Cornerstone - Global Ministries

One Nation at a Time - POLAND

Grace and peace to you in our Lord! In order to facilitate a global perspective amongst the staff and communities, we have put together a template to encourage the body to pray for a specific country and partnership each week.

Pray for All People:

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

--1 Timothy.2:1-4

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
--James.5:16b

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at 805.581.9532 or e-mail:

Jen Yun
Global Ministries Administrative Assistant
jyun@cornerstonesimi.com

The Country

Poland is an ancient nation that was conceived near the middle of the 10th century. Its golden age occurred in the 16th century. During the following century, the strengthening of the gentry and internal disorders weakened the nation. In a series of agreements between 1772 and 1795, Russia, Prussia, and Austria partitioned Poland amongst themselves. Poland regained its independence in 1918 only to be overrun by Germany and the Soviet Union in World War II. It became a Soviet satellite state following the war, but its government was comparatively tolerant and progressive. Labor turmoil in 1980 led to the formation of the independent trade union "Solidarity" that over time became a political force and by 1990 had swept parliamentary elections and the presidency. A "shock therapy" program during the early 1990s enabled the country to transform its economy into one of the most robust in Central Europe, but Poland still faces the lingering challenges of high unemployment, underdeveloped and dilapidated infrastructure, and a poor rural underclass. Solidarity suffered a major defeat in the 2001 parliamentary elections when it failed to elect a single deputy to the lower house of Parliament, and the new leaders of the Solidarity Trade Union subsequently pledged to reduce the Trade Union's political role. Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. With its transformation to a democratic, market-oriented country largely completed, Poland is an increasingly active member of Euro-Atlantic organizations.

Facts and Figures

Capital City: Warsaw

Population: 38,482,919 (July 2009 est.)

Religion: Roman Catholic 89.8% (about 75% practicing), Eastern Orthodox 1.3%, Protestant 0.3%, other 0.3%, unspecified 8.3% (2002)

Language: Polish 97.8%, other and unspecified 2.2% (2002 census)

The Church

Sects and cults have multiplied and the Catholic Church's popularity continues to drop. Pray that there would be Evangelical unity, discernment and sensitivity in confronting ideological assaults on Biblical truths. Pray that the Church would be committed to Biblical faithfulness and a demonstration of the Lordship and power of Jesus Christ.

Our Prayer

- Pray for those who are disappointed by falling social and economic standards and the rise of crime, poverty, and unemployment.
- Pray that Poland might find true identity and value in Christ.
- Pray for the young people of Poland who are skeptical of organized religion but are also receptive to the Gospel.
- Pray for the strategic work of Christian ministries dedicated to reaching students and youth.
- Pray also that this generation would be raised up to find freedom in Christ and release the oppression of the past.

Our Partnerships

- **Rafal and Agnieszka Piekarski** serve with PROeM in Tomaszów, Poland, along with their three children.
- **The Piekarski's** emphasis has been on the **TOMY Education Center** since 2003. Working in conjunction with the social services' bank of food, and other local organizations, the TOMY center is actively helping people with the greatest needs in Tomaszów. Their goal is to create a Christian alternative for children, youth, and adults.
- Cornerstone also partners with **PROeM** as an organization. PROeM promotes ethical and moral values of all Christian churches in Poland, values evangelism and supports the work of Christian mission organizations and initiative aimed at increasing spiritual growth and in raising the quality of life for children, youth and adults.