

S&S Polish Links – Sept. 2019

‘Change’ and ‘wait’ are the watchwords of our life these days. In some areas we are still waiting but in others new things have been happening and we are suddenly in a ***new ministry***. We requested prayer for direction regarding our church situation, if we should join the Polish church plant in Liverpool – as of early June we felt that God wanted us to work with them. We have quickly become very involved! Sławek has preached three times already (in August we led almost all the services as Piotr, the elder responsible for the group and his wife Agata, were away for three weeks.)

We’ve started to lead worship quite regularly together as well. It’s been wonderful to ‘come alive’ and use our gifts to serve the Lord and be more involved in the Polish community. It’s great to see Sławek able to do more in church, especially in the area of preaching (finally getting to use his MTh!) It’s been a great help for Piotr and Agata as well – he was leading worship, the services and doing almost all of the preaching and pastoral care.

On Sunday we were in our English church and had the opportunity to share what we are doing and be prayed for. Later at the Polish service they prayed for us as well. It’s a humbling experience to come into such a situation and see how much wisdom one needs and how much we need to lean on Christ. Each one of us has problems. Recently one person withdrew from serving in the church and has stopped coming, because drugs are pulling him back to his old lifestyle. ***Please pray for him and his family – that they would walk with God and seek Christ in temptation and grow strong in Him. Pray for the safety of the three children.*** Another single mom is struggling to raise two young teen sons, one of whom has a very rare disease and faces death at a young age. Yet another couple recently lost their one-year old child.

There are at least 17 kids from newborn to 16 years old. Sunday school needs teachers for the younger class (2-8 year – big age spread!) Like any church, there are so many things to pray about. ***Please pray that the Lord would show us how we are to reach the Polish community here (thousands) and help us to build relationships with those who are in the church.***

If I may give another prayer request related to this ministry: because we live across the river from Liverpool, it is hard for us to be really involved with people from the church during the week. I also work in the evenings so can’t participate in any mid-week meetings. We’re wondering if we shouldn’t be considering living in Liverpool. Our work is over here though, so it wasn’t really a consideration before, as the commuting would not be nice nor necessary. We have been looking for a house for several months and have been unable to find something suitable. Are we looking in the wrong place? If we did move, Sławek at least would have to have a different job. ***Please pray with us for a more appropriate job for him and a home for us here or in Liverpool (or if God desires, a return to Poland).***

Of course, a lot depends on ***Brexit***, whose ramifications are unknown as yet. There is a lot of unease amongst the various European groups here, of which the Poles are the largest. No one knows what might happen after Oct. 31. Sławek has put in his application for registration; we don’t know if I’ll need to change my status.

Kowalewo: With the children’s home we were able to go ahead with a summer day trip and a mini camp in August for the kids. Unfortunately plane tickets were too

expensive by then so I couldn't go, but V.P. Nate ably managed to pull things together with a smaller number of volunteers. The home had an unusually high amount of kids there over the summer (nearly 30) so the director was rather desperate for activities. It's hard to keep so many kids out of trouble when they aren't going to school or camp and are getting bored! **Thank you for praying** – Patrycja did get a summer job with Sealed Air and they have found her to be a great help. Patrycja is going to study in Gdansk in October. Anna is finishing her MA thesis – pray for her to find a new job in her area of studies (National Defense). She was thinking about joining the military but having a dog (and a new boyfriend) have given her second thoughts in that area. Michał finished his BA in Phys. Ed and is starting the MA program next month. His brother Fabian (who had cancer a couple years ago) was accepted to the same university. Joanna and Ania continue to study in Warsaw. **Pray for them to involve God in their decisions as they continue on in adult life.**

Dare to Dream Foundation: We are struggling as a board to keep up with government regulations and demands for paperwork etc.; in fact, it seems to take so much time to meet administrative requirements that we hardly have time to do things for the kids, which is why we started the foundation. It is hard also for me to help with some of the more difficult situations, being in a different country. (As one of the two founders, I signed on for life, or at least the life of the foundation!) **Please pray for us to find the way to continue the ministry with or without it, for God to guide us in this situation and help us make the right decisions, the one that will allow us to best help the kids.**

Thank you for praying – we see more and more how much we need your prayers. May God bless and keep you.

Yours in Christ,
Sheri & Sławek

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Financial support information:

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