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Winter 2025



Merry Christmas Everyone

"And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Lk. 2:8-14 NAS)

On December 14, our church family came together to celebrate this good news and great joy at our annual Christmas service. Agnieszka and I have been attending an international church since 2021. The congregation is made up of people from all over the world, including Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and even a few from the US. The Christmas service is probably our most popular service of the year. Usually, about 80 of us come together for church on any given Sunday, but that night, we had around 150 people worshipping together. During the service, the worship team led us in

singing Christmas carols. One of the blessings of being part of an international church is that we got to sing "Silent Night" in six different languages!



The children recited verses related to the meaning of the candles on the Advent wreath and sang a song. At the center of our celebration and joy surrounding the coming of Christ was an evangelistic message given by one of our elders. Afterward, people could sample dishes from around the world, all cooked or baked by our very own church community.

For the first time ever, as part of the Christmas celebration, we had a hip hop group that danced to "Shackles" by Mary Mary. It was a very lively song with good lyrics. Agnieszka danced with the team even though she was still feeling

under the weather with a cold and was pretty sore and weak. As we mentioned in our last letter, Agnieszka is dealing with a condition that makes all her muscles and joints sore and reduces her strength. Sometimes, just moving around the apartment is a challenge for her, not to mention dancing! But she said that doing the hip hop dance wasn't about the dancing so much. It was about not letting her sickness define who she is and what she does.



I'm super proud of Agnieszka. Every time she practiced at home, it was a real struggle, but she pushed through it! I'm grateful for what God is doing through her.

To help the church get ready for Christmas and focus on the reason for the season, Agnieszka put together 24 devotionals for the 24 days of Advent, in both English and Polish. Every day, we read a chapter from the Gospel of Luke and a devotional based on Susie Larson's book, Prepare Him Room. About 27 people are signed up for the English version of the daily messages, and about 18 are signed up for the Polish version. Every morning, Agnieszka and I listen to David Suchet (the actor who played Poirot) read scripture, and then we read the devotion for the day and pray together. We've been doing our joint devotional time with God for a couple of years now. We love it, but it's even better knowing that so many people from our group read the same words and pray the same prayers every morning.

When we think about praying, especially praying without stopping, we immediately think of our brothers and sisters from Africa. Mike has been going to a Bible study led by believers from Zimbabwe. It is interesting for him to see how they do community and their passion for Christ.



One couple from this group, Simon and Kudzi, have become like our adopted kids. They come from a church in Zimbabwe with 30,000 members. Please pray for other members of the group, Joseph, Rena, and their youngest daughter, Amazing. She goes to a local Polish elementary school. When Joseph and Rena need help in talking with the school teachers, they usually contact Mike to translate for them. A couple weeks ago, Mike went to the school with Joseph and Rena to chat with Amazing's teachers. She's having a tough time learning Polish. It's a complex language to learn. Mike knows! Her teachers are happy with her behavior, but they're worried that if her Polish doesn't get better, she'll have issues next year. Another Polish woman has agreed to help her learn Polish. Please pray that Amazing's Polish improves and that she doesn't feel discouraged.



The Sunday after our Christmas celebration is traditionally a "Merci" Sunday. It's a day when we show our appreciation to our pastor and elders, as well as to each other, for all that we do to strengthen our fellowship. And, yes, we eat a lot of Merci chocolates. This year, 68 people were involved in making all aspects of church life possible. They did everything from setting up the room and working the soundboard to translating, preaching, leading worship, teaching kids, welcoming people, baking, leading house groups, and many, many more. Being thankful and showing it is a beautiful thing. But we saved the best for last. Right after the service, we celebrated two people being baptized!



December was a busy and exciting month for us personally and for our church. We could also write about the evangelistic concert at the senior citizens center, the Christmas dinner at the shelter for homeless men, the all-night prayer, the wedding, the birthday party, Mike's men's group, and Agnieszka's meetings, but

we don't want to interrupt your Christmas preparations. We just want to say how thankful we are for each of you and for being a part of our ministry here in Poland.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike and Agnieszka

Pray with us

- We are thankful that the church's Christmas celebration went well and that people heard the gospel. We are also thankful that Agnieszka was healthy enough to dance and that God worked in her soul through that experience.
- Mike is thankful for his Bible study group and that he can help his Zimbabwean friends with different life problems that they have while living here in Poland.
- Please continue to pray for Agnieszka's health, as each week seems to be different.
- Pray also that Mike would continue to make progress on analyzing the churches in his study so that he can get to writing his dissertation.
- Pray for our church here in Krakow. Our pastor is taking a 3-month-long sabbatical. Pray with us for a time of rest for him and his wife and clear guidance for the future for him personally and for our church.

Partner with us

We hope you'll take a moment to think about partnering with us. There are a few ways you can get involved: by starting to financially support our ministry, increasing your support, or making a one-time gift.

Just click the button below.

Thanks so much!

Donate

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