

New Lifer News



Passion in Poland

by Rachel Steiner

I love a mission trip. There is something inspiring about a team of people from different backgrounds working towards a common goal alongside our missionaries. The anticipation grows as you prepare to assist the missionaries in their work. You know there will be opportunities for God to use you for His glory, moments to encourage the people of the area, and times to humbly receive blessings from those you develop relationships with. It is a growing experience orchestrated by God alone.

Going to Koscierzyna, Poland, this past April/May was a great privilege and joy. The team and I joined Arek & Julita Rachwalski, missionaries supported by New Life. The town itself is slightly larger than Morton; however, there are only three churches. Two of those churches are Roman Catholic, and the church Arek pastors is Pentecostal. Catholicism is the only way for the vast majority of this country, so Arek & Julita's church is seen as a cult. It is so hard for people of this town to break away from their Catholic roots and boldly step into the Pentecostal church. They are a people who are hurting and searching for fulfillment. The members of Arek & Julita's church know that, which is why the kindhearted people of this small but mighty church reach out.



We invited the people of Koscierzyna to two different outreach events. Hundreds of leaflets were handed out all over town by our team and members of the church. Over the course of four very cold nights, we held an Open Air Cinema. Movies, subtitled in Polish, with a Christian message behind them were shown, and a time for preaching God's love came after. Despite the weather, new people did come. My hope is that seeds were planted, and my prayer is that one day those seeds will grow. God can and will do amazing works in the lives of the people in Poland.

The second outreach event, which helped to raise awareness of the church, was a free “hot-doggie” over the lunch hour on two different days. The main audience we tried to target was the young adult generation. They are more apt to break away from the Catholic church. As I was handing out packets filled with information about Arek & Julita and their church, one woman thrust hers right back into my hands. She did not want anything to do with Arek & Julita or their church. This was discouraging to me, and I knew instantly that I had just experienced a little taste of what this small church goes through every time they reach out to the community. Knowing some of the struggles they face, the team and I can better pray for and encourage them.

Despite facing opposition and discouragement, Arek & Julita, and the church members press on. They have an uninhibited passion for God and a heart for the lives of the people in the community, the country, and the world. This is evidenced significantly when they are singing His praises and praying to Him fervently. Their passion is beautiful, moving, inspiring. Watching them and listening to them made me desire a more passionate walk with God. I believe the other members of the mission team would say the same.

This church may be small by many standards, but they are mighty, and they are growing. They actually need more space because they are cramped in a 4th floor room that is no bigger than New Life's kitchen. It was the team's privilege and honor to bring \$15,000 to Arek & Julita's church, which will help them purchase land. This will enable them to eventually build their own church that can accommodate more people and allow for growth and greater service to Kosciierzyna. No more narrow, treacherous stairs to climb to the 4th floor! Your faithful giving to missions through Faith Promises made this possible. New Life, you should be proud, for we support a great work in Poland!

The love for this country and the people who live there continues to grow in my heart. The people of the church are like family. I am super excited to journey there again.



If anyone wants to go and experience this great country, build lasting relationships, and be God's hands and feet, be watching for details, as the next trip is planned for about a year from now. It promises to be just as extraordinary as the last one.