

From the Haenze's in Poland

Her name is Hope – *Nadzieja* in Polish. She is 97 years old. When she was born, Poland did not exist. She has lived through two world wars, Nazi occupation, communist oppression and two separate periods of Polish freedom. She grew up speaking Polish and Russian. When she had to stay home to take care of her younger sister, she taught herself to read and write both Polish and Russian. If the story of her life is out of the ordinary, her faith in God is extraordinary. I can't imagine the suffering, joy and pain she has endured throughout her life, but I am constantly amazed and encouraged by her unwavering trust in God.

I had the opportunity on Thursday to accompany our pastor to Hope's house. She is too frail to attend church, so once a month, one of the elders visits her and takes communion. I invite myself along when I can. This week, she once again shared with us her desire to go “home” to her Heavenly Father. But, she is just as content to live as long as He sees fit. Makes it hard to know how to pray for her.

Hope always gives me hope – hope in the future, hope in the present. It is the realization that God is, and always will be, faithful. He has neither forgotten Hope nor has He forgotten her country. After disappearing for over a century, Poland came back to life after World War One and, due to the courage of one man, Lech Wałęsa, changed the course of modern history. Unfortunately, every year this same Poland drifts farther from God. Yet, Hope's testimony reminds me that God is in control and can change the spiritual course of Polish history as well.

## **New Directions**

It is that hope that led me as I shared with our Polish church about my time in India. I challenged the members of the congregation to “intentional, continuous prayer” and “immediate obedience to God”. When I asked who would commit to immediate obedience, regardless of cost, close to 100 people joined me at the front in prayer. Yesterday, I asked for volunteers to join me in doing prayer walks throughout Poznań. Almost twenty people joined me and committed to prayer walking in 15 neighborhoods throughout greater Poznań. They will be doing a weekly prayer walk for the next three to four months, asking God to open their hearts and minds to the lost around them. It is our dream that by April we will see a number of Bible studies started through these faithful prayer warriors.

## **You can help!**

I am looking for volunteers who will commit to praying with these faithful folks for the next three to four month. If you would like to commit to weekly prayer for one of these faithful, please let me know and I will send you information about a specific individual including the day, hour and neighborhood they have selected. If you are willing to wake up and pray when they are actually doing their prayer

walk, please let me know and I'll set you up with someone who will be prayer walking in the morning.

**Other Prayer Requests:**

- Please pray for Karen as we wait on results from recent lab tests taken. There is still something going on in her body that has the doctor wanting to look a little deeper. Pray for peace as she waits on the tests, especially that she won't dwell on the "what might be's".
- Please pray for the prayer walks and some of the other new directions that God is directing us to in ministry. We are excited and a little scared as we look to Him to direct us.

Thanks so much for your prayers and support. We so appreciate you and know that your faithfulness allows us to minister in Poland.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Paul (for us all)

P.S. Both Karen and I now have a Facebook account. Look us up if you have an account. Also, AT&T shut down our email accounts (pkhaenze@att.net and karen\_haenze@att.net). If you are still sending to those accounts, please change our address to phaenze@gmail.com (Paul) and khaenze@gmail.com (Karen). Please note that we no longer have a common account, so if you wish something to get to both of us, please send it to both accounts.

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"The church is the church only when it exists for others."

"Kościół tylko wtedy staje się Kościołem, kiedy istnieje dla tych, którzy pozostają poza nim."

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer--