

1 March 2017

*"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other." 1 Jn. 3:14*

## "I Could Not Believe People Like that Exist!"

Viola couldn't believe her ears. *Could this be for real?*

"Forgive as Christ forgave you. Freely. Over and over again."

"Christ forgave me?" she thought in confusion. Forgiveness had always been something a priest granted. It never occurred to her *she* could forgive.

Viola knew this was the answer to the desperate words she'd uttered almost in spite of herself earlier that week, *"God do something! Save my family!"*

Viola and her husband, Caro, were dangling above the precipice of divorce, hanging on by a fingernail.

Viola's friend "randomly" brought her to the Baptist Church in Lodz, Poland, which is pastored by ITMI's [Leszek Wakula](#). And just "randomly" Leszek was preaching on love and forgiveness that day.

"I could not believe that people like this exist!" Viola shared, "I was a stranger and I was welcome - like part of a family!"

Two weeks later, Viola submitted her life to Christ.

"It was such a new birth," Leszek remembers, "that we all rejoiced because we could see this change."

**But that's not all.**

"If Jesus can change my life, he can change Caro's," Viola thought. So she

encouraged him to join her one Sunday.

While chatting with Leszek after the service, Caro told Leszek he like the "personal" and "friendly" atmosphere. "Not like those huge churches where people don't know each other," he said. He also liked the music.

It turned out that Caro was - of all things - a drummer. Something Leszek's wife, Ania, and a friend had been praying would enrich their worship team for awhile!

Three Sundays later, Caro was keeping the rhythm for the worship team with his percussion skills.

Viola and Caro's marriage began to heal.

Leszek and Anna faithfully practice what they call a "lifestyle of discipleship." This means they spend time with people one-on-one, leading them closer to Jesus from whatever point they are at.

"Once I get my hands on someone," Leszek laughs, "I meet with them and disciple them."

**The best part?**

Leszek met with Caro regularly for six months before Caro gave his life to Christ, but when he did, the



evidence of change was so strong that Viola and Caro's son, Luke, gave his life to Jesus, too!

The discipleship didn't stop at evangelism. Caro was equipped by Leszek beyond salvation. He is now an elder in Leszek's church.

**There's even more:**

Leszek and Anna have been pastoring the only Baptist Church in Lodz, a city of almost 700,000, for over 10 years.

When he started, Leszek promised the church two things. "I will love you," he told them, "and I will preach the Word of God as faithfully as I can. I will start on my knees."

As home to hundreds of textile factories, Lodz boasted the largest textile industry in Eastern Europe until about 1989, when the economy drastically changed. Hundreds lost

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their jobs as factory after factory shut down.

In other areas, where industry failed on such a large scale, the government has stepped in to aid in recovery, but Lodz was overlooked. The city has one of the highest unemployment rates in Poland.

Today, almost 30 years later, there are many who live in “generational poverty” meaning there is no one in a family who understands or believes in a life that doesn’t depend on welfare. Many have stopped trying. Their life’s plan is to live on welfare and they envision their kids doing the same.

In fact, statistically speaking, there is a 90% chance that those who were born in certain parts of the city will remain below the poverty line.

These circumstances make the city fertile ground for Christians to demonstrate the love of Jesus. Any service they do is so needed that it is extremely well-received.

Leszek’s church operates a ministry to the disabled, elderly and alone.

These are impoverished people who have no family, or whose family simply abandoned them because caring for them is too inconvenient or hard.

Their ministry often gets the “worst”

cases. The ones no one wants. Where the stench is oppressive.

Where you’ll likely leave covered with urine that isn’t your own. The cases that prompt people to ask, “Why would you do this?”

“But it is joy for us,” Leszek says. “Because we get to share our love with them.”

The elderly and disabled ministry serves 200-400 people, with 100-200 volunteers and is well-recognized by city officials. “Go to the Baptists; they are the best,” they say.

### Why does this matter?

Many of the volunteers began before having a relationship with Jesus, but came to faith when they saw the demonstration

of God’s love from Leszek’s church!

Leszek’s church is also renovating a four-story building to become a school, to share their love with kids and families. The building was unbelievably decrepit when they reclaimed it 6 years ago. It had been confiscated by the Communists after World War II.

There is still quite a bit of work to be done, but the parts that are complete

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# Newsbites

## South Africa

One of Charl van Wyk’s supporters has offered to match every US dollar we raise **before March 31, 2017** toward building a [Child Development Center in Stone Hill](#).

As clean as the two adults try to keep this shack with 34 toddlers, the fact remains that it is an insecure, unsafe and an unhealthy environment. For \$22,000 we can purchase two shipping containers, weld them together, meet regulations and add all the details needed to [make this a safe and educational place](#).

## Romania

Our children’s home, [Casa Dorca Orphanage](#) was able to take in 5 new children not long ago. These 5 will belong to the family there now, and their lives will be changed forever! It’s support from generous givers like you that allowed Andra, Nica Marian, Izabela, Georgiana and Armina to be placed in this loving environment as opposed to the competitive, harsh and often abusive government children’s homes where they may have ended up.

## Zambia

One of our newest partners, [Johan Leach](#) will be in the US this month for the first time. Johan is a true adventurer for Christ, and will amaze you with stories of God’s work among the Luvale people in Western Zambia, where ITMI recently helped drill 5 wells in villages where they previously had no access to clean, safe water.

## South Africa

ITMI’s [Mark and Cindi Parris](#) would like to raise \$1120 to go to Onseepkans, South Africa to support the mission of ITMI’s [Gerhard and Elmane le Roux](#) by planting vegetable gardens and offering Biblical counseling to the many in need.



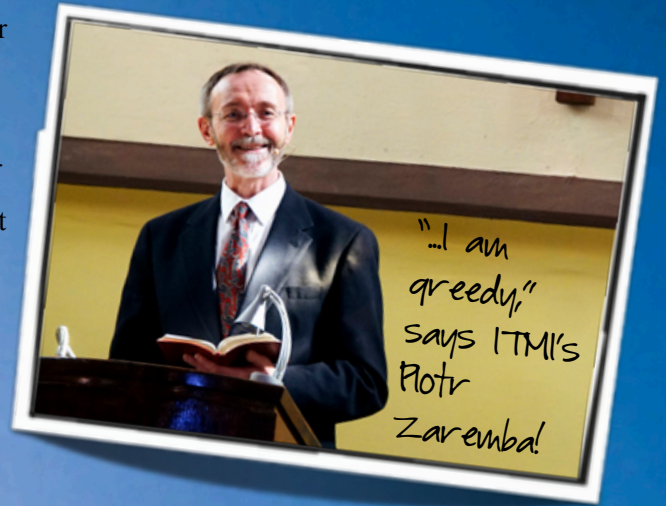
## From the Director

Dear Team,

"One million down, 59 million to go."

Our Polish partner, [Piotr Zaremba](#), has been here in the U. S. for most of February. He didn't get to come to the States last year - a first in a very long time. Piotr doesn't come to get away from his work in Poland, because he brings as much of his work with him as he can fit in between as many "thank you" visits as is possible. Piotr loves to show the printed, footnoted, cross-referenced, newest printed Polish Bible, the one that all of us had a small part in helping him translate and publish.

His kind and gentle report always includes some insight into what we have helped him do for his beloved but lost and blind Poland. "We have over 1 million copies of our translation now distributed to Polish speaking people." He then immediately says, "...we have only 59 million to go." Piotr has a passion to reach all the approximately 60 million Polish speaking people in the world. The first step was to get them an [accurate, readable and usable form of God's Word](#).



As happy as he is with the success and acceptance of his new translation, Piotr says, "...but I am greedy. I want more." Anyone that knows Piotr knows how unlike him it is for the word "greedy" to come out of his gentle, soft-spoken mouth.

"More" to Piotr is the next big opportunity he sees to reach his country for Christ. You see, Poland has been decimated not just by communism, but a dominant and militant state religion. This one-two punch has almost completely inoculated the Poles to their need for Christ. Piotr believes, and often states, that one way to reach Poland is to reach "the largest unreached people group - the children." With lost parents, these children are not even hearing of the love, hope and purpose of Jesus. Piotr wants to introduce Christian education to Poland's elementary school children. Strangely, the Polish government will help a school if it meets certain standards and has Polish students enrolled.

Piotr believes that if God will allow - and use us to help Poland - the school can be self-sufficient in about three years' time.

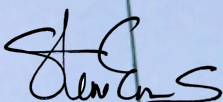
Imagine our disappointment as our own [Darek Baniski](#), husband and father of three children, two of which have been diagnosed with the very rare and currently incurable, Niemann-Pick disease, was in essence fired from his very successful position of "President" (or Superintendent) of a highly ranked secondary Polish trade school. He was persecuted for the stance he took on *sola gracia* by being part of the evangelical church. Yet, with Darek not having his usual education employment, he is now able, willing and elated to see how God can use him and his vast education experience to Biblically train the next generation of Poland's children.

Darek, Piotr, and the education team that has been assembled believes that their needs for the first three years are as follows: \$65,000 (USD) first year, \$45,000 second year, \$25,000 third year. ITMI, through one of our dear supporters, has received a commitment to match any donations for this Polish children's education project up to \$20,000 USD. This donor shared that he and his father were concerned that initial costs to start Christian children's education in Poland was going to cost as much as 10x what Piotr and his team have estimated. This donor, who started an Arizona based Christian K-12<sup>th</sup> grade school and who supported it for decades, knows the exceptional value of what Piotr and Darek are trusting God to do in Poland.

If you are interested in a wonderful and exceptional eternal investment project, will you prayerfully consider [helping the children of Poland hear and know the love of Christ](#), in an environment of care and safety with godly teachers who love and purpose their gifting to nurture these future citizens of God's Kingdom.

William Cary, a missionary to India once said, "...I'll go into the places where you will never go, but you must hold the ropes...." ITMI wants to help Piotr and Darek by holding the ropes as they go where we will never go. Join us if God so leads.

In His Service,





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are beautiful. The Kindergarten rooms that serve 20 children are spotlessly clean, open, airy, colorful and inspiring.

They have also reclaimed an old run down church across town that when renovated, will serve as a daycare for the elderly who can't afford it.

This will not only allow them to demonstrate their love to the needy, but will allow them to do it in another part of town, in front of another group of people!

#### **Here's the deal:**

Leszek and Anna Wakula are making a big impact in a forgotten place where needs are great.



They are sharing the love God has given them with many who only hear messages of guilt and feel forsaken.

The Wakulas need ten families to join them. They need 10 people to share \$22 a month with them.

They need 10 people to [partner with them in reaching the forgotten and abandoned in Lodz, Poland.](#)

They need many more people that will hold them up in prayer as they graciously love the people of Lodz to Jesus.

*-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers*

Will you consider inviting Steve and ITMI's [Johan Leach](#) to visit your Home Group, Sunday School Class, Men's Group or just a great time of fellowship over a cup of coffee?

**YES? CONTACT OUR OFFICE!**

*Johan will in the US from mid-March to mid-April.*

#### **For Praise**

1. Kellers – [Teaching and discipling leading to humble reconciliation](#) between pastors and church leaders in Zambia.
2. Romania - Bethesda Home - It's a very cold winter, but all are well, happy and thankful for a warm home.
3. Zambia - [ECA](#), Eugene Kalunga - 20 years of providing Christian Education for poor and forgotten children.
4. Poland - God's blessings on Piotr and his team as they launch into [giving Christian education to Poland's children](#).
5. South Africa - [Charl van Wyk](#), Stone Hill - God's provision of a donor who will [match any donation](#) up to the \$22,000 amount needed for the Early Childhood Development Center.

#### **For Prayer**

1. Poland - [Jim LaRose](#) - Travel logistics to fall into place for Maciek to visit the U.S. for a visit in June and/or July.
2. Poland - [Andrew Gorski](#) – Provision of a nanny who could potentially live in their house and help with their 3 kids.
3. South Africa - [Mark Parris](#) – Provision of funds for a family mission trip to Onseepkans to support the le Roux family.
4. Zambia - [Johan Leach](#) – Raise up and send workers to assist their mission, and his first trip to the US this month.
5. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - God's provision for the start of Christian education in Poznan.
6. All ITMI - pray for God's protection and divine wisdom as the enemy is seeking who he can distract, discourage, or destroy.



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