

Poland has never experienced revival on such a scale as the UK

**Andrzej's story:**

I grew up in a small town, not far from the capital – Warsaw (central part of Poland). A very ordinary family struggling in the difficult economic climate, and like many, nominally involved in the local Roman Catholic Church. By the time I had reached university I had been influenced by some of my older friends who were returning from their studies in Warsaw; this was back in 1993. These bright friends who had left as sceptical, young guys, interested in everything from oriental spirituality to the occult, returned quite changed and I was deeply impressed. After spending a month or so in talks with them, I came to find what they had found - a living faith in Jesus Christ! Then I moved to Warsaw and became a member of a charismatic church, and was baptised there, but after a while I noticed that this was not a good place for me and I left that church. I found a Baptist Church in Warsaw and knowing that the pastor is a good, godly man I became a member there. One day when searching



the internet trying to learn about Baptists I found good stuff about C.H. Spurgeon and his writings. This moved me more and more into reformed literature and other great reformed preachers who became my inspiration. I began studying part time at the Warsaw Baptist Theological Seminary and at the same time was working in the IT

# New Wo

*Andrzej and Monika Kempczyński have been sent back to their native Poland by Grace Baptist Chapel, Tottenham to plant a new church in Legionowo. This is their story.*

department of a Warsaw bank. I met my wife when I was in the charismatic church and we got married in 2000.

I finished Seminary in Warsaw but was not satisfied. I started searching the internet for a reformed college and came across London Theological Seminary. I already knew that God was calling me to serve him full time and that seminary seemed a right next step for me. We moved to London in 2006 and I started the seminary in 2007 and finished this year. God has been very gracious to us and as the time was passing the question was: 'What shall we do next, Lord?' He gave us an answer. We knew without a doubt that we had to move back to Poland to serve Him, but in the beginning we didn't know how we should serve him. The answer came - start church planting in the town of Legionowo. Both of us knew that this was our calling from God.

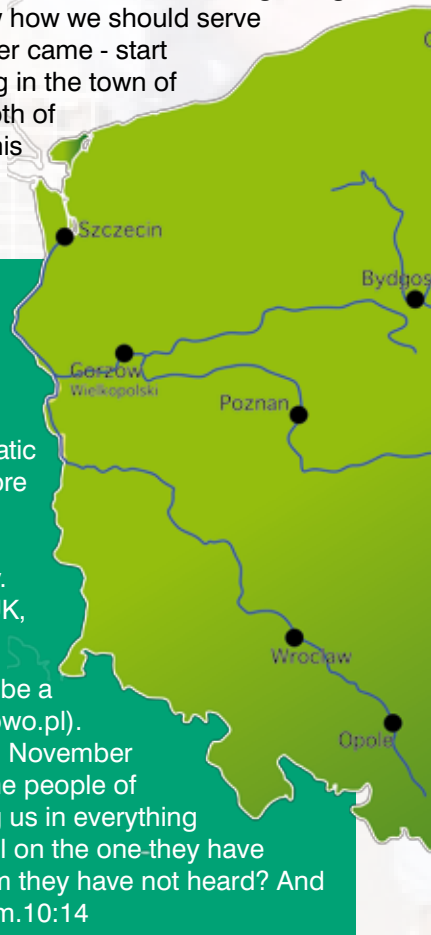
Legionowo Saturday market



Legionowo town square

Legionowo has 50,000 inhabitants and there are no Protestant churches, just a Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall and a couple of Roman Catholic churches. There are only a few reformed churches in Poland. We desperately lack preachers. Those who are in ministry, and are faithful, mostly struggle to survive financially, and support themselves with another job. Charismatic churches draw young people, other Christian churches are more full of the older generation. Poland is 95% Roman Catholic but many already stopped attending the church, not finding there anything else except politics and priests who want only money. Poland has never experienced revival on such a scale as the UK, therefore we have much to learn from your preachers.

I set up a website about our work and hope that this will also be a helpful tool in communication with people ([www.misjalegionowo.pl](http://www.misjalegionowo.pl)). We are looking for a place to hire for the Bible courses and in November starting a home group. We need God to open the hearts of the people of Legionowo and we need help from the Holy Spirit in directing us in everything we do. Legionowo is on our heart because 'How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?' Rom.10:14



# Workers for Poland

**Monika's story:** I grew up in north Poland, close to the Baltic sea in a very small town and was brought up in a very religious Roman Catholic family. From a very young age I was very aware of my sinful nature, I couldn't sleep at night because I was scared that if I died I would go to hell. Confessing my sins to the priest only helped me for a day or two. I tried to find God in the church by my deeds, longing to have a close relationship with him but everything I tried didn't help. He seemed to me to be a God far, far away, and only my judge. I also tried to read the Bible but I couldn't understand it so quickly gave up.

I was seventeen and in the secondary school when this situation totally changed. There was a girl in my class who was different to the others. She was reading the Bible! I wanted to speak to her and this finally happened when we had to do homework together. I asked her about her faith and she simply told me the Gospel, described her relationship with God and asked me if I would like to have it as well? That was what I was waiting and searching for! We prayed together, I gave my life to Jesus and God changed my life from that moment completely. The fear of death disappeared, I started to have wonderful peace, assurance



of my salvation and I started to enjoy my close relationship with God. I read the Bible and found pleasure doing it, and attended a home group in my friend's home, the only Christian gathering in my home town. I was baptised in one of the Polish lakes, and a year later moved to Warsaw to study. I

became a member of the same charismatic church as Andrzej, and we became friends for the next few years. He was serving in the church technical team and I was singing in a choir and playing an acoustic guitar. I announced to my parents that I wouldn't go to the Catholic Church anymore.

They became furious, swearing, crying, shouting; it was awful. They tried to force me to change my mind. When that failed they tried promising nice things if I only turned back. I need to say that my parents are very lovely and gave me a wonderful childhood and that such reaction was only because they were hurt, ashamed and scared. They couldn't understand why I gave up the only 'true church' and tradition. God however was with me and helped me to get through. As the years passed they started to accept me, but we still pray for their salvation.

In 1998 I left the charismatic church and went to Bible College in Horsham, UK, for one year. I was all the time in telephone and email contact with Andrzej and we fell in love with each other at a distance! Upon my return from the college I joined the Baptist Church where Andrzej already was and a few months later we got married. Influenced by him I also started to read puritan and reformed preachers' writings and became reformed.

*Legionowo shopping centre*

