



Pointing People to Christ

ANABAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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PLANTING A SEED OF TRUTH

Contributing author Szymon Matusiak discusses the audience and value of the Seed of Truth

The following article is contributed by Szymon Matusiak. Szymon was a Jehovah's Witness elder for many years before converting to Evangelical Christianity. He is active in evangelical churches as a writer, speaker, and translator. Szymon helps to edit Seed of Truth and is an enthusiastic supporter of AIM.

The fifty thousand Evangelical Christians of Poland are a tiny minority compared to the vast numbers of Roman Catholics, which consist of more than thirty million members. The spiritual state of Evangelical churches varies. There is no single denomination which is entirely healthy. Rather we can talk about strong or weak local churches. One can find good local churches in many denominations. There are serious churches which practice nonresistance, head covering and feet-washing, such as the Christian Pentecostal Fellowship and also unregistered simple churches (also Pentecostal). They have many serious believers. However, apostasy or compromise is a problem faced by

some sincere believers in our Lord. Some denominations have recently abandoned sound positions regarding divorce and remarriage. Some leaders do not see anything wrong with the use of secular psychology in church counseling or participate in ecumenism. Some independent house churches have formed in response to the compromises of established local churches.

Our magazine is most appreciated by strong believers in Christ who are dissatisfied with diluted versions of the Gospel. They share a strong desire for serious teaching and good Christian life. I will let them speak for themselves through testimony we have received:

"This is the magazine for which I look forward. I read it with great interest and I impatiently wait for each next issue. I read it from cover to cover, including Youth and Children Sections. I cannot find proper words of appreciation for all the articles, because I always find something in them which is helpful in my life. My spirit is greatly uplifted by experiences

of faithful Christians described in the Book section. I always wait for that section "holding my breath", but Editorial and Teaching section helps me to learn Biblical viewpoint on many things which we face every day. Great reading indeed, very different from magazines devoid of valuable content, giving rubbish to human mind. Since I started receiving the

(continued)



David Lawrynowicz packing SOT for mailing to subscribers.

Seed of Truth magazine, it is my only magazine and I do not feel a need to buy and read magazines for women which present various counsels, very often anti-Christian ones. I would like to express my heart-felt thanks to God and all the brothers who do such wonderful job and thus help us to better do God's will and form our life in Christ" (Ewa [Eve], Evangelical Christian Church, Torun).

Sister Ewa is not alone in her opinion. There are many voices like that which affirm that the Seed of Truth is filling a vacuum in the Polish Christian literature market. A certain sixty-year-old brother with much experience in Christian ministry stated that articles presented in our magazine convey ideas and ethics which are not common in other Christian periodicals.

A good example of the impact of the magazine is the fact that more and more people are interested in AIM's regular conferences. The last conference in May was so encouraging for gathered believers that there is a need to organize conferences each year, not every second year. The background of gathered people shows that those people really search for a fully committed Christian life. Attending members of an independent church from Gorzów Wielkopolski could not feel at home in any compromised church in their city. They look after orphans as a foster families, have high ethical standards, and practice the head covering. Also present was a group of Seventh Day Adventists who rejected the teachings of the prophetess Ellen G. White and came searching for truth. A large group came from a denominational Evangelical Christian Church which recently decided that no divorced person (or living in the second marriage) can be a deacon, elder, evangelist, presbyter or pastor in any church. Most people who came were attracted to us by our magazine. Quite often readers visit our church in Minsk.



Peter and Susanna Lawrynowicz packing SOT.

We are grateful that our good Heavenly Father gathers true believers and true seekers around sound teaching. We are getting to know more and more people who are deeply committed to Christ, want to have good relationship with the Mennonite Church, are interested in its literature.

Here are some additional words of appreciation from Seed of Truth readers:

"I have great pleasure to share that for me, Seed of Truth is significant in the Christian publishing market. It's very readable and understandable for all readers. It's also worth mentioning the strong Biblical content of the the articles, which is not true of all Christian periodicals.

I'm writing this as a permanent subscriber, and I'm also sharing the opinions of those who I pass the magazine on to.

I wish you God's blessings as you work on the upcoming issues and continue in fulfilling your Christian mission."

Z. L.G., Baptist Church in Ostroda

"As a distributor of 150 copies of SOT monthly, my opinion is only positive. For me it's important that the articles in this publication are based on truth from God's Word. I believe this is the greatest value of this magazine. The second positive aspect is, that it reaches all age groups. During our evening family devotions, I often use articles from Seed of Truth which greatly pleases my children. They love the stories and tales for children in this magazine. The Bible teaching is clear, solid and most importantly, faithful to God's Word not only in name. This magazine is beneficial for every person who is seeking truth for building up and growing spiritually. I find it strange that in churches, so few people take this magazine, although looking at the current situation, fewer and fewer Christians turn to God's word for comfort, exhortation, and direction in life. I've observed, though, that in our area there is more and more interest in Seed of Truth from people outside the evangelical church. This situation shows me the great need for knowing the Lord Jesus.

Summing it up: it's a valuable magazine, clear, spiritual, needed especially in today's times—some are departing from God—and needed for those who are seeking His presence."

Arkadiusz Furman, Evangelical Church, Janikowo

Producing SOT

by Lavern Hershberger

AIM has been publishing the monthly Christian magazine Seed of Truth (SOT) since January 2010, in cooperation with Christian Aid Ministries. CAM also publishes SOT in Romania, Ukraine, and other countries. Seed of Truth is a family magazine with articles in various sections: family, doctrine, history, practical, children, and a continued story.

We have found this magazine to be a significant channel of connection with Polish Christians. Evangelical Christians are a minority in Poland, and many of them are quite isolated. Subscriptions continue to increase steadily. Current circulation is at 4,200 issues per month.

Producing an issue of Seed of Truth is a long and involved process. Alvin Mast and the rest of the CAM literature team in Ohio choose articles from Mennonite and other Christian publications in the United States. They send these articles to the AIM team in Poland. Here in Poland, we send the articles to our translator and then to two editors for several steps of proofreading to produce an understandable, natural-sounding Polish text. The layout person prepares the graphics and sends the magazine to the printer in the United States. After printing, the magazines are shipped to various countries for distribution. When they arrive here in Poland, we send them out by mail to churches and individuals. It takes about a year from the time an article is selected until the readers see it.

In the four years we have published SOT, it has become more obvious that the articles are meeting a real need. We have been especially encouraged by our contacts this year with readers, and especially those who attended the conference in May. We pray for wisdom to know in what ways we can continue to encourage each other.

Personnel Announcement

The board is grateful to announce that Jonathan and Heather Miller have agreed to serve in Poland. Jonathan and Heather are members at the Lighthouse congregation in Abbeville, South Carolina. They have three children: Damaris, Johann, and Patrick. They tentatively plan to move to Poland in early spring 2014. We thank God for this answer to our prayers!

Financial Needs

One of the major elements of preparation and planning is the need for additional financial support. For the past number of months the mission has squeaked by from month to month, barely covering expenses. The board desires to move forward in faith that God will provide the needed finances to support a second family in Poland, but at the same time we feel the importance of counting the cost and acting responsibly. We are seeking for pledges of support will enable the board to plan more effectively. The average monthly cost for a second family is at least \$2,500.

If the Lord leads you to partner with AIM in this way, please communicate your pledge to the board by email at homeoffice@aimpoland.org or by calling 814-789-4394.

VBS Staff Needed

Three men and three ladies are needed to help with Vacation Bible School in Poland in July. We invite you to join a team bringing the the gospel to Polish children. You can be the one person in a child's life who tells them about Jesus through songs, games, Bible lessons, and English lessons. Training is provided. Team members need to provide their own support. Email Shannon Lehman, sklmail124@gmail.com, for more information.



We were very encouraged by a visit from a small church in western Poland. We first came in contact with them through Seed of Truth.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Monthly Sponsorship:
 ___\$10 ___\$20 ___\$50 ___\$100 _____ (Other)
 ___ Gateway to English school
 ___ Seed of Truth magazine
 ___ General needs

One-time donation: \$ _____
 ___ **Gateway to English** school
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 ___ General needs

Please send your pledge and/or check to:

Anabaptist International Ministries

P.O. Box 62
 Guys Mills, PA 16327

And email your pledge to:
 aimpoland@aimpoland.org

Be sure to include this card when sending your donation.
 Note on your check specifically what your donation is for.

AIM Financial Report
 July 1 — December 31, 2013

Available balance July 1, 2013 \$9,818

Income

Unrestricted donations..... \$42,002
 Restricted donations \$14,324
 English lessons..... \$11,629
 Total income \$67,955

Expenses

Labor \$25,525
 Administrative \$241
 Facilities \$12,252
 Personnel..... \$4,869
 Public relations \$2,058
 Publications \$9,708
 Supplies \$2,323
 Utilities \$2,591
 Other expenses \$46
 Total expenses \$59,521

Net profit (loss)..... \$8,434

Prior period adjustment (\$3,720)
 Assets released from restriction..... \$16,892
 Restricted funds December 31, 2013 \$0

Available unrestricted funds

December 31, 2013 \$17,100

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