

Poland THE STORY SO FAR



As many of you will know High Street has been involved in the **ministry to Poland** for many years. 1987 was our first encounter with what was then a country under Communism and all the social needs that went with it. Since then and now many years later Poland has found a new freedom. However like many places Christianity continues to develop, seeking its own freedom and identity.

Tom Chipper pioneered this work for many years serving the **Bible College at Warsaw**, the **New Life Church in Warsaw** and helping establish a church in the north in the large town of **Kwidzyn**.



It was in 2003 that I rekindled my love for the country after many years away when Tom asked me to take on the baton of all he had achieved. Since that time and under Gods direction the ministry has grown to include the above plus the newly formed **Church for You in Bydgoszcz**, a renewed contact with the main **Pentecostal**

church in Gdansk; along with numerous other contacts. including a church plant run by an English couple, Kevin & Emma Reilly.

However for sometime I had been feeling that my visits were too short and had felt the need to be more involved. It was during 2012 that God spoke through at a men's conference in Cambridge about spending more time in Poland. Through numerous confirmations God continued to speak.

During this time God also revealed much to me about the church's need for Fathers, being there to help, support, advise, assist. Tom was so good at fulfilling this. Could I follow in his footsteps?

Autumn 2012 saw the first lengthy visit covering over seven weeks with much opportunity for ministry in many places, both midweek and at the weekends. Fulfilling teaching, sharing and spending time with leaders and other church people, covering 2000 miles of travelling inside Poland.



Both Anne and I have sought God for her part in this ministry. Her main word from God was to stay at home to continue supporting our family. However she travels with me whenever she can.

2013 saw up to four months of ministry in Poland, trying to also maintain the work that I was doing for High Street. It was a year that saw an amazing growth in the ministry. As well as the above places God opened new doors specifically for men's ministry and teaching in **Lebork**. This has now grown in 2014 to include **Włocławek** and **Iwawa**. Plus new contacts with Pastors in **Gdynia**, (near Gdansk), **Tczew** and in **Zamosc** in the South East.

At the end of 2013, as a leadership here at High St, we felt we needed to know how we should handle the conflict of my employment with me being away so much. After spending time in prayer and fasting God confirmed to us that I should cease my employment, along with the fact that God had spoken some time back that my role as an Elder was to also draw to a close. So we began the process of closing this chapter. In mid March of this year, 2014, my employment ceased and so a new journey of living by faith has begun.

The diary is now having dates placed into it to the end of this year. However I will still be in spending time here in the UK, continuing to be an active member of High St between my visits to Poland.

Thank you for your continued support, love and prayers as we allow God to unfold more of His plans for our lives.

Every blessing

Paul & Anne Claringbold

