always."

Piotr announced the completion of the Modern Polish New Testament Translation in 2007.

"Beloved, our next dream came true! Polish-English New Testament! What an important step — for many reasons. Let me name just three: Polish people usually speak Polish. But they want to be a part of an international missional community where most of the people speak English. Our edition of the bi-lingual New Testament promotes the understanding of God's message in both languages: the language of Polish heart, and the language of international missions. English-speaking Christians meet Poles everywhere, even in the USA! What an evangelistic tool we've prepared! Now you can evangelize Polish people with your English Bible!"

As many people celebrated the completion of the New Testament, Piotr had a surprise for everyone. While supporters were awaiting the printing of the New



Testament, he had also made great progress on several Old Testament books: Joel, Amos, Hosea and Daniel.

"I just want to report that I keep translating at the speed of one chapter a day. I am totally surprised with it. Thank you for your prayers. This is just common knowledge that your part in our quest for the Great Commission is as important as ours. Please, let us continue to struggle together to give the whole Bible to the whole nation."

Three months later he was working on Isaiah 51. Most days he would work 18 hours per day. In one note he said, "So consumed by the desire to see the Bible translated ASAP, I ... stay nailed to my desk."

He was doing much more than translating words for a single translation. He was working on two.

"I keep translating one chapter a day from ... Hebrew raw material to *two Polish translations*: literal (ESV) and literary (easier reading) with *footnotes* and *cross references*. This speed is surprising to me. But it also takes hours. On the other hand, it also brings our project to its final conclusion quite fast. I hardly do anything else during the day, except going to gym or to a swimming pool, and running some really necessary family and pastoral business. Sometimes I don't even go to gym, swim or run, because I am too tired or chapters are too complex. As much as possible I get up at 4 a.m. and continue till 10 p.m."

By December of the same year, the team was able to complete the translation of a large part of the Old Testament: Genesis, Ruth, Ezra and Malachi. Piotr never forgot his source of strength and Who sustained him.

"Knowing that every day of our lives depends on our Sovereign Lord, that every hour is a miracle of His grace, and that every breath we take is a surprise of His generosity, I already dare to look ahead, I keep dreaming of us celebrating the conclusion of this historic project. Please, let us continue to pray for this one-chapter-a-day rhythm. Oh, that nothing would interrupt it. How could we do without your prayers? How could we do without Him answering them?"

Piotr kept grinding away at the massive project, enduring fatigue and lack of rest. But being concerned for his flock of believers, he added even more to his workload. He wrote, "I keep translating one chapter a day, although I had to get back to my disciple-making, preaching and teaching routines. ... God can really do a lot through fragile men and women when they are united in prayer. Thank you. ... I do hope to have a bit more rest at times."

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# From the Archives

## "Introducing Reverend Piotr Zaremba" - February 2001

To commemorate your 35-year ministry as partners with us, we're publishing stories from our ITMI Monthly newsletter archives. We're praying with each article, you'll be reminded of all God has done and moved to give Him glory and praise.



**Rev. Piotr (Peter) Zaremba** (40) is senior pastor of the **First Baptist Church** in Poznan, Poland. It is the fastest growing congregation in the country. In addition, he deacons, a school for English language, and an International Church for English-speaking people.

Other ministries include a charity fund, youth camps, and providing Christian literature for Christians and non-Christians.

Pastor Zaremba holds a graduate degree in Systematic Theology and Ethics from the Baptist Seminary in Warsaw. After graduation, the Baptist Union of Poland appointed him Youth Director, a position he held for seven years.

His heart was for the pastorate, and ten years ago he accepted the challenge to plant a church in Poznan – Poland's second largest city.

Under his ministry the Poznan church emphasizes evangelistic outreach and preparing members for ministry. They have multiplied in recent years, planting two other churches in the city and a congregation in Gniezno, about 35 miles away.

Poland is a post-communist country. It is predominately Roman Catholic (95%) and evangelicals are often looked upon as a cult.

Pastor Zaremba is a translator,\* writer, editor, consultant of theological literature and director of IN TOUCH MISSION in Poland.

The Baptist Union of Poland appointed him as a Bible translator. He is still a much sought after youth conference speaker while continuing to teach Systematic Theology and Ethics at the Baptist Seminary in Warsaw.

Currently his most ambitious project is translating the New Testament from Greek to Polish.

Piotr and his wife, Krystyna (a medical doctor and teacher of German) have three children: Karolina (15), Dorota (12), and Tymoteusz (9).

They reside in a house shared with several other ministry people and interns.

*\*Other works translated by Pastor Zaremba, include: Cgristian Theology by Milliard Ericson, Basic Theology by Charles Ryrie, Evangelism Explosion by D. James Kennedy, MasterLife Discipleship Couse by Arthur Willis, Church Dynamics (Biblical Education by Extension), Dogmatics (Biblical Education by Extension), Alive to God (Daily devotionals, co-author and editor for five year-round series), Crisis of Conscience by Raymond Franz, The Foundations of Biblical Preaching by Al Fasol and Explore The Book by J. Sidlow Baxter.*

*-Compiled by Bill Bathman, January 15, 2001*





Did you  
Know?

Piotr served as ITMI's European Director and Pastor of K5N Church and still completed the translation years ahead of the time it's taking others to translate the Bible to Polish.

The Polish Bible Translation took Piotr and his team 16 years to complete.

Over 1 million copies of some form of Piotr's Translation – including digital formats – have already been distributed!

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Meanwhile, 50,000 copies of the New Testament and 5,000 copies of the New Testament and Psalms in Polish were then being published and distributed. The 5N Church plant of 200 people was growing in spiritual maturity. All of ITMI-Europe's various ministries experienced steady growth. New Testaments and Psalms were made available worldwide through e-books. A discipleship course with 25 new disciples from Poznan, Gniezno and other fellowships of northern Poland was started. And the Gniezno Baptist church building project was finally finished.

"We are getting closer and closer to the day of publication of our entire Bible translated from Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek to modern Polish," Piotr wrote.

Then the long-awaited day finally came. The last chapter of the last book of the Bible was translated on the last day of the year, December 31, 2013. What a way to end the year!

**The printed Bibles are scheduled to be delivered July 4, 2016!**

Finally, the Polish people will have a modern translation of the Bible in their own language done by evangelicals. Maybe God will fan this small spark into a flame of revival and a second Reformation in Europe.

If you have already participated in this progress through prayer, financial or other support, this is our big "Thank You!" to you. You made this possible. You fueled a project that is poised to revive a nation.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to participate in this project, you still have a chance to partner with Piotr to give Poland the gift of God's truth.

Piotr and his team will continue working to get this translation into the hands of more and more people. Some future endeavors will be study Bibles for specific audiences, such as Men, Women and Youth. When complete, Piotr will still need to fund the printing of these versions.

-Steve Lee



## *From the Director*

*My recent trip to Poland allowed me to see and participate in many heartwarming connections with our Polish brothers and sisters. Included below are a few of the images that I get to experience on my trip to Poland, in hopes you get a better idea of what God is doing in this gospel-needy country.*



Poland is full, really full of century old cathedrals. The architecture is really stunning. This is in the town of Gniezno, Poland, an hour northeast of Poznan. Gniezno is the birth place of Catholicism in Poland. Piotr, ITMI's **Janusz Fredyk** and **Dariusz Banicki** planted a church right in the down town of Gniezno, because there was no evangelical presence there. These two men, with the help of ITMI's supporters, reclaimed an old warehouse, refurbished it and now use it as the church building. The Gniezno church building isn't as stately, but while it is beautiful on the outside, it's more beautiful on the inside, where love abounds.



This might look like an ordinary lake, but to Piotr, it is special because it is where something very valuable to the Body of Christ happens. Piotr's K5N church meets in a rented local community theatre - with no baptismal. Baptisms in Poland are a big deal. You are telling everyone you know that you are separating from all that they've identified with for generations, and now you are going to identify with Jesus. Piotr loves baptisms. Testimonies, singing, preaching and tears of joy are all present. Thank you for all your help in helping ITMI help Piotr and K5N as they truly change Poland one precious soul at a time.

Want more? [Check our website](#) for more images and captions!



# Bethesda Home

*Update*

We're so grateful for the generous way ITMI supporters have responded to the needs of [Bethesda Home](#) in Romania. Let's keep showing God's love and compassion to these widows.

Not long ago, ITMI Romanian partners, **Vio and Daria Pop** received word from a church in England whose monthly support was covering a high percentage of their \$4,482/month operating costs. Regretfully, the church would have to drastically cut down the amount they were providing for the care of widows.

The high cost of monthly operations is mostly driven by the widows' severe immobility, which requires 2 full-time nurses round-the-clock. If the Pops can't pay the nurses, they cannot keep caring for these widows, who have become like family to them.

The Pops shudder to think of having to move the widows into state-run nursing homes where conditions are deplorable. One of the widows' pension is so small that a local home isn't even an option. They have nowhere to turn.

The Pops are deeply encouraged by the initial response from our supporters. Thank you for demonstrating God's high value of human life in Romania!



## For Praise

1. S. Africa - [Charl](#) - "I'm still so thrilled by the Thailand conference opening my eyes to the world of media for ministry."
2. India - [Paul & Molly](#) - "Our team of 48 whole-hearted VBS teachers ran [VBS] in 8 different locations to 608 children."
3. Romania - Bethesda Foundation - New supporters continuing to help the Pops care for the widows.
4. Poland - [Piotr Zaremba](#) - Delivery of the newly printed, complete Polish Bible.
5. Poland - [Piotr Zaremba](#) - Whole new Bible version in literal format for Pastors, to be published electronically July 11<sup>th</sup>.

## For Prayer

1. S. Africa - [LeRoux Family](#) - Elmane requires a second surgery needed to repair another problem.
2. S. Africa - [LeRoux Family](#) - Healing following daughter Loretta's eye injury and surgery.
3. S. Africa - [Charl van Wyk](#) - Upcoming camp for boys in Zimbabwe, similar to outreach in Stone Hill, South Africa.
4. Poland - [Tomek Jezyk](#) - Tomek's son, David, is in the hospital being treated for complications related to his Hepatitis.
5. Zambia - [John Leach](#) - Fruitful ministry for evangelists traveling via canoe to the villages west of the Zambezi River.
6. Poland - [Leszek Wakula](#) - Salvations and seeds planted at summer camp and upcoming outreach to Ukrainian immigrants.
7. India - [Paul & Molly](#) - 1) Visa renewal. 2) Upcoming move to a new safe home again, hopefully with western toilets.



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