

Doug and Lila Groth
ECM
Winter 2006

Dear Friends,

We thank the Lord for the men's breakfasts that we have organized recently at our house. There were 5 men at the first breakfast. Two of them were unsaved men we've been praying for. The atmosphere was really relaxed with lots of good conversation. I was able to tell everyone about how I came to know the Lord and then we had a good discussion about spiritual things. At the next breakfast there were 10 of us. Jim Greyson was with us from the States and gave a talk about the challenges that men face – especially in their relationships as husbands, fathers and friends and the help that is available in God Himself and His word. We are planning to watch a film with the men in a few weeks that will, hopefully, also lead to some good discussion about the challenges we face and the help that is available in the Lord. We want to keep a regular men's meeting going. It's a good way to reach out to unsaved men (and their families) as well as to build up the men in our fellowship. Please pray that Ryszek, Mr. Tomalak, Mr. Staroniewicz and Krzysztof will come to know Christ. Pray that the men from our fellowship will grow in their faith and in boldness to witness for Him.

Lila is enjoying teaching Bible lessons at the new Christian grade school that started this year in Krakow. She goes to Krakow each Monday by bus and usually returns late in the evening. She is also putting together a Christmas program that the children will present for their parents. She wants to organize different forms of outreach for the kids to be involved in, invite missionaries to come speak to the children, etc.. There are 19 children in 2 classes (1st and 4th grade) this year. Their goal is to have 100 students in 3 years. Pray for Lila, the children and Janina, the director of the school. She school is Janina's initiative and she has never been a school director before. It is all a huge step of faith. God is blessing their efforts.

Daniel and Jola returned from Italy at the end of August. They are a key couple in the fellowship and we missed them very much while they were away for work. Their first child, Lucja, was born at the beginning of September. Daniel was able to find work and we have begun a small group meeting at their house. Please pray that the Lord will use them and guide them as to their future.

The members of the Rabka church met together several weeks ago to talk about our fellowship. One of the main things that came out of our meeting was a common desire to develop our relationships with one another. As a result, we spent a weekend in the mountains with 11 people from the church. It was really encouraging to hear Waldek and Gosia talk about all that God has been doing in their lives recently and to hear them say they would like to be baptized and become members of the church. Our own son, Philip, who will be 12 in January, also wants to be baptized. Pray for these people. Keep praying that we'll reach our goal of becoming an officially registered church.

We continue to pray and look for opportunities to do more church planting in the Podhale region of Poland. Nowy Sacz and Wieliczka are two places where we may be able to help start new church planting work. ECM would like to see 10 new couples, or singles, joining the ECM Poland church planting team in the near future. There is an open door for ministry in English teaching at the English school in Wroclaw. This would involve a 1 or 2 year commitment and could be a short term ministry opportunity or an introduction to long term service with ECM in Poland. If you are interested, please contact us or ECM. Please visit the new website – www.pray4poland.org.

Thank you,
Doug and Lila Groth