

IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 December 2014

**"...the days were accomplished that she should be delivered...
she brought forth her firstborn son...
wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger...." - Luke 2:6,7**

A Very Blessed and Merry Christmas

Christmas has been hijacked!

Actually, the Christmas Season has been hijacked. This is a fact that is very easy to see, for even the most casual observer.

This reality was never more apparent to me than last year just before the end of the year when I visited Piotr Zaremba and his family in Poland. As most of you, I was in the States for the Christmas season last year.

In the States now that almost requires submitting to having every form of media or promotion blaring away at you and everyone else you know with both hyped up visual and audio explosions.

They proclaim the undeniable need to purchase their, one-and-only, one-of-a-kind, unique, never-before, the-answer-to-all-your-known-needs, get-it-now-before-they-are-all-gone products.

This onslaught of Holiday mar-



keting has been steadily ramping up now year after year. Nothing of value in the best of Christmas movies or stories ever include this shopping frenzy as part of the desired Christmas experience.

Not until you have a chance to get away from our increasingly greedy, untruthful Madison Avenue driven invasion, or you happen to see how Christmas is done in other parts of this

country and the world, do you get a chance to hit that Christmas Season reset button.

Poland in general at the end of December can be pretty cold and dreary. The days are very short which means light is limited in quantity. Much different from the overdriven, punched up light displays during this season, that could overwork our senses as soon as we open our eyelids each morning here in the States.

Added to the short days are the low hanging and ominous dark clouds, snow flurries, the barren landscapes with gray naked trees. There are also people too bundled up from the cold to comfortably stand around and chat and be overly friendly. The old stone architecture that has been used for centuries in Eastern Europe stand silent and gray.

There are a few scattered sub-

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"...unto us a SON is given...and his name shall be called

Wonderful

Counselor

The Mighty God

The Everlasting Father

The Prince of Peace."

Merry Christmas and Thank you from Us to You!



Poland



South Sudan



Romania



dued small Polish sized apartments that have, what look to be, indiscriminately hung a short string or two of old school, somewhat dim colored lights. The dimness of the lights contribute to the overall sense of a subdued season as one travels the wet windy roads from the airport to Piotr's home.

Yet, once I was inside Piotr's home something special happened. It wasn't noticed immediately since ones senses are overly numbed by the many hour flight from Arizona to Poznan, yet there was something so special it was able to completely encompass me and my deep internal desire to know Christmas like it was when Jesus was born.

Piotr's home with it concrete walls and tiled floor was particularly quiet. There were just a few dim lights on almost as if they were just there to keep you from

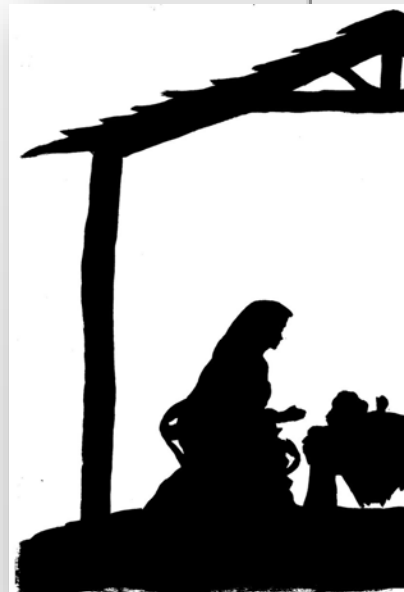
stumbling over the sparsely furnished rooms. This dimness and spacing created an environment that encouraged your senses to just calm down and rest for a bit. There seemed to be a soothing charac-



ter to this home's environment. Over in the corner was a small tree with a dim, sparsely lit string of lights, that somehow kept from reactivating your senses. There was no television playing, as the Zarembras choose to not have one in their home. There was no stereo sharing the latest rendition of some currently popular Christmas arrangement. There was just a calmness, almost a reverence that was thick enough to actually feel.

Yes, this was a soul mending, a taste of what was for centuries the recognized means for worshiping and acknowledging our new born King's entrance into this broken and needy planet.

The calmness ushered you into a place that allowed for and even unknowingly promoted one to "be still and know that [He is] God". In the silence and dim comfort of this home, there was a realization that Christmas, the



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South Africa



Zambia

Uganda

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real understanding of Christmas, must have been experienced here. The lingering aroma of being still, and of putting the Christ Child in proper perspective, allows the contemplation and understanding of what Christ did for us on that first Christmas. The quiet gratefulness in the presence of a renewed understanding of Christmas, envelopes your mind and soul.

Joseph and Mary, that first Christmas, didn't have or need all most Westerners now days can't do without at Christmas. The only lights they had that evening were probably some small and dim oil lamps, flickering against the structure of this manger scene. We know that there was no Christmas music playing in the background. There were not presents that needed to be wrapped or trees to be hung. There was nothing that our world today would call festive and full of Holiday cheer.



And yet, there was the most precious gift of all. The reason, the focal point for all rejoicing and all joy. The culmination of all the history before that moment and the reason for any history to follow. There was Jesus, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:6-8

My wish for each of you this Christmas season, with God's help, is to be able to quiet the season to the point that the real reason and the real purpose is not experienced in your senses, but in your core of your being. May God's richest demonstration of His love for us flood your hearts and minds this Christmas. May your love of the person of Christmas completely engulf you and your family.

-Steve Evers





And the **Word** was made
flesh,
and **dwelt** among us,
(and **we** beheld His
glory,
the glory as of the only be-
gotten of the Father,)



India



For Prayer . . .

1. **Africa - Eastern Europe** - Christmas outreaches in Poland, S. Africa, Uganda, S. Sudan and Zambia.
2. **Poland** - **Daniel Machlowski** - English clubs, Street Evangelism, Home group ministries. Daniel to be in States Jan-Feb 2015.
3. **India** - **Paul and Molly** - Paul as a single parent to 3 boys and 19 girls as Molly recovers from her major back surgery in the US.
4. **Zambia** - **Joyce Jere** - Continue recovery from a serious auto accident where another passenger was killed.
5. **Poland** - **Bread of Life - New Life Center** in need of additional funding as they continue to recycle the forgotten men.
6. **South Sudan** - **Jahim Buli's** continued work with displaced women and children in refugee holding camps in South Sudan.
7. **USA** - Faithful year end support for ITMI's General Fund and for the many valuable projects in India, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

For Praise . . .

1. **South Sudan** - **Jahim Buli** as he continues to grow his home church and distribute pillowcase dresses in refugee camps.
2. **Poland** - **Piotr Zaremba** - Wisdom as he continues to grow his church and his network of churches in Poland.
3. **USA** - **Mark Burritt**- **Vanessa Burritt** has completed her last chemo treatment - Test results next month.
4. **USA** - Gods' provision for His servants in 2014 through our ITMI partners like you.

itm In Touch Mission
INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 7575 - Tempe, Arizona 85281 - (480) 968-4100

E-Mail: itmi@intouchmission.org - FAX: (480) 968-5462 - Outside Arizona: 888-918-4100

