Please do not reply using this email address, but write to us at f.livingstones@gmail.com



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When nothing seems to be happening...

Dear Friends,

It's a beautiful time of year here in our little village of Brzezinka (Birkenau). Autumn has come and the land is at peace after the harvest. Many of the fields are pale brown, having been ploughed and turned over, ready for planting the seed for next year's produce. The crows have returned, being the main event as I (Cathy) look out of the window, but even with their presence a stillness lies over the land. My spirit is just drinking in the scene.

Now crows don't have a good PR in most Christian circles, but they remind me of the ravens that brought food to Elijah in the middle of a drought. Now droughts are not usually something that a "townie" like me living in Poland worries about. Floods are another thing, but droughts usually not. In the Bible there were frequent droughts in Israel. A land that was flowing with milk and honey also suffered droughts. This was the blessing and the curse the Israelites lived under. Obey and things will go well, disobey and they will not. However, for those who were faithful, the Lord met their needs, even in times of drought.

And today, because we have a better covenant by far in Jesus Christ, He is gracious and there are plenty of testimonies of His provision. So, when I look out of the window and see a somewhat stark Autumn scene of barren fields and crows swarming, I am at peace as I see Father's mighty hands hovering over this place, providing where provision is needed, giving rest where rest is needed, slowing down nature for the winter that is coming. He knows. He provides.

As I look at this scene, I can't help thinking that something similar is happening in the Prayer House.





We have had a fruitful year with the various groups and individuals that have joined us in fellowship and worship. Every one bringing their unique frequency from the Father which has been good training for us. No visit is the same, but all are special. We feel very privileged and blessed receiving our visitors. Thank you to all of you who have come.

At the beginning of this year our expectation was to finish the building this year. We had a healthy bank balance and ordered some large projects using the money to pay the deposits. These projects would be realised by the summer. As each project was completed, we saw wonderful "just in time" provisions of finances.

In May, we were in the UK. I (Cathy) was there for over 2 weeks visiting my mother and Mark joined me for a few days in the middle. On taking Mark to the airport, every traffic light turned red. Having dropped Mark off, red lights continued to plague my journey. At one light, waiting for it to turn green, I asked, "Lord are You trying to speak to me through these lights?". My head turned to the right and there parked on the other side of the road was a white car with the word "RED" painted in huge red letters on its side. Sometime later Mark had a dream. He's in a car with Jesus and the traffic light in front of him is red.

In July we saw the last of our planned projects completed and once the final bill was paid the bank balance was zero. We still have some large projects to complete, and we are pushing forward as much as we can, but there is a feeling of being slowed down, like Autumn. Father's hand is still covering us. He knows. He provides.

In winter when nature has gone to sleep, it's like everything freezes, everything stops. However, it doesn't stay like that for long. Even before anything sprouts or buds, a lot is happening underground, inside the plants, deep inside the hidden places. All of this is essential for new growth, new times, new life.

I am reminded again of our seven years praying from Krakow for this place. It looked as if nothing was happening during that time, but actually, when nothing is happening in the seen world, it is often happening in the unseen world, which of course is the eternal, spiritual world. And then when the time is right, all that has been happening in the unseen, bursts forth in a "suddenly" moment, and we see it manifest on the earth!

We can imagine people are asking, "Why is the building not finished yet?". We too ask this question. We purchased the land for the Prayer House in July 2016. We are now in the seventh year of owning the land. Is this a Sabbatical year? It's like Father has slowed us down for a season. We are at peace. I sit in the Prayer Room. His peace, His stillness invades me, and I think not much is happening… but actually… everything is happening!

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Building Update – Review of what still needs to be done!

So for those who are more practically minded, here is the list of things still yet to be completed:

- We are currently implementing the rain-water system, which hopefully should be completed in the next few weeks, weather permitting. This includes an underground 7500-litre holding tank for watering the garden in summer – just in case of drought. Water then overflows from the tank into a sump. We will also need to level the ground and place some sort of border around the house.
- The terrace from the lounge doors, with of course the balustrades and steps down into the garden.
- Two large fresh-air ventilation units for the ventilation system.
- Final electrical installation of various controls and safety/emergency lights.
- Front door-steps – granite slabs, handrails and a platform lift for access for less able-bodied people.
- Light fittings – we are gradually purchasing these as we find suitable ones.

Once we have these items, we should then be able to get the official stamp to say the building can be used.

And after that we will need….

- Air-conditioning units
- Chair lifts for the stairs
- Furniture and various items of equipment!
- Driveway, fence, garden, etc.
- Other buildings, more land..... It continues...

When you read our newsletters, most of the time we're focused on the next step. We're looking at what's in front of us. But sometimes it's good to look up and see the bigger picture. The Foundation owns another piece of land on the other side of the dirt road, opposite the Prayer House. It's for a second building, this time for accommodation for participants. Then, right next to the Prayer House, there's a small field that connects the Prayer House with the railway line that goes into the camp. We don't own it yet. It's agricultural land, but wouldn't it be wonderful to turn it into a beautiful garden?

The vision that Father has, is to transform this epicentre of death into an epicentre of life. Its going to be big and it takes time.

A ministry is like a tree and there are many different kinds of trees. It starts as a little seed that is planted in our hearts and from there it grows until it becomes mature. The bigger the tree, the longer it takes to grow and produce fruit. The tree that God is planting here is like a mighty oak, "a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendour".

That's all for now. We love to hear from you.
Love and blessings
Mark and Cathy

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