



"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints..."

The prayer points for this issue will cover two topics. The first is the continuation of Fr. Blachnicki's work in Poland, the second our Slavic School students and new ministries coming from the school.

Pray for the Oasis movement in Poland:

1. For vision and spiritual leadership to be multiplied despite the death of Fr. Blachnicki, that his sacrifice and spiritual investments might increase a hundred-fold.
2. For our teams which will be fellowshiping with many Oasis people this summer, that the Lord will keep these doors open.
3. For healing for the nation of Poland from its past wounds and alcoholism, and for real understanding of life in Jesus and true spiritual renewal.

For the Slavic School and students:

1. For the Lord's clear direction to each one about outreach after the school finishes in June and provision for travel.
2. For God to birth new communication ministries, particularly for radio program production, music and drama for Slavic lands.
3. For the lecturers to give key input into both the students' ministries and Slavic Ministries for the future.



HELP US SHARE THE VISION...



We can no longer travel to every place we'd like to go or accept all the invitations we get from around the world to share about what is happening in Eastern Europe. This includes places such as Africa, Latin America as well as locations in the U.S. and Europe.

Several photographers, technicians and people gifted in communications are, at their own expense, traveling to Eastern Europe this summer to film our teams in action as well as the needs in these lands. We need the funds to buy several pieces of equipment and film and to cover the editing cost of this venture (total cost around \$5,000).

Such video material will be a valuable tool for sharing the needs in Eastern Europe, for mobilizing workers and for training hundreds of people who minister in Slavic lands. Considering the value of the contemporary tool of video, the expense is a small investment that will reap many returns in the future and for eternity. **Will you help us share the vision for reaching Slavic people via video?**

in Europe

Slavic Ministries
Prins Hendrikkade 50
1012-AC Amsterdam
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ON THE EASTERN FRONT

Slavic Ministries News Update



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Saves

LIGHT AND LIFE

An Oasis in a Desperate Land

In the summer of 1985 my family and I, along with three of our team, were ministering in Poland. We were in the Tatra mountains, the ruggedly beautiful Alps that serve as a fence between Poland and Czechoslovakia. We arrived at a small farming village perched above a valley with a river running through it. So remote is this area that the Poles say it's where the mosquitoes turn back.

As we drove through the quiet little village, hundreds of young Poles were arriving from all over the country. Young men and women with backpacks and suitcases were winding their way up the mountain. This was an Oasis retreat, but not one of the many held for the normal participants --this was for the movement's leadership. Group leaders were coming from all over the country to receive training to take back to the thousands of others involved in the movement in cities and towns across Poland.

We were housed in a spare room at the home of one of the local farmers. Others lived in attics turned into dormitories, while barns were used for meeting places and mess halls. For these farmers it was a sacrifice -- not only were they moving over to make room for the young people, but they could also face fines for participating in illegal gatherings. This did not stop them or the many other villagers throughout the mountains from hosting these spiritually thirsty youth.

During the next days we had a beautiful time of fellowship, worship and ministry. After the teaching times we would be swarmed by young people asking questions like: "How do we live honestly in a Godless society?" and "How can we creatively share Jesus with those around us?"

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Obituary

FR. FRANCISZEK BLACHNICKI 1922-1987



Like the Oasis movement he founded, Fr. Blachnicki fulfilled the goals of being light and life. He was a stream in the desert; in a land ruled by fear, he stood up bravely. In a country and church ruled by tradition, he broke the mold and led thousands into freedom in worship and an understanding of the full Christian life.

An atheist prior to the war, Franciszek Blachnicki experienced a dramatic conversion in Auschwitz concentration camp. His life was spared by a providential administrative mistake. Seeing this as a miracle of God, he dedicated his life to serving as a priest. Sensing the need for a more personal faith to ensure the survival of the Church which was coming under pressure from the increasingly hostile atheist regime, he began to conduct retreats for his altar boys. These began to grow in spite of countless efforts by the government to stop them. A crusade for abstinence landed him in prison again, this time at the hands of the Communists rather than the Nazis. Undaunted, he went on to crusade for righteousness, personal relationship with God, Bible teaching and evangelism within the Catholic Church in Poland and the world.

Fr. Blachnicki was a personal friend of YWAM, who often pleaded with us to help him do more for Poland. We'll miss this dear man of God who died suddenly of a heart attack in Carlsberg, West Germany, on February 27th. He was 65.

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During one of the introductory sessions, one of the leaders gave a historical overview of the movement. He shared how Fr. Blachnicki persevered, in spite of many obstacles, to bring the reality of Jesus to the youth of Poland. He shared how thankful they were as a movement for the many who had come from different countries and different missions to help them -- some with food, literature or Bibles. He then turned toward us and said, "We want to thank Youth With a Mission for what you have brought to us. For instance, the teaching for our leaders this week will be on the Father Heart of God, Intercession, True Repentance, Hearing the Voice of God. These things you have brought to us, and they have become part of our foundation." I was thrilled to realize that the teachings that have meant so much to us in YWAM are being multiplied in Eastern Europe as well.



Today the movement has a tremendous effect on every area of Polish society. Nearly a quarter of a million young people are directly or indirectly involved in retreats, Bible studies or communities as a result of this movement. In the midst of all this, though, there are tremendous struggles. Pray for the Oasis renewal in Poland that they will continue to give life and light in the midst of darkness.

(If you would like to see Oasis in action, we have a video available for rental that takes you right into the midst of what God is doing. It is half an hour long and ideal for prayer meetings or sharing with your church, prayer group or friends. It's available in the U.S. and Canada for a rental fee of \$5 from Slavic Ministries, P.O. Box 4213, Salem, OR 97302. Please allow sufficient time in placing your reservation to allow for posting.)

Al Akimoff and the Slavic Ministries Team



As he shared this, I began to think back to when we first met Fr. Blachnicki. It was at a time when God was asking Slavic Ministries to lay down some of our previous ministry in Poland. It was not an easy thing to do, but God knew what was ahead. As we laid certain aspects of our work down, God opened other doors. For instance, there were visits to Oasis gatherings with Loren Cunningham and Joy Dawson who conducted Spiritual Leadership Seminars. We organized a leadership school where men like Dr. Robert Frost, Keith Warrington, Ric Ridings and many others gave of themselves in ministry to these people. Over the years many teachers and teams of young people have gone to fellowship with and to minister to the thousands of youth involved in the Oasis movement.



YOUR SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES TO WITNESS TO EAST EUROPEANS

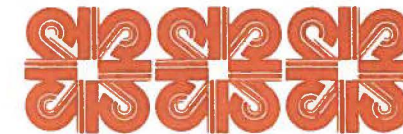
1. Want to reach Albanians but can't go to Albania? Join a team using folk dance, drama, mime to reach Albanians in Sicily. Meet in Holland for a period of training July 13-17, then travel overland to Sicily leaving the 18th and arriving July 21st. The team will arrive back in Holland on August 15th. Contact:

Slavic Ministries Office
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THE NETHERLANDS

2. Want to learn more about life in Eastern Europe while traveling with a group of Christians under mature leadership and making friends with the purpose of sharing your faith in Christ? Team orientation will be in Hurlach, Germany, from July 1-8. From there the team will go to Yugoslavia, Vienna, Prague, and Poland with debriefing back in Hurlach, Germany, August 10-12. Cost is \$1450 for all room and board on outreach, ground transportation in Europe, registration fees. (Must make your own way to Germany and home.) Contact Mid-Summer Missions at Salem address.

3. Did you know there is a sizable population of Orthodox believers in Poland? You could join with Orthodox and evangelical young people to meet with Polish Orthodox in youth camps in Poland. The trip begins and ends in England and lasts from July 8th through August 8th. Details available after May 18th from Slavic Ministries, Salem.

4. Did you know that Chicago is the second largest Polish city in the world? This summer a small YWAM team (only 10-12) will minister with and to Poles in Chicago through friendship evangelism. The dates of the outreach are June 22nd-August 3rd, and the cost is \$400. Only a few people can be accepted. Contact Slavic Ministries in Salem.



DID YOU KNOW...

- that on January 27th the U.S. and Mongolia normalized relations between the two countries? This could aid U.S. ministry involvement in Mongolia.
- that there are approximately 2,800 Romanian citizens, mostly ethnic Hungarians, seeking political asylum in Austria who are now in Hungary awaiting their fate? Austria has reduced its quota of refugees from Romania so those who were trying to get to Austria via Hungary will either be allowed to stay in Hungary or be forced to return to Romania.
- that Romania ranks among the top five worst human rights offenders in the world?
- that June 14th will be "Suffering Church Sunday?" The purpose is to unite in prayer the Church in the Third World and in the West with the suffering church. You can order information packs for this day from Keston College/USA, Box 1310, Framingham, MA 01701 for \$2.50. The packs contain prayer items, literature, teaching notes, biographies and posters.
- that for the first time a Pentecostal Church has been officially registered in Moscow? The Moscow Church of Evangelical Pentecostal Christians began services on October 12, 1986.
- that TASS reported a resolution allowing Soviet citizens to run private restaurants on a cooperative basis? Newspapers have praised the first such cafe, in Leningrad, where 5 people provide customers with "better and quicker service than state cafes with 5 times as many employees."
- that 1987 marks the 15th anniversary of the clandestine publication of the **Lithuanian Catholic Chronicle** in the USSR? The **Chronicle** has served as a reliable information life-line for Catholics in Lithuania.