

Dear Friends,

As you know this past week has marked the 90th year of influence that the Fellowship of Christian Churches have had throughout Poland. Our time was celebrated with Pastors Conferences, Music Concerts, Incredible times of Prayer and Worship, all of which culminated in one of the greatest service gatherings in our 90 year history. This letter is a breakdown of our time together and a chance for you to see and to read what God has done in Poland this past weekend and the dreams that we have as we begin a new decade of ministry in Central Europe.

A Theme in 3D

Over the past few years our culture has been saturated with 3-D. From television sets to the newest movies, all of them are representing an era that is introducing a new dimension. Translated “The Work of the Tenth Decade”, Dzieło Dziesiątej Dekady” or 3-D, in a spiritual sense was used to usher in a new era of ministry that will add a new dimension to our work here in Poland. Bringing the churches and church leaders of Poland together for a time of renewed passion and zeal allowed us to refocus and cast the vision for “The Work of the Tenth Decade”. To see churches healthy, growing and planting new and vibrant reproducing churches is our heartbeat and the heartbeat of leaders throughout Poland. Our prayers is that as Christians engage in this new decade of ministry, reaching their communities and developing their churches, they will be able to do so with 3D vision.



Concert of Prayer

Throughout the week our desire was to pull people into a spirit of worship and reflection. On Thursday evening we opened the celebrations with an incredible time of music and prayer. Led by the worship team from Warsaw’s North Church, it was an evening that stirred the hearts, challenged the emotions, and was a great beginning to our weekend of Praise.

Exodus 15, a contemporary Christian band that is part of the ProEm Foundation, performed on Saturday evening. Their concert was an incredible blend of singing, testimonies, and a message that drove the vision of the Work of the Tenth Decade to yet another level of trusting God and stepping out on faith.

Pastors Conference

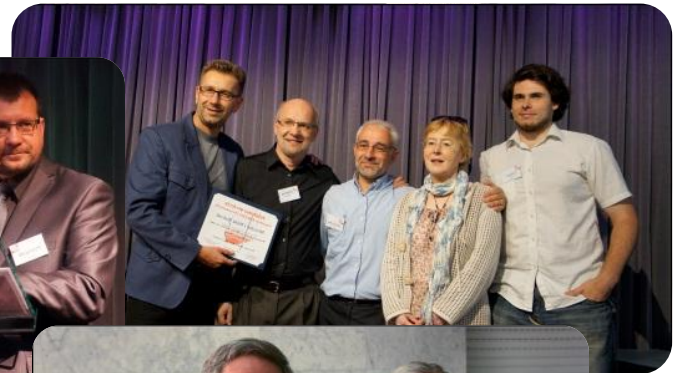
The structure of the conference sessions were much like a tree. Our first session was led by Dr. Wojciech Gajewski, who has served as pastor and professor of history at Gdansk University and various Bible schools throughout Poland. He explored the “roots” of our church by looking at the historical context of the early church in the book of Acts.

Challenging many preconceived ideas about the early church, his thought provoking subject explored “both sides to every coin”. The strengths and the weaknesses of the early church, and how they have given way to a church today with its own strengths and weaknesses.

Dr. David Eubanks, former president of Johnson Bible College, spoke on the “trunk” of the history of our churches. The trunk represented the American churches that have had so much impact throughout the past 90 years, including laying the foundation for the Fellowship of Christian Churches here in Poland. Outlining the influence of the churches in America his challenge and insight gave great perspective to how the churches in Poland have been influenced and shaped by the churches in America.

The Polish “branch” of the tree was outlined by Nina Hury, who walked leaders through the 90 year history of the Christian Churches in Poland, beginning in the small town of Starowies, and eventually expanding to become one of the most influential church fellowships in Poland today. Her look at the church throughout World War II, under the rule of Communism, and into a new era of prosperity and promise painted an incredible picture of God’s protection and power of His church in Poland.

Our conference also included the presence of Dr. Gary Holloway, the Executive Director of the World Convention of Christian Churches, who brought with him the prayers and greetings of churches in 187 countries. We celebrated with an Anniversary Dinner and a time of recognition for the many years of service done by the Pastors and leaders throughout Poland.





The Palace of Culture and Science

Given as a “Gift to Poland” from Joseph Stalin, the Palace of Culture and Science stands out against the Warsaw skyline as a symbol of Communism, and an age of hardships for the Polish people and the churches throughout Poland. Many of the past 90 years of history for the Fellowship of Christian Churches, has been spent under the control and persecution of the Communist rule.

The history of the church in Poland is scared with the arrests and imprisonments of many of Poland’s pastors and Christian leaders, and the suffering of Christ’s church as a whole. This building, representing a government that attempted to do anything it could to erase Christ and persecute His followers, nearly 45 years later, was our location to celebrate the

power of Christ and the testimony of the Christian Churches in Poland.

It is an incredible statement knowing that in the most prestigious room of this Palace, Christians from all over Poland and the world came together to worship and praise the name of Christ, when only a few decades ago the powers that built this palace, tried to stamp that name out.





Jubilee Celebration

On Sunday, June 26, our Celebration was experienced in Warsaw and around the world. Through a live video feed we were able to broadcast our Jubilee to friends who have been a part of the Polish ministries throughout our 90 year history. With nearly 2,000 Christian attendees pouring into the Palace of Culture, we were part of an experience that brought national media attention. To gather with Christians representing churches from throughout Poland, partaking of the same communion, and looking forward with a single vision to a new decade, brought a spirit of hope and unity to all who attended. Christians and non-Christians alike were touched by the testimony of our churches throughout Poland and of such an incredible service.

The hallways of the Palace of Culture were filled with tables and displays representing the many Polish ministries throughout our country, and allowed many people to see the many ways that our churches are making an impact in Poland. From Christian book translations, to Real Hope Projects, and children's ministries it was a great testimony to people who never knew how active the Polish churches are in the life of communities throughout Poland.

90 years of Christian influence in Central Europe is behind us, and we stand united looking forward to seeing what God will do in the years to come. We are thankful for all of you who have been a part of our history and our present, and we look forward to our continued friendships and partnerships with you as we enter the future and the Work of the Tenth Decade. May you be richly blessed for your part in Poland, and may we continue to work faithfully, impacting many lives as we enter this new decade of ministry.

On behalf of the Fellowship of Independent Christian Churches and Churches of Christ,

W. Andrzej Bajenski
President