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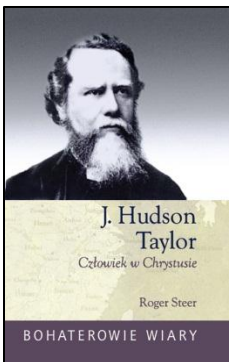
Global Academic Director ...Teaching with a Mission

August 2011

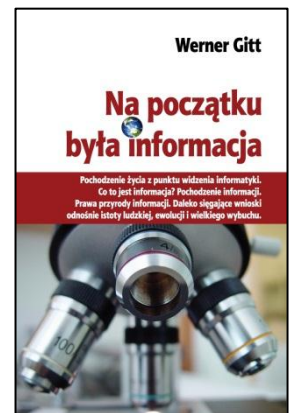
Wśród Polaków

Dr. Douglas A. Blanc, Sr.

The title is a Polish expression meaning “among Polish people.” Since 1990, Sally and I have been serving the Lord in Poland through a variety of evangelistic endeavors (e.g. Christian camps, English language schools, Bible conferences). For the past 10 years I have been the Vice President of a Poland-based publishing house. The publishing house, *Wydawnictwo Theologos* is a division of *Fundacja Ichthus*, a non-profit mission foundation established to provide printed educational and evangelistic resources (books, music, tracts, and pamphlets). To date, we have published several books in our *Heroes of the Faith* Christian biographical series (e.g. C. T. Studd and J. Hudson Taylor), discipleship books for children, family resources, and creationism apologetic books. As a side note, I visited the WEC German headquarters in Eppstein during this past trip. WEC (*Worldwide Evangelization Crusade*) was established by C. T. Studd in 1913. We have also published numerous Christmas children’s books with music CD’s written and recorded by our Polish affiliates. These Christmas books are given in association with the *Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child* evangelistic events that we organize annually. Our foundation is a certified distributor of the OCC packages in Poland.



As you can imagine, in a country inundated with a virulent Catholicism, such a ministry is significant to the evangelistic cause in Poland. In addition to printed matter, the foundation organizes Bible conferences and Christian camps throughout Poland. Beyond these annual events, we also support a missionary working in Moldova, a small nation bordering the Ukraine and Romania. This is a very poor nation. The channel of resources flows from Germany through our foundation to sponsor Christian camps in Moldova each summer. In the end, *ICHTHUS* is an indigenous Polish mission agency that is reaching out internationally and cross-culturally.



Of the 38 million Polish people, fully 88.4% are overwhelmingly and devotedly Catholic. In addition, 94% of Poles claim to believe in God with 52% attending church weekly. By contrast the Baptist Union of Poland has 83 congregations totaling 6,500 adult members. This is an amazingly low statistic (not even 1/10th of 1% of the population compared to a Baptist population in the USA of 14%) when one considers that in Moldova, a nation of only 3.6 million people (1/10th that of Poland) there are fully 490 Baptist Union congregations with 20,400 adult members. Or, consider Romania with one-half the Polish population (21.4 million), there are remarkably 1,772 congregations with 98,672 adult members. I say, “Remarkably,” because of the intense persecution that existed as recent as 20 years ago. The virtual strangle hold of Catholicism on Polish religious belief is evident, being integrated with ethnicity. Yet, it also calls for creative ways to introduce the Polish people to the gospel and the claims of Christ.



One such way is the organization of Christian camps. This resonates well with the Polish people. For over 20 years we have conducted such camps regionally throughout the country. The camps have targeted predominately university students and have offered a program that introduces them to Christianity in a form divested of the familiar Catholic traditions. While these have proven effective through the years, we are finding that we must target even younger students. ***Evangelism is a process in Poland.*** While salvation is a moment-in-time event for the

sinner, the gospel must be *introduced* and its essential themes *taught* and *reinforced* before its truths are *internalized* and *acted upon*. In the USA we commonly press for decisions when evidence of key gospel themes is lacking. This is especially true with children, much to our shame and their later distress. This notion of “process” is especially critical in Poland. While some may immediately respond to a gospel appeal, many come to Christ after years of exposure through camps, Bible studies, Christian literature, and personal witness.



This year we were able to hold a Christian camp for children in the southern mountains of Poland (July 21-31, 2011). Bielice is a picturesque small mountain village on the Czech border of no more than 10 homes. We were able to rent a facility from its British owner residing in London and organize a wonderful two-week evangelistic program for kids ranging 7-15 years in age. Eleven Polish nationals assisted as

leaders in kitchen, music, and sports, while I provided the morning and evening Bible fellowship instructional times, all under the capable direction of Zbigniew and Beata Kołak. What a blessing to see the key gospel themes introduced not only to the children, but to their Catholic parents! Pray that the seeds sown will reap fruit for the kingdom in the coming days. We were able to see the Holy Spirit move hearts and break hearts. Our Polish coworkers will provide beneficial follow up through periodic contact with the campers and parents.



Prayer & Praise

- Praise the Lord for upcoming opportunities to present the ministry in local **churches**.
- Praise the Lord for a wonderful ministry, planting gospel seeds in **Poland** and **Germany**.
- We are thankful for the **Bible study group** that meets weekly in our home. Please pray with us regarding health concerns for some of the group members.
- Praise the Lord for **faithful ministry partners** who pray for us daily and financially help with the ongoing needs of this ministry.
- Pray for the Lord's direction as we are now looking to **2012 and scheduling ministry abroad**. Pray for the Lord's abundant provision of the needed personal and travel resources.

Itinerary

August 14, 2011 Calvary Baptist Church (DeRuyter, NY)

August 21, 2011 Hedstrom Baptist Church (Cheektowaga, NY)

August 18-25, 2011 Mission Training School and Leadership Conference at IGM Mission Central (Rochester, NY).

August 28, 2011 Lester Baptist Church (Windsor, NY)

September 7-December 16, 2011 Teaching Ethics and Comparative Religion at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY).

September 29-October 2 Evangel Baptist Church (Laurelton, NY)

October 16, 2011 Bethel Baptist Church (Commack, NY)

October 30, 2011 First Baptist Church (Cincinnatus, NY)

January 29, 2012 Grace Baptist Church (Guilderland, NY)

February 19, 2012 First Baptist Church (Hempstead, NY)

Tax-deductible contributions may be made by check and payable to **Independent Gospel Missions**. Please write Doug & Sally Blanc support (or travel) in the memo and send to:

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For those wishing to use credit cards, you may go to our website www.sent2all.com. On the home page there are two button links that will access completed forms for our support and travel funds. You may call us for further assistance with this feature.