

Evangelical School of Theology
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Autumn 2009

Memories - New Friends - New Academic Year

Greetings from Wrocław - The last few months have offered an opportunity for reflection and observance of significant dates in the history of Poland.

Memories and Anniversaries in Poland:

- **June 4** (1989) – *"Twenty years ago, the impossible became possible. We achieved what was considered unattainable." So spoke former Polish premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki ... of the elections that dethroned the communists on 4th June 1989.* (Krakow Post)
- **September 1** (1939) – Poland and the world remembered this day when 70 years ago Nazi Germany invaded Poland and launched a world war that would kill over 50 million people (six million in Poland).
- **September 17** (1939) – Poland was invaded from the east by Russia.

New Friends:

EST hosted a mission study tour during the first week of September. There were fifteen men and women from five churches in the US who stayed in the EST dormitory and attended lectures presented by some of the school's faculty and staff. The lectures included: EST's past, present and future; personal testimony from the Chancellor; two sessions on Dietrich Bonhoeffer; missionary perspective on Poland and ministry; and Polish history (German occupation, communist rule and current situation). There were also tours that included: sites in Wrocław, Church of Peace (built in mid 1600's after the 30 Years War), castles, and Auschwitz/Krakow. Also, the group spent time helping a local church with cleaning and painting projects.



Below are comments from two of the participants:

"My experience in Poland has made an indelible impression on me. I felt as if I lived a history lesson from one of the most important areas of our world. I am so impressed with the transformation the people have brought the country through in the past 20 odd years. I enjoyed meeting everyone associated with EST."

"Each day of this adventure was so unique and amazing ... the week felt like a worship service in many ways with praise, confession, learning, and fellowship. The trip may be over, but the journey with our new family in Poland is just beginning."

New Academic Year:

Academic year 2009-2010 is a very significant year for Evangelical School of Theology (EST) on various levels. It is the year when EST begins operating as an Educational Center, which includes such programs as the B.A. theological program, School of Leadership, School of Biblical Languages, and Academy of Third Age (for people 50+). EST will also focus on other workshops and projects such as Christian Coaching (with Dr. Gary Collins), Days of Reformation, Festival of Protestant Culture (May 2010) as well as theological conferences, training courses, and meetings with Polish Christian writers/authors. Our desire is to meet the needs of evangelical communities in Wroclaw and Poland by preparing and equipping Christians, church leaders and workers for effective ministry in this country.



The Department of Discipleship and Spiritual Formation is being reworked to be one of the main components of our school. Its purpose is to focus not only on the discipleship of our students, but also spiritual growth of the faculty and graduates. We see the need to establish an effective and adequate program that will serve as an example and paradigm for churches and other evangelical organizations and have a broader impact in Poland.

Next Issue:

- Information and photos showing the Christian Coaching conference (October 24), Days of Reformation (October 30-November 1) and some of the sessions with the Academy of Third Age.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your support and your prayers. As we have shared with you, the school is growing in several dimensions and as our programs and ministries expand the need for additional support has increased. **Evangelical School of Theology needs to raise an additional \$8,000 a month for the work of this ministry. Funds are needed either in one-time gifts or in monthly support.** Please pray for EST and Poland.

Blessings in Him,
Dr. Wojciech Szczerba, Rector

In the US gifts should be directed to:

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Dear Readers: For changes in your email or regular mailing address or questions about Evangelical School of Theology please contact me at r.lemaster@ewst.edu.pl
Thank you, Rebecca LeMaster