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NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

Living Water

Dear Friends,

Things are gradually getting back to normal over here. People are beginning to travel again, and Auschwitz Museum has opened its doors to visitors 7 days a week. No Covid tests are required, so that means it's business as usual. Well, almost. Unfortunately, you still need a ticket to get into Auschwitz-Birkenau, whereas before you could simply wander in.

In the past month or so we've had 4 groups – 3 from Germany and 1 from Poland – and it's been great to be able to share, pray and worship together, something we've missed for a very long time. You forget how nice it is to meet with God's family – in person – not just over zoom (!)

Here's another sign that things are getting back to normal…

Last week we saw the first Israeli group walk past our house, from the Judenrampe (the first selection point) into the camp. It's something we've not seen for over 16 months. You can recognise them by their white shirts and Israeli flags draped over their shoulders. Occasionally you can hear them sing, "Am Yisrael Chai" (The People of Israel Live) in front of the gates of the camp. It's a kind of declaration. Their way of saying, "We're alive – we're here – despite all that you did to us!".



What happened with the wastewater treatment plant?

Last time we mentioned the struggle we'd been having over the domestic wastewater (sewage) treatment plant. The crazy thing was that we'd been given planning permission, so, we built the plant, only to find out later that we weren't allowed to USE it (!!). That meant, NO FLUSHING!

Our local authority rejected our application on a minor technicality. It's too complicated to go into here, but everyone, including our building supervisor, said it was absolute nonsense.

We were told to apply for a Water Permit from the Water Authority in Katowice, something that big businesses and factories do. But we're not a business. We're not a factory. And our building is rated as a domestic house in a domestic area.

We never did apply for that Water Permit. But we did make a lot of friendly calls to the Water Authority, hoping that something might change. And the amazing thing was – it did! They searched the national court records and found that the State Forestry Department in Eastern Poland took the Water Authority to court over exactly the same issue as ours – and won!

It was a real game changer. Such a sweet moment :-)

We met with the Mayor and showed him the court's ruling. He immediately took action to reverse the decision. And last week, we received the official letter to say we can use the plant. Which means, FLUSHING ALLOWED! Thank You, Father, for this amazing turnaround!

Other water issues

If there's been one thing we've had to contend over, it's water. In all other areas of the building, it's been relatively straightforward. But if you think about it, the building can't function without water. Stop the flow of water and you stop the Prayer House. Water is essential to life!

The latest battle was about water going OUT of the building. But we had another battle over the water connection coming INTO the building. Again, we had planning permission, but the pipe had to run along a small piece of road that the neighbours used and that caused all sorts of problems.

We can't go into details now, but the problem blew up like a storm and the whole thing got dramatically stuck. I remember way back, just before we moved to Poland, the Lord said, "I am the God who can fix what cannot be fixed". And that's what He did. We saw Him choreograph a solution like it was a dance. He positioned the right people at the right time to do the right thing in the right way. We were in awe. What the enemy had purposed for evil, God had turned for good.

Water around the foundations and basement

There was one other incident that had to do with water. This time it wasn't a battle with the enemy, but again we saw Father fixing things that we were completely unaware of at the time.

It was at the beginning of the build in 2017. The builders dug a huge hole in the ground in preparation for the foundations to go in, nearly 3 meters deep. But instead of following the drawings, the builder decided to upgrade the foundations. He changed it to a massive slab of reinforced waterproof concrete that covered the whole area of the building, not just the supporting walls. That was Father's first intervention.

Then it started to rain. It rained a lot! It rained for weeks when it doesn't normally rain in Poland. And the water table rose until it was above the foundations. That's serious when it comes to basements. But that rain was Father's second intervention.

The builder and architect immediately upgraded the design of the basement and drainage system. If they had not done so, if they had not changed the designs of the foundations and basement, I'm sure the basement would have had serious leaks by now. God has kept the building safe. Thank You, Father!!



Water of Life

The calling of the Prayer House is to release Living Water - the River of Life. Perhaps that's why we've had our battles over water. That Life flows from Jesus' death and resurrection. His LIFE is more powerful than death!

Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the (Dead) sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that EVERY LIVING THING THAT MOVES, WHEREVER THE RIVER GOES, WILL LIVE". *(Ezekiel 47:8,9)*

There have been many people who have had visions of the River of Life here. The first was an African brother from Mozambique. He looked at our (then) empty field and "saw" the finished Prayer House AND the River of Life…

Most recently, it was a prophetic picture of the River of Life flowing down our road into the camp. It flowed BETWEEN the Fountain of Tears and the Prayer House. That's so interesting, because BOTH are necessary. Both are necessary for the Jewish people, for the WHOLE of Israel, to be saved.

There's a journey they have to go through. They have to see that Jesus (Yeshua) is one of them, that He suffered what they suffered. That He takes all that suffering and sin and nails it to the cross. That's the Fountain of Tears. Then they can cross over and drink from the Fountain of Life.

+++ SELAH +++

Building Update

And Yet Another Water Issue!

With all the heavy rains we've been having recently, we found some water coming through the wall of the basement by the mains water pipe. The guys who had installed the water pipe hadn't sealed it properly!

So, for much of yesterday, in temperatures over 30 degrees, Mark was digging out the earth by the water pipe (1.3 meters down) so that our tiler, who has become a good friend in such situations, could start fixing it. Hopefully by Saturday, all will be complete.

Workmen have been working on the building, but actually there is not much to see by way of photos. However, the Prayer Room had its first fitting for the stairs that will eventually connect to the balcony. The construction engineers came and assembled the raw "frame", making sure of the exact measurements and then placing fixings into the wall. When they were satisfied they took the construction away to finish in their workroom.



We're not going to say much more about the building. We will do that next time as a lot of work is about to happen… and hopefully next time there'll be a lot more photos!

With love and blessings,
Mark & Cathy

Fundacja Living Stones
ul Boczna 4
32-600 Brzezinka Oświęcim
Poland
+48 519 433 612
f.livingstones@gmail.com
www.livingstones.com.pl