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NEWSLETTER & BUILDING UPDATE APRIL 2022

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THE MOON WILL SHINE LIKE THE SUN...

Dear Friends,

As you know, Poland has experienced a huge influx of refugees from the Ukraine over the past several weeks. Currently, there are 2.3 million refugees living here, mostly women with children and the elderly.

The result of all this, is that Poland is "full". It's extremely difficult to find accommodation anywhere, except in the hotels. It's the same in Oswiecim (the town of Auschwitz). A dear friend of ours spends a couple of hours every day in the library, playing with the children while their Mums get a break. She's originally from the Ukraine, so the children can play and talk with her in their own language.

We know people who have opened their homes, taken in refugees, helped at railways stations, volunteered at border crossings, and some who are physically working in the Ukraine, providing transport, food, medicines, etc.

Our part, in comparison to the above, seems rather small. The building isn't finished yet, so we can't take in refugees. But we have become a kind of stopping point for people who are passing through. We also spent a lot of time helping someone buy and register a van, to take back into the Ukraine to help.

What's going on in the Prayer House?

People keep asking, "What's happening with the Prayer House?". "Is the building ready yet?". "Are you getting many visitors?". "Have you any news?".

So, in response to these questions, here are some of my (Cathy's) ramblings...

In the last two years we've had few visitors compared to pre-Covid times. Just a few people, mostly from Germany, who weren't hindered by travel restrictions. But even now, in this post-Covid era, the numbers are still very low. We don't know if this is because people are out of the practice of travelling, or if they are being put off by the war.

During this time we've had regular visits from two young Brazilian men (missionaries in the town) who like to come and worship for a couple of hours each week with us in the prayer room. They are young, full of fire and passion, and powerful in the spirit! This week they brought with them three more Brazilians, and while we were worshipping, a group of five Russian speaking men walked into the prayer room.

These men came from Germany and the USA, but were originally from Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. They were on their way back from the Ukrainian border, where they had been praying and distributing humanitarian aid. Despite the fact that we had so many languages between us, we were instantly in the Lord's Presence and the unity was wonderful. It was such an encouragement to us all.

We never know who is going to turn up!

Sharing with Friends

When people do come, we like to have a time of sharing. We always say it's important for people to hear some of the testimony of the Prayer House and to understand the vision before entering a time of worship together. It's important to share our hearts with one another because this house is also to be a home for God's family, a community living in the opposite spirit to what took place in the past.

As we were sharing with our Brazilian friends, one lady asked if I (Cathy) had heard the prophecies about a great harvest/revival that will start in Poland and go throughout the world. I replied, "Yes, I had heard such prophecies, and I had also heard the same prophecies given for Germany... and for Ukraine... and for England".

We all laughed! And then I added... "But it's going to start here, in this Prayer House!". We all laughed again. Then I said, "Actually, I think it is going to start here", pointing to my heart. And we were all unanimous that any revival had to start in each of our hearts, regardless of the geographical location.

Then something else came out of my mouth. I said I felt that different geographical places on the earth had different callings and some places were more strategic than others.

I know that this place, Brzezinka (Birkenau in German), is very strategic. Why has Father brought us on this journey to live here? Why has He gone to so much trouble to build this House of Prayer, and why so much effort to bring the Fountain of Tears here? It's significant, because Father is going to use this place to heal the wound of the Holocaust, and to bring reconciliation through Jesus.

Then I shared this verse,
"The moon will be as bright as the sun, and the sun will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven days, in the day when the LORD binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound". (Isaiah 30:26)

The Jewish People have a veil over their eyes, partly due to centuries of anti-Semitism, culminating in the Holocaust for which this place is iconic. When the Lord heals their wound, when they recognise Jesus and come into relationship with Him, the whole body of Christ (made up of both Jew and Gentile) will shine like it has never done before. The Ecclesia will be one new Man with a new heavenly Kingdom identity. It will be life from the dead!

Strategic Locations

Going back to the idea of geographical locations... I feel there are many strategic locations that have a part to play in the coming harvest. Each location is a key that will unlock and release the harvest. That's why I think the Lord gives prophetic words to believers in different places, stating that it starts "here" (wherever "here" is) to encourage them to rise-up in spirit, believe, and partner with Him in that place. And that's also why revival has to first start in our hearts!





Building update

There's been some progress, but there's not a lot that you can see. For example, we finished the plumbing in the house, including the sewage pump in the basement. That was a big job! The pump has been lying around for 2 years, but now it's installed, and it works beautifully. It means that we can use all the taps and toilets in the basement :)

We also put in a soundproof mobile wall, separating the lounge from the dining area and the kitchen. There was a legal requirement to have a wall separating the kitchen/dining room from public area in the lounge. So, instead of a brick wall, we decided to put in a soundproof mobile wall, like they have in lecture halls and classrooms. It gives us a lot of flexibility. We can have the whole area open-planned or close off the dining area and be nice and cosy in the lounge!

In the last two months, we've put down deposits for the kitchen, glass balustrades for the prayer room and two sets of handrails and safety glass for the stairs. The kitchen is due at the end of June and the rest is due to arrive in the next few weeks.

And that's where we are right now! Another big job is to build the outside terrace and another to acquire the ventilation units. We need those, together with a number of other things, in order to get the building approved, and then there's a host of other things....

As I'm writing this, I'm reminded of an old familiar song...

Step by step we're moving forward
Little by little we're taking ground
Every prayer a powerful weapon
Strongholds come, tumbling down
And down and down and down

And then we get to the chorus...

We want to see Jesus lifted high
A banner that flies across the land
That all men might see the truth and know
He is the way to heaven!

Amen and amen!




Breaking News

On the 28th March Poland removed ALL Covid restrictions. So, if you're flying into Poland, there is:

- no requirement to be vaccinated
- no requirement to test for Covid
- no requirement for anyone to quarantine

While the airlines might require you to wear a face mask, there is no requirement in Poland to do so. Every Covid restriction has been lifted.

With shalom and blessings
Mark & Cathy

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