

IN TOUCH MISSION

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

Monthly

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"Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise," says the Lord. "I will protect them from those who malign them." Psalm 12:5

How God Opened a Door that was once firmly shut

POLAND

Twelve years ago, the city of Gniezno, Poland wanted ITMI's [Bread of Life](#) and the Gniezno Church to open a soup kitchen and transition home for men. But, instead of helping Bread of Life and the church pay for it, they required those helping to find all of the funding for the renovations of the old building they were planning to use.

After the renovations were complete, and program in full swing, the city told the Gniezno church that they were no longer able to use the Bible in any of the programs—shortly after closing *Kawiary* (the name of the building) down. The city that asked for help from a Christian organization would no longer allow that same organization and partner church to hold Bible Studies in that location.

Fast forward to present day...

Not long ago, the same city, Gniezno, that approached Bread of Life all those years ago, came back and said, "Please, help us."

They recognized Bread of Life's proven track record through the **New Life Center** and its other Christian counseling and programs, offering true help and restoration to the needy and

successfully integrating them into society. These successes have paved the way for more to be helped!

This time, while partnering with the city, Bread of Life now has the freedom to do what they've been doing all along, Bible Studies and physical help to reach the forgotten and needy of Gniezno! The outreach, called, "Day of New Chances," is already open in Gniezno!

ITMI's [Richard Nungesser](#), co-founder of Bread of Life was in the States not long ago with **Marcin Lukaszuk**, the Director of the [New Life Center](#). ITMI Monthly caught up with both of them. Here's what's new in the Nungessers' many facets of ministry straight from Richard himself. (You can find our interview with Marcin [on the ITMI website](#).)

ITMI Monthly: What is Bread of Life all about?

Richard: With Bread of Life, we have three goals. We "Rescue the Forgotten," we help people go from "Ordinary to Extraordinary" and we "Expand the Reach" so we can rescue



more people in new locations.

[Piotr's story](#) is a great example of how all three can fit together. Piotr was rescued through the New Life Center. After graduation from the NLC, Piotr and his pastor planted seven churches in northern Poland. Exemplifying how rescuing the once-forgotten Piotr, who went on to become an extraordinary man of God and expand the reach of the Gospel throughout Poland.

A second great example is another New Life Center alumni, Tomek. Tomek distributed 1,000 fliers to the poorest of the poor in Gniezno so they could hear about our Day of New Chances. He volunteers at the New

(continued on p.2)

(continued from p.1)

Life Center on weekends and brings the guys to church in Gniezno.

He is being extraordinary.

ITMI Monthly: Can you give those of us trying to keep up with Bread of Life's growth an overview of the organization?

Richard: Yes! In Poland, [ITMI's] **Janusz Fredyk**, who used to be the Director of the New Life Center, is now the Bread of Life Director in Poland. That's when Marcin [Janusz's son-in-law] took over as the New Life Center Director.

Tomek Jezyk is the Director in Kalisz, where they do David's Club (a karate program for street kids), the Christmas at the Square Event and a daily counseling ministry.

Piotr and Hannah Buczkowski head up our [Vision Division](#), or Bartimaeus Project, traveling and serving not only in Poland but Northern Africa and Moldova, bringing sight to the blind.

Charles Dibble founded Bread of Life, Ivory Coast, and **Christopher**, a local pastor, and **Daniel**, from his church, are two other volunteers doing the [day-to-day ministry in the Ivory Coast](#). They build small businesses, help single mothers get higher education, and [support a local school](#) to keep children off of the streets.

ITMI Monthly: What stories and news can you share from around Bread of Life?

Richard: Last Christmas we held the 4th [Christmas at the Square Event](#). We were able to buy a Macbook with a special voice recognition program for a blind university student, so he is able to get his education. On top of this young man, over \$30,000 zloty (\$7900USD) was raised to help 5 local children pay for life-saving medicine and physical therapy. Tomek is already gearing up for this year. He's got a big name Christian music artist lined up. We're hoping to raise \$50,000 zloty.

The event really brings the community together. Tomek hosted a thank you for event volunteers. After I spoke, they



handed me a stack of 120 certificates for people and organizations that were involved!

A donor just helped us get a mobile auto-refractometer for our Bartimaeus Project. You rest it on the patient's head and it examines the eyes at a much quicker speed, enabling Doctors Piotr and Hania to see and serve more than 100 orphans at a time through Project Bartimaeus.

Bread of Life distributes 15,000 pounds of food each and every month. Six-thousand pounds are delivered by New Life Center participants to their surrounding community. This is shaping the men at the New Life Center to not be inwardly focused but outwardly focused. Realizing that it's not just about them receiving help-but that God has created them to help others. They are becoming extraordinary citizens.

This is a prayer request: the building in Poznan where we've had our [Holy Start](#) (breakfast and Bible study) is being torn down. We've moved to a temporary location, but we need to find a permanent one. We think God is working to provide a place where we can reach more people. You can pray that we will find the perfect new home.

ITMI Monthly: How is Tomek's family doing?

Richard: Well, Eliza's Hepatitis C is quite aggressive. David, Tomek and Eliza's 5-year-old son's liver was just biopsied, and that will determine the level of attack. Their treatment is going to cost around \$10,000 a year. The day Esther was born was a hard day for them, but now Tomek feels more at peace. He works with kids suffering from cancer, so this opens up a whole new level of ministry.

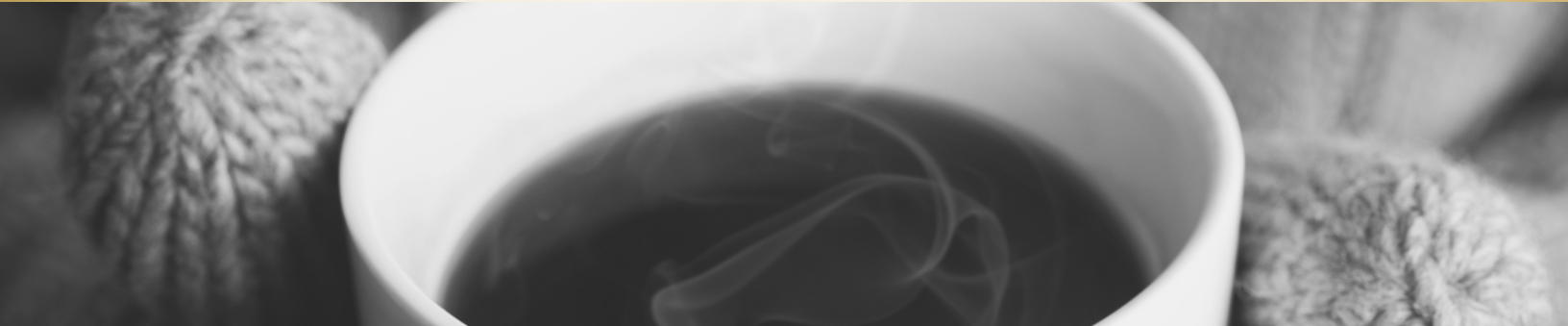
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From the Archives

Poland: Initiative - 2002

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.



POLAND

A most heartwarming story of personal initiative comes from ITMI missionaries Richard and Brooke Nungesser based in Poznan - Poland's second largest city. Their primary work is evangelizing by teaching English as a second language. But they didn't stop there.

God burdened their hearts for the homeless they encountered sheltering from the bitter winter cold in the downtown railway station. Unable to speak with them in Polish, this dedicated couple decided there was a universal language all men could understand: love.

Fired by this concept Richard went to the train station armed with a thermos of hot tea, three cups, a small bag of trail mix and two granola bars. He realized this wouldn't go very far among some 70 homeless people there.

Outside he saw a man digging through the trash, pulling out a discarded cup from McDonald's and drinking the last few drops. Richard gave him a cup of hot tea, a granola bar and a tract explaining the way of salvation. Two others came over and his supplies were exhausted, but a vision was born.

With 20/20 spiritual vision Richard and Brooke can see beyond the tattered, disheveled, drunken and drugged lives of those miserable homeless wretches. They can see individuals for whom Christ died and longs to redeem. They can see changed lives. They can visualize born-again citizens living a productive and transformed life.

Their vision has proven to be contagious. Marek and Gosia, two young Polish Christians from Piotr Zaremba's church, soon joined them in a biweekly outreach appropriately

called "Bread of Life." Before long they were serving up to 75 people at the train station. Every one received a Gospel tract. There was an amazing silence in the waiting room at the station while people read the plan of salvation from the Word of God.

This work began in November 2001, shortly after Nungesser's arrived in Poland. Now about a dozen young Christians are involved regularly in this outreach of love. This month the vision expands to breakfast twice a week along with Bible study. Richard says, "Breakfast should not only be a good start, but a God start!"

The Nungessers went to Poland to teach English as a second language, using the Bible as a textbook. They are not only teachers, but also reachers - out-reachers, setting an example for others to follow. And the vision continues to expand.

The next step is "From Heart to Home," a service that include ministering to the elderly, ailing and to new mothers within the Church. Their five-year goal is to have a Bread of Life shelter that puts "God at the center."

ITMI's Polish director, [Piotr Zaremba](#) endorses the vision. Several from his church are involved in serving and some have given financially. Already they are seeing some of those reached in this way coming to worship on Sundays. Your prayers will make a huge difference.

Footnote: Richard and Brooke do not have a car and must carry all the supplies on the tram or bus. ITMI would like to help them purchase a reliable preowned vehicle. If you share that vision, please designate your tax deductible gift to Nungesser transport, and thanks for helping to share the Bread of Life.

-Bill Bathman

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Bread of Life has started raising funds to help cover their medical costs.

ITMI Monthly: What is happening with Poznan International Church?

Richard: Poznan International Church is an amazing, one-of-a-kind church. Although, due to its international congregation, it has a high turnover rate. Which means approximately 10-20 people leave every year. But this also means that now we have 155 alumni in 23 different nations! Brooke was actually supposed to go with one alumni to Myanmar/Burma on a medical mission to expand the reach (watching a former PIC student become extraordinary), but she had to stay home because I needed knee surgery.

Another member from Belgium just decided to quit his job and raise support so that he can serve as Bread of Life's creative artist full-time, helping us tell the stories of the forgotten.

ITMI Monthly: You are working on reproducing Poznan International Church in other cities, right? How is that going?

Richard: We were asked to come plant a new church in Bydgoszcz, Poland. We need to find a group of internationals we can start with, then we can either equip one of them, or maybe God would provide a pastor from another source.

We also launched **Kalisz International Church** in September 2015. Each time we have a youth meeting, we see about 20 of the neighborhood kids come to hear about Good News of Jesus. These kids lead difficult lives. The church is sometimes the only light in this dark place.

ITMI Monthly: How has that gone and where is it headed?

Richard: We go to Kalisz for the weekend once a month. We hold a Saturday youth event with games, activities, crafts and Bible lessons. Then we lead an international service on Sunday morning. Internationals from Poznan go, too, which exposes them to the mission field. We do need some additional manpower for this, but it has been great!

ITMI Monthly: How is your family doing? What's going on with them?

Richard: The kids are well. Adelyne is doing well in school - all in Polish. Polish history is really different, so that's challenging for her. Praise God that she finished her 4th

grade year as the top girl student in her class. She told her homeroom teacher that in 5th grade, she plans to be the top student in her class!

Max nearly wound back up in the hospital late this spring. His breathing was uneven and his lungs were not receiving oxygen. We begged the doctor to let us keep him at home. She reluctantly relented, putting him on a huge medical regime, and we had to bring him in every 24 hours until she felt he was safe. It was an extremely long five days before she felt there was enough improvement to see him every second day. He needs to return to his cardiologist and pulmonologist. But this June/July marks his 4th year of living beyond past hope!

Josephine is two and very two! She is our surprise delight that

came to us in our 14th year of marriage---after miscarriage and after Max. She is a gift.

Brooke has been enjoying her Ladies Fest conferences (biannual). Women of Protestant and Catholic faiths, Polish and International, come together to delve deep into the Word of God and hear how real and alive God is and His desires for each of their lives. This Fall will be her 4th Ladies Fest since our return to Poland 2 years ago.

ITMI Monthly: What does the rest of your year look like?

Richard: I'm participating in a Global Leadership Summit and Krakow Leadership Summit. And I'm hoping to get to Ivory Coast in the fall.

We will also really dig into planning for a **Youth New Life Center** this fall. We'd like to reach youth before they need the services the New Life Center offers. We've got lots of people interested in having a youth center with a gymnasium/multi-purpose room. Down the road, we'd like to open a Women's New Life Center, too.

Brooke will also be going into one of the villages near the New Life Center, hoping to start a new Bible Club for children there.

And of course regular Bread of Life activities and pastoring PIC and KIC. I'm so thankful for the team God has given us in Poland, Moldova, Ivory Coast, the USA and around the world.

And we - Brooke and I, Marcin, Tomek, and the rest of our Bread of Life team - are always so grateful and thankful for ITMI and its supporters that come alongside of us to help Rescue the Forgotten with the Word of God!



From the Director

Dear Team,

It was a discovery that surprised me. There just isn't that much space west of the Zambezi River in Zambia. There aren't that many people there.

Yes, there are several hundred thousand villagers spread out amongst plethora of small villages that dot the desolate land mass wedged between the river and the Angola border. But still, they all pretty much live the same, eat the same and display many of the same beautiful physical features.

And yet they don't speak the same language. So many villages and so many heart languages.

We came across the realization and challenge last month. In partnership with our new and valued partners, [Johan and Lesley Leach](#), ITMI had just finished 5 new boreholes (water wells) in 5 isolated and impoverished villages west of the river.

Our main purpose is much bigger than giving these villagers "easy" access to water.

I quote "easy" because for these mostly forgotten villagers, "easy" is waking in the morning, walking across the sandy village soil with water container in hand, to reach the borehole where "all" they have to do is pump a large metal handle to extract clean water from the ground.

If that's "easy" what is hard?

Hard is hiking - sometimes miles - to the river each day, dodging crocodiles to fill their large container with the day's water, then lugging gallons of water back to their mud hut in the punishing Zambian sun. If you are too far from the river, hard is digging a small hole in a swampy area and then extracting the dirty water that slowly seeps into the mud hole. Your work will undoubtedly be appreciated by local animals, who will not have the manners to refrain from making "deposits" into your drinking water.

You said the main purpose isn't their comfort and ease, so, what is?

Water bore holes are one of the very best ways of meeting physical needs sustainably. That's important. But our purpose is bigger than that. *We also want to meet spiritual needs.*

In addition to their new borehole, the village leader receives a black box the size of a loaf of bread. The box has a few buttons, a small solar charging panel and a speaker that will clearly broadcast the New Testament in audio format for all the villagers to hear. Since they have no technology of any kind, the villagers are excited to sit and listen to the Bible being spoken to them by this special box. Since most have no ability to read, these villagers gather and process information on an "audio" level. Studies show that auditory-based cultures have an uncanny ability to capture and retain information that is heard, even just once.

Our challenge was to get the audio Bible box in the right language in time for me to deliver them when I visit Johan and the 5 villages next month. I'm reminded that unless we - who are so blessed to be born where we were born, live where we live and worship where we worship - share the blessings of God's Word with the many who don't yet experience them, there's a chance they never will.

Please will you pray with me as Johan and I and a few of his trained leaders, travel to each of these villages in early October, live among the villagers, camp in tents, cook by campfire and dedicate the bore holes to God as we share the good news of Jesus Christ.

In His Service,





ZAMBIA

Villagers in Zambia west of the Zambezi river are excited to have their new borehole, giving them access to clean, safe water! They didn't really believe they were getting it when our Zambian partner, **Johan Leach**, first told them

our plans. They are already discussing planting fruit trees and growing veggies now that they can water them!

Johan says, "We will ensure that the Gospel, too, is well-sown into their hearts. Pray with us that the soil of their hearts will be ready to receive the Gospel and that whole villages will turn and follow Christ Jesus."

For Praise

1. Poland - New Life Center - successful restoration of lives through the New Life Center bringing glory to Jesus.
2. Poland- Nungessers - expanding ministries and years of faithful service overseas.
3. Poland - Kalisz International Church - reaching Internationals and building community in Kalisz.
4. Zambia - Johan Leach - Gospel seeds sown and boreholes installed in 5 new villages!
5. Uganda - ISM - Continued growth of ISM's Bible Mission Church and a new believer near the campus coming to faith.

For Prayer

1. Uganda - Muhido Kawede - Provision for the needs of the family and ministry.
2. S. Africa - Mark Parris- Durbanville Community Church preparing to reach its goal of sharing Jesus with 500 in 2017.
3. Poland - Gospel Joy - The salvation of seekers who gathered to pray and learn after workshops in Skoki, Poland.
4. Poland - Bread of Life - Guidance through the planning phases of a Youth New Life Center.
5. Zambia - Steve Evers - traveling this month to Zambia, S. Africa and Poland.
6. USA - Generous sacrificial year-end giving from across the US.



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