

BUILDING UPDATE Nº7: 13-9-2018

Dear Friends,

This is solely a building update – to inform those of you who are interested of the latest state of the Prayer House building.

If you just want to know the progress of the building, without the narrative, then go to the bottom of this update where there are some pictures and also a link to a video from this week!

It's been over 2 months since we last wrote and the Prayer House building is going up fast !!! We've had some wonderful weather, and for some reason here in Poland, it seems to like raining on weekends and during the night, but stays hot and sunny during the week. Not much fun if you like to have sunshine on your weekends.. but, it's been great for the builders!

If the weather continues like this, there's a real possibility that the roof will be finished by the beginning of November, let's see. So far progress has been better than planned.

Yesterday was a key milestone. I'm not sure if we mentioned it before, but the prayer room, which is almost half of the top floor overlooking Auschwitz-Birkenau, does not have a flat ceiling. This is because we want people to have the freedom to wave banners in the prayer room. So we designed the prayer room with a large open space that goes up into the apex of the roof. The ceiling starts on opposite walls, about 1.5 metres from the floor, and rises up to meet in the middle, about 5.3 metres from the floor. So if you're someone who likes to worship with banners – you'll definitely have the freedom to do that in the prayer room!

Going back to yesterday's milestone.. Since there are no joists (these are horizontal wooden beams that support the roof and provide the framework for a ceiling) in the prayer room, the architect had to find an alternative way to support the roof. He decided to use 2 massive steel beams, each weighing approximately 1.7 tons, that run along the length of the building. You'll see what these look like in the photos later. Yesterday, after almost 3 weeks of continuous welding, the crane arrived and put the steel beams in place. Each beam is made up of 2 sections that meet on the main structural wall in the middle of the building, and these are now being welded together in situ.

Ok, now for some photos and a video – all taken yesterday.



Crane lifting the first steel beam.



Beam coming into place!



First beam in position. The person in the picture is Dariusz, our builder. He really is a gift from the Lord for us. A spirit-filled believer with a heart for excellence. He's made some great decisions that have definitely enhanced the building.



Welding the beam sections together in-situ



View looking from the direction of our house



View from the side



View from Auschwitz-Birkenau taken in the evening sun
The prayer room is the large room with 3 double doors onto the balcony.

Finally, here is the link to video clip (click on the picture below):



With love and blessings!
Mark & Cathy

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