Please write to us at f.livingstones@gmail.com



2020 and Grounding a Vision

Dear Friends,

This comes as the final newsletter and building update this year. We hope you are well, despite the craziness that we've all experienced this year. With all the information and dis-information that's flowing around, it's almost impossible to know what's really going on. So now, more than ever, we need to lean into Jesus, hear directly from Him, and stay on target with the mandates and callings He has given us.

For us, 2020 has been unimaginably quiet. Normally, there are more than 2 million visitors that come to visit Auschwitz every year, and normally we would meet and share with many different individuals and groups. But this was no normal year! In total we met with less than 10 groups over the whole of 2020.

Despite the restrictions and lockdowns, we were still able to continue building. Not as fast as we would have liked, but there was still a significant amount of change. Cathy has put together a small portfolio of photos at the end of this newsletter, which shows the progress that's been made.

CATHY:
So, how has the spiritual side of the Prayer House developed in 2020 with so few visitors?

Well, I have always felt the Lord say that our living here is an intercession, so that continues. I feel Father is saying, "As you live your lives, doing the practical things, whether it's making a home, gardening or sewing – living here is an intercession, bringing life, bringing hope, bringing joy to the land".

Once I felt the Lord say, "If you want to make a chocolate cake you need to add chocolate to the ingredients! If you want to transform this place from darkness and despair into life and joy, you need to add life and joy. Allow My joy to remain in you!".

He has always made it clear to us that it's not our self-effort that is transforming this place, but it's His Spirit in us, working according to His will.

This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. (Zech. 4:6)

We just do the practical stuff, being obedient to His calling, allowing Him to mould us into the shape He wants us, and He does the rest.

Another feeling is that through the lack of visitors, it has been like a year of fallow ground. Land is left fallow in order to take a rest. God commanded the Israelites to rest on the Sabbath so that they would know that it is the Lord God who sanctifies them (Ex. 31:13). Has the Lord God been sanctifying the land of Auschwitz-Birkenau during this season? Has He been doing something supernatural during this time? Time will tell!

MARK:
For those of you who know me, I like to do the organising and supervising! That's because I'm a Project Manager by trade, and I like to leave the practical work to others. But that's not the case this year! During the many months we've been alone, I've spent hundreds of hours doing practical work in the Prayer House. I've seen how it's done by the experts. I've listened to their tips and used their techniques. Recently I spray-painted all the ceilings and walls on the top floor and now I'm working on the basement. I'm a bit of a perfectionist so it takes me a long time, but it has saved some costs and actually, it looks pretty good!

Working physically in the Prayer House is a form of intercession.

We often think of intercession as praying in a room somewhere – which it is. But it can also be a lot more than that.

We learnt this when we were living in Krakow, several years before the Prayer House existed. We had been incubating the vision for a while, when God told us to go to Auschwitz-Birkenau to pray there. He said we should go at least once a week. So, in obedience, we would drive 1 ¼ hours there, walk in and around the camp for 2 hours, and then drive 1 ¼ hours back again. Sometimes we would get a verse or a picture, but a lot of the time we didn't. So, as we would walk around the camp, we would sing quietly or pray in tongues, but most of the time we were silent.

I can't remember exactly when, but at some point, Father said that the intercession was more about going and walking on the land, than it was about praying. I'm not sure if that fitted our theology at the time, but that's what God said to Abram.

"Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." (Genesis 13:17)

All of this leads me to share something that struck me recently - how to give birth to a vision.

When God gives us an idea, a concept or a vision of something, it's like a seed that has to be nurtured and grown. It starts off very small and delicate. Then, as we give our time and attention to it, as we pray and meditate on it, the heavenly idea grows.

At some point it's important to share the idea with others. Then as we talk and pray with others who are walking with the LORD and are discerning, they will add their witness and support to it, and the heavenly idea will grow bigger.

But there comes a time when we have to DO something!

God's plans and ideas are birthed into the earth, and that requires the whole of our humanity to be involved – spirit, soul and body. It doesn't happen just by praying. At some point we need to take action and start doing something. If we don't, that special blessing that God wants to bring to the earth will remain unfulfilled in heaven.

God has made each one of us in a unique and special way. We are all so incredibly different! And He has put seeds inside each one of us that are perfectly matched and tailored to our design. Our job is to identify those seeds, nurture them, and bring them to birth on the earth. And as we do that, we will be fulfilling our destiny, which is the purpose for which He has placed us upon the earth.

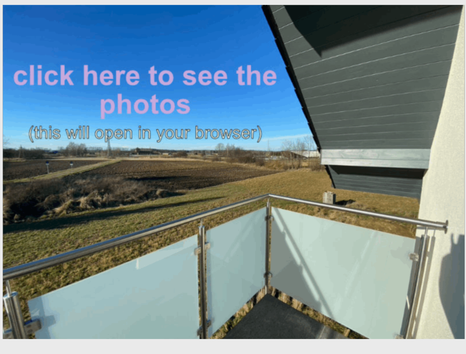
"Your kingdom come, your will be done, ON EARTH, as it is done in heaven". (Matt 6:10)

As I mentioned in the beginning: now, more than ever, we have to lean into Jesus, hear directly from Him, and stay on target with the mandates and callings He has given us.

We are writing this on the last day of 2020. Tomorrow will be the start of a new year - a new beginning! May God bless you abundantly in 2021 and if you are able, come and see us!

Jesus said, **"In Me you have peace (shalom). In the world you have tribulation. Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world!".** (John 16:33)

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