

October 5, 2023

Greetings!

The year was late 1985 or early 1986 when I made the first of many trips into Poland—I honestly can't remember, for sure. The purpose of the trip was to meet with some church leaders who had a desire to begin a work among the addicted in Poland. David Wilkerson had just been in the country preaching and the book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*, was already translated and in circulation. There was a high level of interest and excitement. I can remember thinking, "Wow, I get to be involved in the beginning of this new ministry."

As is often the case, the beginnings were not without many twists and turns. A building was leased to the local church for the purpose of beginning a residential Teen Challenge program. It was a deal like no other. The lease was for 99 years at the cost of one dollar, for the entire time of the lease. Most remarkable, was that this offer came from the government during the communist time! I remember seeing the building for the first time. It had belonged to a German family but the borders changed after WWII. The building had been empty since the end of the war and it looked like it had been. No water, no electricity, broken windows, broken roofing tiles and a furnace that had not been operating for 40 years. I thought, "They paid too much for this building!"

But ministries don't begin with buildings. We all wondered who would lead the work. At the ETC headquarters, in Germany, the whole staff was praying. Then God answered when He called a young woman, Ewa, who had just finished her studies in Psychology. God also called a young man, Zbigniew, who wanted to do the TC work too. They met, got married, and the rest—as they say—is history.

Fast forward more than 30 years, and one of the most significant TC ministries, in Europe, is now running with great success. That building I mentioned? It's totally renovated and still functioning as a residential TC rehabilitation program. Thousands have been through it's doors. TC Poland has opened other rehab programs—one of them at an old army base from the communist era—and has a network of 54 street outreaches all over Poland. There are works in the prisons, works in the schools, re-entry work and several churches have been planted. It's amazing to see. God answers prayer!

Last quarter I mentioned that I would say more about TC Poland because I had just attended their 35th anniversary celebration. So, there it is. As I sat there and looked at all the faces of those who were in the TC program, those who had finished the TC program over the last 35 years, all the staff workers, and of course, Zbigniew and Ewa, I thanked God for all He has done in that great country. What a privilege to be a small part of God's story for Poland. Now, we are seeing similar stories in places like Albania and we hope, very soon, to add Bulgaria and Greenland to the list!

We also thank you for the part you have played in the story of TC Poland. Thank you for sending us. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and in finances through all of these years.

God Bless You All Richly!

Tom Bremer