



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



THE CORNERSTONE

May 2020



Sugar Land Bible Church

RIDE THE RAILS THIS YEAR AT VBS!

Sugar Land BIBLE CHURCH

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BOARDING PASS

★ ADMIT ONE ★

JUNE 8-12 2020

TRACK NO.	CLASS	SEAT
401 MATLAGE	FIRST	1L11

ADDITIONAL SEAT INFORMATION

It is with great sadness we announce that we have decided to cancel this year's VBS. With all that is going on, school functions pushed to July/August, summer camps, and the lack of clear instructions moving into the summer, not to mention social distancing guidelines and what that will look like in the months ahead. We believe it is in the best interest of all to push our current theme to next year.

We want to thank everyone for the support we receive every year, and we hope to see everyone next year!

In Him,

KC Cunningham
 SLBC Children's Ministry



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)

<u>In the U.S.</u> Capturing Poland For Christ P.O Box 131494 SPRING, TX 77393	<u>In Poland</u> Oblokow #21 Bialystok 15-156, Poland E-mail: piotrwiad@icloud.com
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Dear Friends,

"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)

In the midst of the fears and uncertain times regarding the COVID-19 virus, Grazyna and I want to dedicate to you the Scripture reading:

Psalm 141: "O Lord, I call to you; come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up my hands be like the evening sacrifice. (v.1-2)

Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging" (v.1-3)

Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress." (v.10-11)

We all as family are fine and healthy here in Poland, yet all our preplanned mission events are postponed. Revival and prison visits in Lithuania, preaching in Poland, church visits, expository preaching classes in Warsaw Seminary. My trip to Texas to visit with you this April-May is also postponed to later this fall or even 2021. Only God knows the time.

Be safe, be wise, and most of all, be not afraid.

My prayer is that many who are searching for peace and comfort these days turn to God and find Him as Lord and Savior. May He be glorified! Thank you so much for your prayers for us here in Poland, we deeply appreciate it.

"But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."
(2 Chronicles 15:7)

Piotr Wiazowski
Capturing Poland for Christ

**Andy Woods—Pastor**

Signs of the Times for 2020

(Part 3)

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 period 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 forthcoming 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 period 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 desire to live in harmony with her hostile neighbors. In our last installment we focused upon Israel's miraculous political rebirth in 1948. In this installment, we will focus on *Israel's recapturing of Old Testament Jerusalem in 1967*.

According to the end times scenario as predicted in the Bible, Israel must have control not only of the ancient area known as Judea and Samaria, but also the city of Jerusalem. Notice Matthew 24:15-16, which says, "[15] Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), [16] then those who are in *Judea* must flee to the mountains" (italics added). Matthew 24:20 furnishes the obvious Jewish context of these verses when it says, "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a *Sabbath*" (italics added). Since the Church corporately gathers on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2) rather than on the Sabbath, or the last day of the week, these verses obviously concern the nation of Israel rather than the Church. Matthew 24:21-22 further indicates that these events will take place during the future tribulation period. These verses say, "[21] For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. [22] Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short." Thus, according to Matthew 24:15-16, when a certain and future generation of Jews in Jerusalem sees their temple dese-

crated during the tribulation period, as they are living in Judea, they must flee to the mountains. Quite obviously, for this prophecy to be fulfilled, that the nation of Israel must first be in Judea when they see their temple desecrated.

Other prophecies not only predict Israel reclaiming of Judea and Samaria, but also the ancient City of Jerusalem, which exists within the geographical area of Judea. For example, Zechariah 12:2-3 predicts, “[2] Behold, I am going to make *Jerusalem* a cup that causes reeling to *all the peoples around*; and when the siege is against *Jerusalem*, it will also be against Judah. [3] It will come about in that day that I will make *Jerusalem* a heavy stone for *all the peoples*; *all* who lift it will be severely injured. And *all the nations* of the earth will be gathered against it” (italics added). Very clearly, these verses from the prophet Zechariah predict that in the last days all the nations of the earth will come against the Israelis while they are dwelling within the City of Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:2-3 similarly predicts, “[2] For I will gather *all the nations* against *Jerusalem* to battle, and the *city* will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the *city* exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the *city*. [3] Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those *nations*, as when He fights on a day of battle” (italics added). Notice that these verses again predict that all the nations will ultimately come against Israel in Jerusalem. Obviously then, for these prophecies from Zechariah to have their fulfillment, the nation of Israel must first gain political control over Jerusalem. After all, how can the nations of the earth come against the Israelis’ residing in Jerusalem if the nation of Israel has not first occupied Jerusalem?

Although, as discussed in the prior installment, Israel won her independent statehood in her War of Independence in 1948, prior to 1967, she still had no control over Judea and Samaria and the City of Jerusalem. Then, in June of 1967, in what is called The Six Day War, Israel regained jurisdiction over what is sometimes called the “West Bank.” Personally, I do not like the expression “West Bank” because this territory is only west from Jordan’s point of view. Jordan is the nation residing directly adjacent to the nation of Israel on the eastern side of the Jordan River. However, the so-called “West Bank” is not west from Israel’s point of view. Rather, this territory is located to the east from Israel’s perspective. Words mean things. When we use the expression “West Bank” we are taking sides in a political controversy oftentimes without even recognizing it. The biblical name for this area that Israel regained control of in the Six Day War is Judea and Samaria (Acts 1:8).

Certainly, nobody would have bet on the Israelis in either her War of Independence in May of 1948 or the Six Day War in June of 1967. Yet, on both occasions, Israel miraculously won despite overwhelming odds. In 1967, not only did Israel win against overwhelming odds, but she also expanded her territory to include the City of Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria. These are all geographical areas that the nation must be in control over and residing within for the above-mentioned prophecies (Matt. 24:15-16; Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2-3) to be fulfilled. In other words, if I am understanding Bible prophecy correctly, Israel must first have control of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. In 1967, as a result of the Six Day War, this very thing happened. These geopolitical events should be understood as the miraculous stage-setting hand of God.

All of this to say that Israel’s political recapturing of Judea and Samaria and the City of Jerusalem within Judea in 1967 constitutes therefore a key sign demonstrating that we are rapidly approaching the events of the Tribulation period. We will explore more signs related to the nation of Israel in our next installment. Specifically, we will focus on Israel’s ambition to rebuild her third temple.

(To Be Continued...)

The following are some ministry highlights taken from the Fall 2019 newsletter.

Lithuania Revival, September 21-24

From September 21-24 I went to Ukmerge, Lithuania (a five hour drive) to preach revival there. Pastor Kestas Kalauskas welcomed me very warmly and invited another pastor from Kaunas to interpret for me that Sunday. It was such a joy to share the Good news with them. They are a group of 35-40 people, an unregistered church, in the city of 25,000. I encouraged them to be more courageous and to not be afraid to go out, register the church and share the Good News with city authorities. They lived under the suppression of communism for many years and you can see it in their behavior and mindsets. After the church service, the ladies prepared a meal for all of us. Kestas and Jolanta received me to their home in a village 20 miles away from the town. I brought them food from Poland: sausage, cheese, coffee, and candies, tomatoes and fresh vegetables, soft drinks and soda. Their food prices are higher than in Poland. They still have five kids at home.



Piotr with pastors in Ukmerge.

Kestas and Jolanta at home.

The next two days we ministered to different groups of prisoners in a prison located near the large city of Kaunas. Every time I travel there, I remember the Scripture when Jesus said: "I was in prison and you came to visit me..." (Matthew 25:36)



Piotr is speaking to prisoners through interpreter (pictures from previous visits).

In one of the groups I delivered a message "The Prodigal Son" and asked the question: "What is your desire and dream in this life?" The prisoner looked up and said, "To have a wonderful life." I shared Scripture verses with him and explained how to have wonderful life with Christ. Only with Jesus Christ we can have a wonderful life in this life and after. I brought financial support to both pastors. Both of them are invited to Poland in the Spring of 2020 for a Pastoral Conference in War-



Scripture of the Month

MATHEW 6:33-34

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

saw. We will cover their expenses including the conference fee, meals and accommodation. I want to train them in evangelism.

News From Ministry Partners

1. Rev. Marek Glodek: Thanks so much for the large donation towards the purchase of a vehicle. I was able to buy a 10 year old car still in good shape. Marek is in a national ministry project, Ministry to Ministers, helping and counseling pastors who are on the edge of resignation from ministry.

2. Rev. Gregory Bednarczyk asked for a donation towards furnishing their church auditorium with chairs. We have sent to him a donation for 10 new chairs. "Piotr, please send words of gratitude to all of your donors from us." Gregory.



3. Rev. Irek Dawidowicz received a donation for his needs and the needs of his church. His church celebrated their 10th anniversary the last Sunday of October. I was invited to speak there. Rev Dawidowicz noted that before they planted the church, we prepared the ground and vision for them when in 1994-97 we were there for several years renting the hall in the city and preaching the Gospel.

A Note from Pastor Andy Woods

Beloved, I thought I would share a few action items that we can all take part in so as to maintain our spiritual walk during this difficult time of social distancing and self-quarantine. First, start off each day with Scripture meditation. You might consider making it a habit to read at least one chapter of Proverbs and one Psalm per day. Second, rest in God's promises. One of my personal favorites is found in Romans 8:28, which says, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Third, listen to worship music. There are many songs that no doubt minister to your heart. Now is also the time to explore some of the great hymns of the faith. Nothing changes the mood better than availing oneself to such melodies (1 Sam. 16:16; Col. 3:16). Fourth, while respecting proper social-distancing guidelines, do not forget to get outside. Take a walk. Breathe fresh air. Enjoy the beauty and majesty of God's creation. Fifth, take the opportunity that solitude provides to pray often (1 Thess. 5:17). Enjoy communion with both your creator and redeemer. Sixth, remember that you are part of a larger spiritual body (1 Cor. 12). Stay connected with fellow believers via social media and other means so that you can be blessed by them as well as be a blessing to them. Along with this, we encourage you to take advantage of our regular live streaming that we are now doing in lieu of our regular Wednesday and Sunday morning gatherings. We live stream Sunday school, the main service, and Wednesday night Bible study during our normal teaching times. Also, our youth pastor Gabriel Morris is live streaming youth group teachings as well. Seventh, remember that during this troubled time God's presence will never leave us (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5). Scripture is replete with examples of God's presence with His people even in the most difficult of circumstances. Think of Daniel in the Lions' den, the three Hebrew youths in the fiery furnace, and the prison experiences of Joseph, Peter, and Paul. God has not changed in this regard (Mal. 3:6). He will certainly also be with us during this difficult time of isolation. Finally, stay productive (1 Thess. 4:11). Think of all of the things that you wish you could have done but your normal hectic schedule would not allow it. Well, now is your golden opportunity to pursue those untapped interests. As we faithfully do these things, I am confident that we will all come out the other side of this temporary difficulty with our spiritual lives intact.