

# Serving the people of Poland since 1954 - 70 years Polish Christian Ministries December 2024

And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.... His name is called the Word of God... And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.'

Revelation 19:11,13,16

## **CELEBRATING 70 YEARS**



The International Conference on Missions (ICOM) was held this year in Lexington, KY. After the opening session, we hosted a "70 Years" celebration at our PCM booth. We were happy that ten of our thirteen PCM Board members could join in the festivities. Several of our Polish friends from Proem and scores of ICOM attendees stopped by to offer congratulations and enjoy a cupcake. Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving for God's faithfulness over these last 70 years.

**PCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 



Prior to ICOM, the PCM Board met for its annual fall meeting. The Board members are such a valuable and significant part of the PCM ministry as they pray, strategize, and seek to "come under" our Polish ministry partners. It's always a joy when we can gather together in person. We give thanks for each one:

Chris Santasiere (Chairman)\*, Dennis Towles (Vice-Chair)\*, Paul Howey (Secretary)\*, Greg Meyer\*, Steve Bolin\*, Tom Anders, Connie Davis, Pat Howard, Craig Olsen, David Smiley, Robert Sylvester, Warren Whitaker, Paula Styles (temporary leave of absence) [\*Executive Committee]

## **Welcome, Newest PCM Board Member**

Warren Whitaker is currently serving as the Lead Minister at Cornerstone Christian Church in Springfield, Kentucky. He has served in Poland twice: the first time in May of '22 to help with Ukrainian refugees; the second time in February '23 to visit churches in southern Poland, meet with their leaders and preach when given the opportunity. Warren's parents, Jack and Janie Whitaker, have been connected to and supportive of Polish Christian Ministries since before Warren's birth. Welcome, Warren!



## **Retiring Board Members**



Thank you, Pat Howard!

Pat has been a PCM Board member since 2008, serving as the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, Finance Chairman, and a member of the Personnel Committee during his 16-year tenure. His wealth of wisdom and experience has provided PCM with a strong foundation and consistency in its mission. We are so thankful for his years of service, and pray God's blessing over him and his family.



Thank you, David Smiley!

David has been a PCM Board member since 2013, serving as the Secretary of the Executive Committee, Personnel Chairman, and a member of the Finance Committee during his 11-year tenure. David traveled to Poland three times and has represented PCM in US churches on occasion. He brought life, wit, and valuable insight to the mission. We pray blessings over Dave and his family.

#### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

From time to time, special requests come to our attention as the Polish churches seek to respond to those in need in their local communities. PCM is glad to send funds whenever possible to assist in these projects.



We are thankful for the continued efforts of Pastor Bartlomiej Robel and the congregation in Nysa as they assist the flood victims in SW Poland. Recently, PCM helped purchase a refrigerator for an elderly couple who were in need.



Pastor Jarek Sciwiarski in Dabrowa Gornicza and his team are nearing completion of a place for the homeless and those excluded from society. We are thankful for their ministry to those in need and that we can come alongside them in these endeavors.

## **POST ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



It was our joy to once again participate in the Global Partners Sunday at the Post Road

Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. This congregation is one of our long-time supporters who not only pray and give toward our ministry, but send teams to Poland to serve alongside us. We thank God for their global focus and their desire to make Jesus known among the people groups of the world.

## **SALEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



The Salem Christian Church in Richmond, KY, is a Living Link with the church in Plock. They always welcome us with open arms. Especially meaningful this visit was the time of prayer for both the leaders at Salem and the leaders in Plock. We are reminded how much we need each other in the Body of Christ.

**UNION CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH** 



The Union City Christian Church in Richmond, KY, is a Living Link with the church in Gdynia. We are always impressed with their commitment to praying for the global church. We thank God for Chip Denief and the entire congregation and hope to welcome them sometime soon to Poland.

#### **MISSION FAIRS**



David Smiley (PCM Board member) represented PCM at the "Missions Gathering '24" at the Fairfield Church of Christ in Fairfield, OH. We are thankful for Mark Sparks and the mission team who continue to pray for and support the work of PCM in Poland.



Steve Bolin (PCM Board member) represented PCM at the annual mission event at the White River Christian Church in Noblesville, IN. This church has sent two teams to Poland and Dwight and Pam Blackford are looking forward to leading yet another team in the summer of 2025. We thank God for our partnership and friendship.



Scott Parker is the senior minister of the Hartford Christian Church in Hartford, KY. This church has supported PCM for many years, but it was our first time to visit with Scott and get acquainted. We are thankful for our partnership and look forward to deepening our relationship in the days to come.

## **CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



The Cornerstone Christian Church in Springfield, KY, began supporting PCM in 2022 when their senior minister, Warren Whitaker, first traveled to Poland. It was good to visit their church, worship together, and share more about PCM's ministry. We are so thankful for this congregation and look forward to many years partnering together on behalf of the churches in Poland.



### DID YOU KNOW? ...

... it is only by the grace of God and the willingness of those who said "Yes!" to His call that PCM has faithfully served the nation of Poland for 70 years.

We pray for God's continued hand of blessing and for more willing servants to step forward to say, "Yes!"

### IN MEMORY OF



#### **UKRAINIAN REFUGEE RELIEF**



In November, PCM sent \$12,500 to Poland for the purpose of Ukrainian refugee relief:

1) Food distribution centers in Poland - \$4,000

2) Polish churches for housing/food - \$6,500

3) Transports to Ukraine from four Polish churches - \$2,000

PCM is committed to sending funds to help our Polish churches and Ostroda Camp provide food and housing for Ukrainian refugees. Every donation is deeply appreciated.

# **2024 YEAR END APPEAL** To raise \$75K for the following:

- 1) Pabianice Genesis Nova church \$35K for a more impactful ministry space
- 2) Biala Podlaska church \$15K to finish the education wing on their new property
- 3) Christian School of Music (CSM) \$10K for the conference in Warsaw June 2025
- 4) Ostroda Camp \$15K to double the work shed space and renovate the terrace

The PCM Board of Directors have been challenged to give the first 10% of this goal. To date, half of the members have given or pledged to give \$12,700 (16.9%). A big **THANK YOU** to our Board members for leading the way in this endeavor to fulfill God's purposes for the churches of Poland.

## Ways to Give: GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA

When you make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA to Polish Christian Ministries before December 31, you assist Polish believers in becoming healthy, growing, self-sustaining and reproducing congregations in the nation of Poland. At the same time, you also realize important benefits that allow you to steward your assets well:

- Satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution for the year.
- Reduce taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.
- Avoid taxes on transfers up to \$105K from your IRA to charity.
- Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts.

Making a QCD to PCM is a simple and beneficial option for those over age 70 1/2.

## **PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS**

#### Praise God for ...

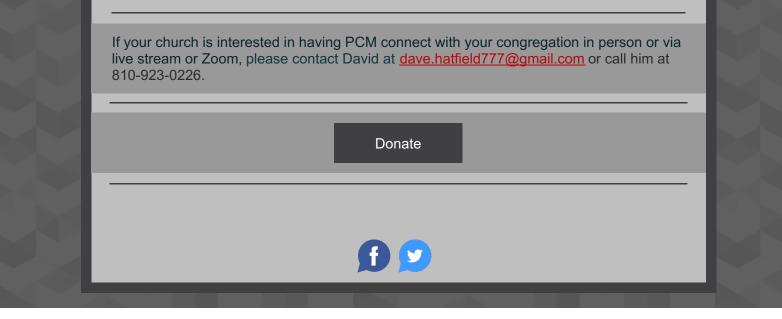
- ... the wonderful celebration of God's faithfulness to PCM over 70 years.
- ... the PCM Board of Directors who serve so willingly.
- ... the continued efforts of Polish churches to provide flood relief in southwest Poland.
- ... the Polish churches as they continue to care for Ukrainians both in Poland and via transports to Ukraine.
- ... the faithful generosity of supporters who enable the work in Poland to continue.

#### Please pray for ...

- ... an end to the war in Ukraine.
- ... the continued efforts to assist flood victims in SW Poland.
- ... the many Polish churches who are in a period of transition as pastors retire and new pastors assume their roles.
- ... wisdom for the church in Katowice as they search for a new venue.
- ... additional funds to put a roof on the educational wing at Biala Podlaska.
- ... Annemarie Howard (wife of PCM Board member, Pat Howard) who has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer and has started treatment.
- ... PCM Board members Connie Davis and Paula Styles who continue to need God's healing touch.
- ... former PCM Administrative Assistant, Lois Harris, who is having hip replacement surgery on Dec 10.
- ... David and Sandy Hatfield's travel schedule:

December 8: First Church of Christ, Bluffton, IN

January 26: New Hope Christian Church, Whitestown, IN



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