



SUMMER 2015 - NEWSLETTER 03

# 700miast

## From: Sławek Jagieła

The project has been going fantastically well. The church planters have been very active in preaching the gospel in their communities. As a result, we are regularly seeing people getting saved and being baptized, and there is real energy and visible momentum within the churches.

In April, we had our regular 700miast training event with Paul Bartlett from Wollongong, Australia on the key subject of how to develop leaders, which really encouraged people.

This was then followed by the June conference with Bruce Robertson from Newcastle, Australia, which focused on creative ministry and our role as leaders in its establishment and expansion.



The feedback after these training events is generally extremely positive and the church planters are continually seeking to put their new knowledge into practice. The input that comes from these training events makes a huge difference to the church planters and is helping to change the paradigm of traditional church planting in Poland. The

exciting news is that we have two new church planters in the project and one couple who are involved in the project will probably start planting a church in a new town in the near future.

We are encouraged to keep pressing forward and to think about the possibility of creating a church planting school for the people who are thinking about getting involved in church planting.



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## Poznań

### ASIA'S TESTIMONY

“For a long time I wondered why Corinthians described love as patient. Now, however, I know that God has demonstrated great patience with me. When I was 9 my mom was diagnosed with cancer, which was a real setback for our family because our mum, as well as looking after us, was also a carer for our father who couldn't function on his own due to a stroke. We didn't know what the future was going to hold. A day before our mum's surgery, our dad died from a heart attack and it was only a year later when my mum succumbed to the cancer. This was a very painful experience for me. I didn't know God at that time and was convinced that He hated me and wanted me to be hurt. I consequently harboured a grievance against Him and couldn't understand why my life had taken such a cruel turn. However, God was bringing people into my life who would tell me of His goodness and his plan for my life, which could look totally different to how it was looking then. The breakthrough came when my friend took me to a worship concert and I felt the greatness of God's love and acceptance. Something broke inside of me and I suddenly had this confidence that He loved me very much and was willing to forgive my sins. I had once lost my parents but now I was meeting an amazing heavenly Father. Many people who I've met along the journey have helped me get to where I am right now. I am able to grow as a disciple in a church in which I feel free and accepted and I can pass these virtues on to people who haven't yet met the real God.”



## Nidzica

The population of Nidzica is 15,000, of which over 90% are Catholics. Approximately 30 people are currently attending the church, which meets regularly on both Sundays and in connect groups during the week. Each month we speak to people about Jesus on the streets and are also involved in helping the local community.



## Lubawa

Missionaries from the Southport Masters Commission spent a week in Lubawa and Olsztynek during May, doing presentations in schools and pre-schools, along with daily youth meetings, concerts and outreaches.



## Praszka

June was a great month for the church in Praszka as four people were baptized and hundreds heard about Jesus. Generation Plus, which is a youth mission organization, spent a week in Praszka sharing the love of Christ and helping with the youth and children's ministries. We organized a sponsored race which, thanks to people's eagerness to participate and donate, raised 2000 złoty for the children's playground. We also had a local band as part of the event. This gained us press coverage and helped us to strengthen our relationship with the mayor.



## Tuchola

We recently organised some Gospel Workshops for our community in which around 100 people participated. We also did a concert which 300 people attended. Given that Tuchola only has about 13,000 inhabitants we believe that most of the people in the town heard about the event, especially given that we were featured in the local media.



Julia\* grew up in a Catholic family and was always aware of God's existence. She prayed to Jesus and trusted him, but didn't have a Bible and didn't know that she needed to have a relationship with him. A few years ago she met some born again Christians for the first time and recognized that there was something different about them, though she did not ask Jesus into her heart at that time. At the age of 25, she gave birth to her daughter via C-section after some

problems which lead the doctors to believe that she would not be capable of having any more children. At this time Julia's sister was attending an Alpha Course in Tuchola, and she conveyed all that she was learning to Julia about Jesus being the healer and saviour. After some time Julia became pregnant again, but her pregnancy was considered high risk. However, the whole church started praying for her and she was healed and gave birth to a girl without any complications – something the doctors recognised as a miracle. This was a significant moment for Julia which eventually lead to both her and her husband giving their lives to Jesus.

*\* Name has been changed*

# Wieluń

Sylwia was baptized in June and tells her story in this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sghap1wnOU>

## Namysłów

Wiesław: "Before I met Christ I was addicted to alcohol, an addiction which led to me being homeless. It had its beginning in my childhood as I grew up with a neurotic mother and a father who abused alcohol, which inevitably created a difficult environment where arguments were commonplace. When I was 15 years old I decided to go my own way and left home. However, instead of improving my situation, this decision actually led to disaster. As I went downhill, I became like my stepfather and found myself on the street without money or shelter and it was at this time that Jesus came into my life. Standing on the train station as a homeless alcoholic, I heard that God could set me free and I therefore decided to go to the 'New Hope' rehab where God changed my whole life",

Today Wiesław is planting a church in Namysłów where he is also leading meetings in schools, sharing how God has changed his life and set him free from addiction.



Three people were baptised in June and our student group continues to grow with around 25 people usually attending the meeting, some of whom have also started coming to Sunday service. We are also excited that new people are starting to serve in church and that God is healing people, with a lady named Veronika seeing her kidney healed after prayer. In our church there are many different ways in which we connect to the local community and recently we decided to offer out free legal advice to the local community, which we believe will help many people in our district. Each month we hold a meeting for mums where they can relax & learn something new.

## Warsaw





The Next Level International Network has over 20 years experience of partnering with nationals to train leaders and plant churches in a diverse range of European nations, with over 5000 leaders being prepared for ministry and over 90 churches being successfully planted. Although the challenges in Poland may be great, we passionately believe that God has a plan and a purpose for Europe and that now is the time for change.

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Launched in October 2013, the 700miast project sees the NLI Network partnering with Sławek and Krystyna Jagieła, who have established a thriving, mature, Biblically centred church in Olesno. This project is to identify, train and release potential church planters to establish healthy new churches throughout Poland particularly in the 723 other Polish towns without an evangelical church.

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