HOUSE OF PRAYER

Bringing heaven to earth where hell once reigned

NEWSLETTER & BUILDING UPDATE №10: 14-1-2019

A New Season... and some new Windows and Balcony Doors...

Dear Friends,

It's been a while since we last wrote – I think it was back in November when we sent out the last Newsletter and Building Update. In the meantime, for a couple of weeks in December, we were able to take some time off and fly to Cape Town to be with our daughters and grandchildren. We had a truly wonderful time!

Before we left for Cape Town, there was a moment that really encouraged us. Cathy and I *REALLY* wanted to get the windows and balcony doors installed, as that would seal the building and enable work to continue inside the building during the cold winter weather (more about this at the end of the letter..). Our builder was already organising the next steps, with his own team of people coming back in January to start on the internal walls, as well as organising an electrical company and a plumbing company to come in and do their parts. All of this needed the building to be sealed so that it could be warmed up on the inside.

We had enough money for about two thirds of the windows. I'm not sure how it happened but we drove to Krakow to find out what was possible and ended up signing a contract for all 34 windows and doors! They would be installed in early January and we had 2 weeks to pay.

We left a little stunned and stopped off at IKEA for Cathy to get a short piece of fabric she needed to finish her sewing project – only to find that IKEA had stopped selling that particular fabric. For Cathy, this was a major setback! She looked everywhere and couldn't find it anywhere. As she was leaving, her eyes caught something under a cutting table. It was a piece of fabric – her fabric. It was 1.65 metres long and she needed a piece that was 1.6 metres long. Truly the Lord provides!

I know this may sound trivial to some, but that *REALLY* encouraged us. That little incident showed us that God *KNOWS* what we need and that He can arrange *WHATEVER* is necessary to meet that need.

We didn't know how He was going to provide all that money in so short a time, but He did. He used different people and with just 2 days to go we had all that we needed, with almost nothing left over. The same thing happened last year. We had to pay the final invoice for the basement and at the *VERY LAST MOMENT* a gift came in that covered the outstanding amount, with almost nothing left over.

I don't think our God is always a "just-in-time God". There are times when He blesses us with abundance. But this was His way to show us that HE is the One in charge and He is the One pulling it all together.

Thank you, Father!

+++ SELAH +++

On the morning the windows were due to be installed I felt the Holy Spirit say He was calling us to a *NEW SEASON*. And this season would go hand in hand with the building works that are going to take place *INSIDE* the Prayer House in 2019. Up to now all the work has been on the main structure of the building. The foundations, the basement, the walls, the roof. It's really interesting, but as each phase was being built, the Lord would do something in the spiritual realm that matched what was going on in the physical realm. We were starting to realise how connected they are!

As we build the physical building, God is building the spiritual building. They go hand in hand.

God said to Moses when he was about to build the tabernacle, "**See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain**" (Heb. 8:5). It was important. *HOW* Moses built the tabernacle, because it was to be a **copy and a shadow** of what is in heaven.

Here are some "happenings" that illustrate this. If you've heard them before, then please feel free to skip to this bit!

The first is the river that used to flow where the Prayer House is now located. As we dug down to put in the foundations, the builder pointed to a layer of round stones about 1.5 metres below the surface. "Look" he said, "There was a river that used to flow here". We could see that it came from the direction of Auschwitz-Birkenau and flowed exactly EAST "through" the Prayer House and came out just south of the front steps.

We couldn't help thinking of Ezekiel 47, because it was an *EXACT* parallel description of the River of Life flowing out of the Temple. For some reason God wanted the Prayer House to intersect that river, which represents the River of Life. Remember that the whole purpose of what God wants to do here is to release HIS LIFE in a place of death.

Then it rained solidly for 2 weeks, and this ancient river started to flow! Not much, but enough for water to cover the foundations for several weeks. We had to pump away the water every morning. There are probably many interpretations you could draw from this, but one I believe is that there was some kind of weeping and cleansing that took place in the Spirit.

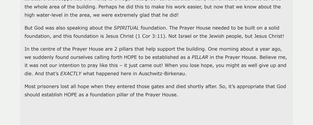


When the builder saw the architectural plans for the foundations, he immediately changed them from a simple structure that supported the walls, to a huge waterproof concrete slab nearly half a metre thick that covered the whole area of the building. Perhaps he did this to make his work easier, but now that we know about the high water-level in the area, we were extremely glad that he did!

But God was also speaking about the *SPIRITUAL* foundation. The Prayer House needed to be built on a solid foundation, and this foundation is Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:11). Not Israel or the Jewish people, but Jesus Christ!

In the centre of the Prayer House are 2 pillars that help support the building. One morning about a year ago, we suddenly found ourselves calling forth HOPE to be established as a *PILLAR* in the Prayer House. Believe me, it was not our intention to pray like this – it just came out! When you lose hope, you might as well give up and die. And that's EXACTLY what happened here in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Most prisoners lost all hope when they entered those gates and died shortly after. So, it's appropriate that God should establish HOPE as a foundation pillar of the Prayer House.



The second pillar came about 3 weeks later. I had a dream about the Gospel of the Kingdom, and God *RESTORING* the **POWER** of the Kingdom. Not just saving power, but healing, deliverance, restoration, miracles. That same morning Cathy woke up with the scripture, "**For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the POWER of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile**" (Rom 1:16).

The emphasis was on His KINGDOM and His POWER. Here by Auschwitz-Birkenau God wants to establish HIS KINGDOM, which is His Government and rule in the place where Satan once ruled. And this will be accompanied by demonstrations of His power.

Cathy and I both felt we should declare this as the second foundation pillar of the Prayer house. It also reflects our mandate, which is to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. There is something special here that God wants to do for the Jewish people, but the Gospel of the Kingdom is for everyone.

These 2 "pillars" are an integral part of the Prayer House and we expect the manifestation of these to grow!

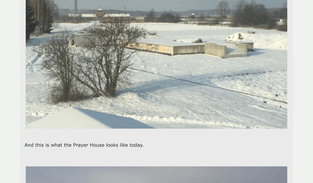
I could go on... the walls, the roof... But it's enough to see that God has been building His Spiritual House at the same time as we've been building the physical house.

And now to the present.

It's a new season! The main structure of the building is complete – thank You Father – and now the focus has shifted to *INSIDE* the building. The building is essentially a shell. There's nothing in it – not even walls that separate out the rooms. And as we start to build up and equip the inside of the house, I'm sure we'll see the Lord continue to build up and equip His Spiritual House.

2019 is going to be another building year, but we're *REALLY* looking forward to what He is going to do in it!

Now for a quick review... Here's where we started in 2018...



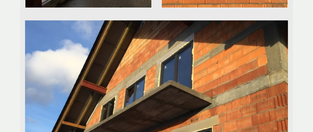
And this is what the Prayer House looks like today.



At the start of 2018 it was hard for us to imagine that this could be possible. Now, when we see this, we're full of wonder at what He has done!!!!

Finally, the windows... Last week we installed all the windows and balcony doors, so the house is completely sealed from the cold winter weather. This means that the building work can continue *INSIDE* the house, even when it's freezing outside. There will be gas heaters and a wood burning stove that will bring warmth into the building.

Here are a some photos, and a short video clip showing the windows being installed.





So what happens next...?

Tomorrow the builders will start to build the internal walls. This will be followed by the top floor ceiling, the attic walls and the attic floor (which is mostly wood, insulation and plaster board). After that come the electricity cables, the water pipes and gas pipes – all of which will be installed within the walls. Once that's done the walls can be plastered. Then come the ventilation pipes, thermal insulation and underfloor heating pipes, which will be installed on the concrete floors.

And that's just the start... We'll send out building updates to keep you up to date with progress.

That's all for now. We wish you and your loved ones every blessing for 2019!

With love and shalom,
Mark & Cathy

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