



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH  
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 38  
YEARS  
1982-2020



## THE CORNERSTONE

August 2020



### Mom Encouragement

By  
Fabi Morris

The pandemic has given families a lot more time together. What a great blessing and stress inducer rolled up in one!

As I've contemplated the great blessing and responsibility of shepherding children I've come to realize something. Our kids learn a lot more from how we talk to them than from what we're saying. Their self-image and view of God is influenced by how we approach them. Our tone can convey - you're important to me; God has great things in store for you. You are loved.

Or,

You're hopeless. You'll never learn will you? You irritate me.

Ouch!

This girl grew up in urban Jersey and spent 8 years in the Navy. Let's just say my tone has been under repair for quite some time. This has led to a deep appreciation, as a parent, for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to guide and correct. As we keep our lifeline connected, daily, to the source of all grace and beauty, He is faithful to smooth out our rough edges.

When we stumble, it's a fresh opportunity to model repentance, forgiveness, and humility as we make amends with our children if we've wronged them.

Just remember, in the day in day out of parenting life, it's far more important to be loving than to be heard. Your children will remember how you made them feel long after they've forgotten exactly what it was you said.

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we many know the things freely given to us by God" 1 Corinthians 2:12

## Missions for the Month

# Capturing Poland for Christ

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." II Cor. 4:7 (NIV)*

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## January-February 2020

### Winter Projects

In January and February, besides regular preaching at Narew Baptist church and churches in our region, we launched two projects:

#### 1. Tires for Pastors

We donated tires for four pastors this season and all of them are so grateful. This is an amazing winter in Poland. It is almost the end of February and we had no snow in our part of the country. I am 61 and do not remember winter like this.



*Piotr with tires for pastors.*



*Marek is loading his van with tires.*

Rev. Irek Dawidowicz from Bialystok received a set of tires for his car. Then Marek Głodek distributed our tires for three other pastors: Jerzy Januszyk in Szczytno, Grzegorz Gawrych in Elk and Grzegorz Skobel in Zelow. Here are their comments:



Andy Woods—Pastor

## Signs of the Times for 2020

(Part 6)

In our first installment, we observed that the Bible places much emphasis on the signs related to Christ's return (Matt. 24:33; Luke 21:28; Heb. 10:25, etc.). Observing these signs helps us ascertain that general time of human history in which we find ourselves. We noted that if the signs of the Tribulation period are rapidly approaching, and the rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation period, then the rapture must be coming even faster. Thus, we began to ask ourselves, what are some of these signs that are now setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period? We selected the following *seven* signs as deserving of analysis to be covered

in this series:

1. Signs related to Israel
2. Signs related to international politics
3. Signs related to economics
4. Signs related to technology
5. Signs related to spirituality
6. Signs related to society
7. Signs related to understanding Bible prophecy

Therefore, this series is dedicated to exploring the *seven* signs related to the soon return of Jesus Christ. As a result of this teaching, may we all grow in our understanding of the unique time in which we now live.

### 1. Signs Related to Israel

There are several signs meriting discussion concerning the modern state of Israel. These include Israel's miraculous political rebirth in 1948, recapturing of Old Testament Jerusalem in 1967, ambition to rebuild her third Temple, and a desire for peace at any cost with her hostile neighbors. In the last installment, we focused on Israel's desire to live in harmony with her hostile neighbors. Before moving on to signs related to international politics, let us briefly mention a few more signs related to the nation of Israel. They include Israel's mountainous regions, earthquake-prone topography, and burgeoning wealth. In this installment, we will focus on *Israel's mountainous regions and topography*.

#### Israel's Mountainous Areas

Another sign related to the nation of Israel is that Israel must have mountainous areas within her borders. Ezekiel 39:2, 4 predicts that the nations during the Tribulation period will invade Israel's mountains. These verses say: "2 and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the *mountains of Israel*... 4 You will fall on the *mountains of Israel*, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field" (italics added). Quite obviously, for this prophecy to be literally fulfilled, Israel must first acquire vast mountainous regions. As explained, by prophecy expert Mark Hitchcock, such was not the case prior to Israel's Six-Day War in 1967.

According to Ezekiel 39:2, 4, Israel must possess the 'mountains of Israel' when this invasion occurs...The famous Six Day war in Israel in 1967 helped set the stage for this to be fulfilled. Before the Six Day War, all the mountains of Israel, with the exception of a small strip of west Jerusalem, were in the hands of the Jordanian Arabs. Only since 1967 have the mountains of Israel been in Israel, thus setting the stage for the fulfillment of this prophecy. (Mark Hitchcock, *The Amazing Claims of Bible Prophecy: What You Need to Know in These Uncertain Times* (Harvest House: Eugene, OR, 2010), 211).

Beyond this, in March of 2019, United States' President Donald Trump was instrumental in allowing Israel to retain sovereignty over the Golan Heights in northern Israel. This area also represents a mountainous region creating a critical military defensive buffer zone in between Israel and Syria. Syria is the nation located to the North directly adjacent to Israel. Interestingly, Ezekiel predicts that Russia, Turkey, and Iran will be part of a coalition of nations that will invade Israel in the last days (Ezek. 38–39). Today, these very three nations are perched in Syria in preparation for this final battle. Thus, to fulfill this prophetic destiny, these three nations must first pass from Syria through the Golan Heights and its accompanying mountainous areas on Israel's Northern border. Such a mountainous area would not exist within Israel's borders had it not been for the very recent recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. All of this to say, both the 1967 Six Day War as well as the recent Israeli Golan Heights recognition allowing Israel to acquire mountainous areas up North constitute key prophetic stage setting events in preparation for an invasion from the North into the mountains of Israel as is predicted by the prophet Ezekiel (Ezek. 39:2, 4).

### Israel's Topography

Prophetic Scripture also indicates that part of the end times scenario will include massive earthquakes within the borders to Israel. For example, Ezekiel 38:19-20 indicates:

<sup>19</sup> In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a *great earthquake in the land of Israel*. <sup>20</sup> The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and *all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake* at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground (italics added).

Concerning the Israeli City of Jerusalem (Rev. 11:8), Revelation 11:13 similarly predicts, “And in that hour there was a *great earthquake*, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the *earthquake*, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven” (italics added).

How easy it is to contemplate the ultimate fulfillment of these prophecies within the land of Israel when it is first understood how vulnerable Israel's topography already is to giant earthquakes. Note this recent article from the *Times of Israel* warning of this very thing:

Scientists say thousands could die because Israel, which sits on a major fault line, has ignored warnings to strengthen homes and schools. After a series of minor tremors rattled northern Israel over the last two weeks, experts warned that the country is negligently unprepared for a major earthquake that would likely kill thousands of people, including many children. ‘The threat of an earthquake, is in my eyes, the greatest threat facing the state of Israel,’ geologist Ariel Heimann told Hadashot news on Friday...‘It is definitely a greater threat than the Qassam [rockets] fired from Gaza, and it is a far greater danger than the Iranian threat.’ Israel sits on the Syrian-African rift, a tear in the earth's crust running the length of the border separating Israel and Jordan, and is part of the Great Rift Valley, which extends from northern Syria to Mozambique. ‘If, God forbid, we have an earthquake like this, it will leave thousands dead and hundreds of thousands of people will have to leave their homes. Houses will be destroyed, there will be massive economic damage that will set the country back dozens of years,’ Heimann warned. (*After Tremors, Experts Warn a Huge Quake is the Greatest Threat Facing Israel*, Times of Israel 14 July 2018, [https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-tremors-experts-warn-a-huge-quake-is-the-greatest-threat-facing-israel/14 July 2018](https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-tremors-experts-warn-a-huge-quake-is-the-greatest-threat-facing-israel/14-July-2018)).

All of this to say that Israel's mountainous areas and earthquake-prone topography constitute therefore other key signs that we are rapidly approaching the events of the Tribulation period. In our next installment, we will focus on Israel's burgeoning wealth as yet another key indicator of and sign of the end.

(To Be Continued...)

**Rev. Januszyk said:** “Two years ago I purchased a 12 year old car, borrowing part of the mon-ey from friends. Tires were worn out and I was praying for new tires. Especially at winter in our Mazurian area roads are treacherous to travel. I was elected to be the chairman for the Christmas Project - presents for the children in a shoe box. It requires lots of driving. Piotr, please say thank you to all of your donors for the amazing gift to me in form of new tires. I will be much more secure because of your gift. I am married to Kristina my wife and we have three kids.”



**Rev. Grzegorz Skobel** who began his work with the Zelow Baptist Church in central Poland said: “Piotr, thanks so much for the set of tires for my car. We were not be able to afford to replace them, as this size is expensive (he has old SUV car). “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace.” (Isaiah 52:7). I feel like my feet have new shoes when our car has received new tires. I will be more effective in the minis-try of proclamation. Thank you, thank you so much.”



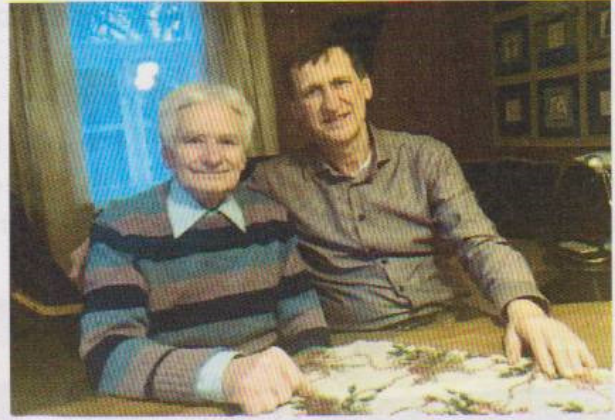
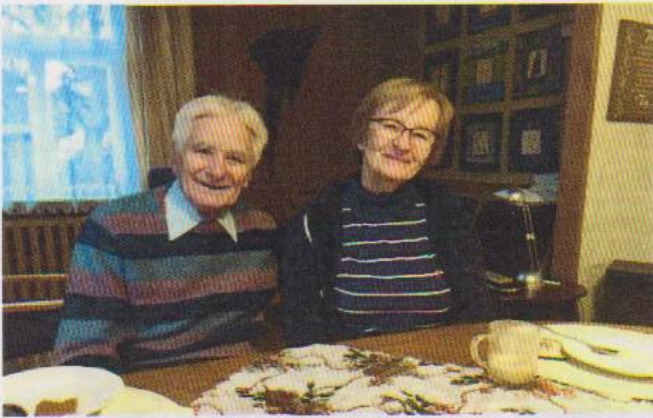
**Rev. Grzegorz Gawrych said:** “Dear Piotr, your gift of a set of tires for our car is witness of God’s love and care for us and for our security on the roads. Rev. Marek Głodek who brought them to us came in perfect time with your gift. We desperately needed them. We are coordinat-ing ministry in Elk among families with disabled children and are adapting a building on our church property for this project. We want to reach out with the love of Jesus to those families.

Please pray for us. Thanks again for such fantastic gift of new tires.”



## 2. Food for the Faithful

Retired pastor, Konstanty Jakoniuk and his wife Marysia received me so warmly to their home in Bielsk Podlaski. They appreciated the food parcel I brought to them. He was the pastor of my dad and mom, so we had great moments to recall their lives. Konstanty told me a story about my dad from communist days. Dad never told us about his Olympic Bible Project. “In 1980 while Moscow was preparing for the Olympic games, your father organized a way to smuggle 1000 Bibles for Russians through the Polish Olympic team.” said Rev. Jakoniuk.



Wasia (90) and Luda (85) Maksimiuk are another couple on my list. Every Sunday while I am preaching in Narew, I take a detour to drive through their village Nowa Wola to bring them to the church. The roads are demanding for my car suspension, but the way this elderly people are so gracious, is rewarding. Wasia is a retired pastor. They appreciated food supplies very much and are grateful to our ministry partners so much.



### 3. Katowice Revival

On February 22-23 I was invited to preach in Katowice, a major city of southern Poland. Pastor Jerzy Rogaczewski, a dear friend of mine, was my ministry partner while we were organizing youth mission camps in southern Poland in early 2000. People from Iowa, from Harmony Bible Church, sent to us their groups, so they might remember those blessed times. Rev. Jerzy Rogaczewski was our preacher and musician at the camp.

Rev. Stefan Rogaczewski, Jerzy's father, was pastor of the Baptist Church in Katowice since the early 70s. The church of 150 members was "homeless", renting a sanctuary from another evangelical church. They wanted to build their own sanctuary, but could not receive permission to build, as Poland was a communist state, hostile toward Christians.

In December of 1977 Jimmy Carter visited Poland on one of his first foreign trips as President of the United States. It was a turning point for Baptists in Katowice. The communist leader of Poland, Edward Gierek, at that time was from Katowice. President Carter, besides his official meetings, met with Baptist leaders and Rev. Rogaczewski presented his request and deep desire to build the church in his city.

Soon after the Carter's visit, early in 1978, Baptists in Katowice received permission to build the church. The location was approved by the rulers, so they started the project in 1978 and

finished in 1985. Those were the days under communism: persecution and restriction, hostility and resentment toward Christians.

The very same year the work was finished they entered the new church and an evangelist from Chicago, Floyd Ankerberg, led the first crusade in the new building. I was 27 years old, a young pastor from Lublin Baptist Church. I was asked to interpret for such a noble evangelist and event. I still remember the crusade very well, remember that people were coming forward to pray while invitation was given.



35 years later, I preached on Sunday morning February 22, 2020. When I asked people to trust Christ and come forward to pray with me, eleven came to trust Christ for salvation. More raised their hands but did not show up publicly by coming to the platform to pray.

The couple: Marzena and Michał, Patryk, Łukasz, Grazyna, Nina, Tomek, Alina, Henryk, Wanda came forward to pray with us.



*Pastor Jerzy is counseling new converts.*



*Pastor Marek is praying with Nina.*

The week before my departure to Katowice our ministry car broke down, the engine died and required complete restoration. It took longer than a week in to repair it. It cost me \$900, an unexpected expense. I had asked my ministry partner Rev. Marek Głodek to join me on this long trip and he did. We drove to Katowice with his car and both preached on Saturday to both groups of people. God has blessed our ministry in southern Poland and we returned with joy, praising God that He still moves and is saving people.

In His Name,  
Piotr Wiazowski

## Scripture of the month - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.