The end of 2022 marks more than 22 years that you, our supporters, have been partnering with us in church planting ministry in Poland. You are a vital part of this front-line missionary effort. Thank you for your generous giving that makes continuing this work possible.

This year we, as a family and local church, were confronted with unprecedented challenges as more than 8 million Ukrainian refugees entered Poland. With the help of your generosity, we have been able to minister to many refugees by providing food, short and long-term housing, transportation, household and school supplies, Bibles and evangelistic materials, as well as by inviting them into the life of our local church where we have been able to provide weekly teaching in Ukrainian for the last 9 months. The church members of the Siedlee congregation have generously welcomed refugees into the life of the church, their homes, and into their families. It has been a difficult experience but beautiful in so many ways.

In the spring of 2004, we began the Siedlee church plant. This year the church has grown by 8 new people bringing it to 45 current members. There is also a newly married young couple who will be joining the church in the weeks ahead. If the church continues to grow, we will have to start looking for a new church building, which will be a welcome problem to solve.

After many years of ministry, the Łuków church plant is still a tiny group of 5 Christians. However, it has also recently grown by one new member. We are rejoicing to see this fruit. Please do pray that God would draw people to himself, and this church plant would grow.

One of the blessings that we are grateful for is the leaders that God has raised up in the Siedlce congregation. For many years it was problematic to visit our supporters and family in the USA because of a lack of available substitute leaders to take on responsibilities. We gain so much encouragement to see Adam Urban and Jan Stefanoff willing and able to lead the churches in such a way that the ministry not only continues but thrives in our absence. They will continue this leadership until the summer of 2023 when we will travel back to the churches in Poland.

Now for a family update: Mikaela is currently in her 4<sup>th</sup> year of college and is also on the college staff working as a graphic designer. This year Maia finished her high school education in Poland, moved to the USA and started college. Each of these transitions went even better than expected and both Mikaela and Maia are thriving at Bethlehem College in Minneapolis. Aleyna, our youngest daughter, is experiencing her first year of high school in American school and doing very well. All the girls miss Poland, and the transitions of the last year were not without difficulties, but God has given them grace as they balance life between two countries.

Before I close, I'd like to ask you to pray for two situations. First of all, please pray that we would receive permanent residency in Poland. This process has already been dragging on for more than a year and has required countless hours of work. We could possibly receive a decision within the next month. Please pray that it would be a positive decision. To have permanent residency would be a great help to us. Secondly, Sarah has been dealing with significant back pain for a few years now. A major part of our lives is traveling and for Sarah, sitting in a car or plane for multiple hours is nearly impossible these days. Please pray that her pain problem could be resolved.

It is a joy to serve the Lord as missionaries to Poland. Your partnership with us continues to make this ministry possible. May God bless each of you!

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Ben Layer, Pastor/Church Planter <u>Kościół Ewangelicznych Chrześcijan</u> Siedlce, Poland 737 857 084

"Bądźcie mocni i mężnego serca, wszyscy, którzy pokładacie ufność w Panu!" -Ps. 31:25



