

# Polish Christian Ministries June 2022

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

#### THE NEEDS CONTINUE



Since the invasion on February 24, more than 3 million Ukrainians have come to Poland. Some have moved on further west, some have returned to Ukraine, but there are still approximately 500,000 in Warsaw alone. As shown above, there are approximately 2,600 displaced Ukrainians sleeping on cots in a large Expo center. Besides raising funds, PCM has responded to the crisis by inviting volunteers to come to serve alongside our Polish ministry partners. The first session ended this morning and the volunteers for session #2 have just arrived. Session #1 was an amazing time and we couldn't have asked for better teams. We are thankful for all those who have chosen to serve in Poland.

**TEAM "WEST"** 



One of the teams spent the majority of their time serving alongside Adam Dulinski and Christian Fellowship West in the Bemowo district of Warsaw. This church continues to welcome 100's of Ukrainian refugees to their distribution center in cooperation with the local social services agency. Our team loaded/unloaded trucks, kept the shelves stocked with goods, helped the Ukrainians board the transport bus to Holland, and interacted with the refugees - helping them fill their shopping bags and sharing smiles and notes of encouragement. One team member, Olga Bajko (daughter-in-law of PCM founder, Paul Bajko), who speaks Ukrainian, was able to gather contact information and a list of the specific needs for nearly 200 of the refugees. We thank God for Warsaw West and the possibility we had to join them in this vital ministry.

**TEAM "ENGLISH"** 



Messiah University (Mechanicsburg, PA) has been planning to send a team to Poland since before the Covid pandemic began. The last Messiah team served with the church in Plock in 2019. Due to the Ukrainian refugee situation, we weren't sure if the trip would materialize again this year, but thankfully it did. The Christian Fellowship at Pulawska is in relationship with nearby Polish schools and this team was invited to teach English in one grade school and two high schools. The girls did a great job and the joy and enthusiasm they brought to the classrooms was well-received. Sometimes the Christian churches in Poland are viewed with suspicion, so this type of ministry is important as it helps to build bridges and break down misconceptions. It also provides opportunity for the team to share their faith and exemplify what a life in service to God can look like. A big THANK YOU to Zbyszek and Malgosia Tarkowscy for making all the connections and to the Messiah team for serving so well. [NOTE: A negative Covid test is required to return to the States and one of the girls tested positive. She and one of the team leaders had to stay in Poland. Please pray for a negative test result so they can return home soon.]

**TEAM "OSTRODA"** 



Meanwhile at Ostroda Camp, a team from Pilgrim Community Church in Toronto and two men from Illinois joined our Ostroda Camp site leader, Howard Pittsley, in serving at the camp. The young people at the camp were especially excited to welcome these vibrant servants of God. At the beginning of session #1, there were approximately 145 Ukrainian refugees living at the camp, but many have returned to Ukraine, and now there are about 80 remaining. We are so thankful for these volunteers who have poured themselves out on behalf of these youth and their families. The relationships that have been built and the testimonies of faith shared during this time will last into eternity.



# FOOD FOR THE KINDERGARTEN

The Puławska church has set up a kindergarten for Ukrainian refugee children. Currently, 18 children are enrolled. Three Ukrainian women serve as teachers for these children. PCM is providing funds for the children to receive a meal and snacks each school day. We pray blessing and peace over these young ones.

#### THE "SHOE GUY"

Daniel Matea, with Heart and Soles Ministries, contacted PCM a couple months ago to ask if there was a need for shoes for Ukrainian refugees. We checked with our ministry partners in Warsaw and they said there may be a

need for summer shoes. So, Daniel traveled to Poland and we assisted him in purchasing and distributing 427 pairs of shoes. The people were delighted, and often in tears, to receive them. Thanks, Daniel, for your heart for those in need.



### **CIECHANOW**



Last Sunday we had the opportunity to share in the worship service with Krzysztof Adamkowski and the church in Ciechanow. The chapel was filled to overflowing. Three people were baptized and several of their friends and family members attended for the first time. One of our volunteers, Warren Whitaker, senior minister at the Cornerstone Christian Church in Springfield, KY, shared from the Word. It was wonderful to spend time with Krzysztof and Dorota and all the congregation. We pray God will continue to expand their ministry and bring hope to those in need of His saving grace.



While one team was in Ciechanow and another at Warsaw West, the Messiah students worshiped last Sunday with the congregation in Ursynow, the southernmost district of Warsaw. A few of the Messiah students taught a Sunday school class for the children. This church is a satellite of the Pulawska street church - "one church in two locations." It was our first time to visit this congregation and we were so encouraged by the time of worship and teaching. We pray God's blessing on this church as they reach out in Jesus' name.

### IN MEMORY OF



# Give to help Ukrainian refugees!

www.pcmusa.org Click on "Ways to Give" Designate "Ukrainian refugees"

All donations go directly to refugee relief

Thank you to everyone who has given toward the Ukrainian refugee relief fund. Thus far we have sent \$732,357 to Ostroda Camp and 25 of our Polish churches who are assisting refugees. The ever-changing needs require continuous funds, so we appreciate every donation given. May God multiply our efforts to His glory.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

#### Praise God for ...

- ... the faithfulness of our good God.
- ... the Polish churches and Ostroda Camp who are caring so well for those in need.
- ... the overwhelming response we have received in response to the refugee relief fund.
- ... the session #1 teams who served with such joy and energy.
- ... the hope and encouragement that have been shared in countless ways.
- ... all of our U.S. supporters who give so the work in Poland can continue.

#### Please pray for ...

- ... God to intervene to bring an end to the war in Ukraine.
- ... protection for the people of Ukraine as they defend their nation.
- ... comfort for the many refugees, several of whom are separated from family members.
- ... wisdom and strength for our Polish partners as they care for Ukrainian refugees.
- ... the volunteers serving and planning to serve in Poland this month.
- ... the volunteer and team leader who are awaiting a negative Covid test in order to return home to the States.
- ... Henryk Wasilewski, the pastor in Bialogard, who is awaiting heart surgery.
- ... the ongoing church building projects in Poland.

If your church is interested in having PCM connect with your congregation in person or via Zoom, please contact David at <a href="mailto:dave.hatfield777@gmail.com">dave.hatfield777@gmail.com</a> or call him at 810-923-0226.

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