

# The Blanc Family

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Global Academic Director ...*Teaching with a Mission*

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## *Poland: A Personal History of Mission, Part 2*

By 1992 we were nearing the end of our tenure at Community Baptist Church in Drexel, North Carolina. Earlier in the year I received an unexpected invitation to return to Poland. The invitation came from a young man by the name of Artur Burmer, a seminary student, who was part of a team effort to organize a camp for university students at the Baptist church in Koszalin, Poland. I was invited to be the primary speaker for the event. Each day I would

present a wykład, that is, a lecture, a Bible study. Previously, my exposure to Poland was limited to a few days in Kraków, including a tour of the Auschwitz in Oświęcim. Artur had been our tour guide in 1990 and thus the invitation. This time the stay would be two-weeks. I recall packing up some notes covering a variety of discipleship topics. I was really unprepared for what would transpire.

Far from a detached audience glancing at their watches for the time to pass in order to get on with other things, this group of engaged students was determined not only to listen and to learn, but to put into practice each day's lesson. Beyond this, the hunger for the word caused the initial problem of locating a sklep (store) where cassette tapes and a recording device could be purchased for the daily Bible sessions. This was a rather expensive proposition in those days, but one that turned out to be a worthy investment. Each wykład was preserved on audio cassette. Here in the states we are accustomed to this use. We are not accustomed for what these students would do with them. After a two-hour morning Bible study, the students would group together and replay the day's wykład. As they sat listening to what they had only moments ago heard, they

would transcribe the contents onto pads of paper. I was amazed!

At first glance I thought to myself, "Why are these students grouping together down in the basement of the church when they could be outside enjoying fresh air, going to the seaside, or into town?" Then I heard my own voice emanating from the recorder and observed

the students intently writing as I spoke and the translation was pronounced. Other students, in fact, had many questions. These were university students. They were not all Christian. Some had arrived to the camp with worldview questions about the existence of God, the relevance of Jesus, or the tenets of Christianity. One by one and one on one I met with many of the students. I must provide some context at this point. In Poland where Catholicism is the face of Christianity (90% of the population), the priest speaks with near infallible authority on Bible-related matters.

Therefore, I was sought out in a similar way. By necessity, I qualified my remarks with the proviso that it is the Bible that has authority and not me, a mere messenger of God. In the

years that would pass, as I spoke in towns and cities across Poland, I became known by the often repeated expression, "The Bible says..." Well, the dedication of these students deeply impressed me. Some of the post-wykład questions were aimed at applying the lesson directly to life. I recall speaking on the subject of prayer, its central significance to the believer's walk with the Lord. A student approached me and asked how prayer could have a vital place in her life. I began to answer with what I would confess to be a rather theoretical answer. She pressed saying, "No, I mean today, right



Doug & Sally at Auschwitz

now...how can I live what the Bible says.” By the end of camp this student had copied all the notes and returned to her university, started a Bible study group of her own, winning more than 70 of her fellow students to Christ during the next 5 years.

There is no telling the profound use of those recorded sessions, even long after the days of the camp. The set of tapes were copied and passed around. I was walking ulica Jana Pawła II (John Paul II Street) in Warsaw days after the camp. Across the street a student hailed to me. He was walking with a headset, listening to the tapes. This hunger for the Word was largely lacking among many to whom we ministered in the states. By the end of the camp, with morning and evening wykład sessions, I had only scratched the surface of what I had originally intended to teach. I was deeply affected by the experience, an experience that would alter the course of ministry, indeed our family in the days to come.

Sally and I co-founded Laborers Together in late 1992 as an instrument in God’s hands to be active in the Great Commission as He provided and led. Across the years, we have returned to Poland annually, being used in Bible camps, English language evangelism, Bible conferences, and publishing ministry. On one occasion when visiting Grace Seminary (Winona Lake, IN), perhaps the year was 1995, I recalled many of these experiences to one of the faculty. I remember almost apologetically saying to him, “we have a small mission, a small ministry...” His reply was, “there are no such things as small ministries, only faithful servants.” So we have endeavored through the years to be faithful (**1 Cor 4:2**).

Dr. Douglas A. Blanc, Sr.

## Prayer & Praise

- Praise the Lord for upcoming opportunities to present the ministry in local **churches**.
- Please pray regarding the upcoming itinerary in **Poland** and **Germany**. Pray for safe travel, good flight connections, prepared hearts to receive the Word, and a blessed time of fellowship among the believers. **See “Itinerary” at the right for brief details.**
- 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.

### If you would like to help with travel expenses for the upcoming Germany-Poland Mission:

1. Go to our website: [www.sent2all.com](http://www.sent2all.com). Click the “Support” tab at the left of the home page. At the bottom of the “Support” page you will see a “Donate Travel” button. Click on the button for a pre-completed form. You need only fill-in the amount, your address, and the credit card information. Your donation will be credited to our “Travel Funds” account.
2. You may also make a personal check out to “Independent Gospel Missions” and send it our home address (front of newsletter at the top). We will forward it to the mission where it will be deposited in our “Travel Funds” account. All donations are tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from IGM.

## Itinerary

June 26, 2011	Central Baptist Church (Binghamton, NY)
July 14-17, 2011	Celle Baptist Church (Celle, Germany)
July 18-August 1, 2011	Preaching in local churches and ministering at a children’s camp in Bielice, (south-west) Poland
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).
October 16, 2011	Bethel Baptist Church (Commack, NY)
October 30, 2011	First Baptist Church (Cincinnati, 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:

**Independent Gospel Missions**  
**990 Calkins Road**  
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