

This update will be a bit out of the ordinary. As each of you knows, at any moment in the Christian life some things are going horribly wrong and at the same time, other things are encouraging. I think that I tend to write updates that focus on the encouraging side of things. However, there have been three great discouragements over the last months. To give you an accurate picture of the ministry here I need to mention these things.

In my various updates over the years I have talked of a young man who was saved as a teenager in the Siedlce church plant. I have spent more than 10 years discipling him. It was my great desire that he become one of the pastors here and minister alongside us. We desperately need preachers in Poland and this young man is so amazingly bright and talented. Some of you helped him financially to go to Bible school in Scotland. He has now finished his education, is living in Scotland, and making a life for himself there. He has no intention of returning to Poland or entering the ministry. Sadly, he is not even a member of a local church. He is young. The Lord is not done with him. But, at the moment this situation is heartbreaking.

Secondly, I've written about the millions of Ukrainians who have moved into Poland over the last few years and our desire to minister to these immigrants. We prayed, we planned, we organized out reaches and after all of our efforts, we were not able to make even one meaningful connection with the Ukrainian community living in Siedlce. This ministry has just died out. We currently do not have even one Ukrainian attending any of our services. Maybe we made mistakes or maybe it is not our fault. I simply don't know.

Thirdly, for quite a few years we have been praying about starting a church plant in Sokolow Podlaski, a town 20 miles from Siedlce. It is the largest town in the area after Lukow. Three of our Siedlce church members live there. For 6 years or so those three church members have been asking us to start a church plant in their town. The Siedlce congregation prays about it regularly. In the last year, these plans have started to become a reality. We had a building picked out for the church plant. We created an evangelistic website for the ministry there. We contacted some local charities and in partnership with them distributed Christmas packages to families in need. However, these three church members, who would be the very core of the new church plant, have decided to withdraw their church membership and start a ministry in Sokolow without the involvement of the Siedlce church. All of our prayers, all of our planning have just come to a screeching halt.

For each of these three projects, we had such high hopes. We prayerfully asked God to bless them, we planned as well as we knew how, and yet in each of these three situations, the result is drastically different than what we had hoped.

We are completely dependent on the power of our Father. There is nothing that we can accomplish without His blessing. May we praise Him and find our joy in Him, both, when our plans are realized and when they are not. May God give us wisdom as we move on. May we continue to hope and to plan. Thank you for your faithful partnership with us.

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