

Steven D. Reece

From: Steven D. Reece <sdreece@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2008 09:38
To: 'Ron DeMoss'
Subject: RE: Poland 09

Ron,

I am sorry for the very delayed response in writing you after our arrival. I have been focusing on assisting Deborah's dad in projects around the house since returning and searching for ministry positions.

I appreciate your encouraging words and letting me that you all are praying for us. I have intended to write you for the past two weeks, but several things have come up that have kept me from writing until now.

The reality of our situation is that we are waiting on God to show us what lies beyond what we are doing in assisting Deborah's parents and our children. We have been here a month and I have been able to help James do some significant work here in his home, but there is much left to do. We have not made much progress with our children yet as far as establishing a routine for them, but we are slowly making progress.

I have sent out resumes for several ministry possibilities in Chicago, St. Louis, Texas, Kentucky and Georgia (plus via the GA Baptist Convention). I am a candidate for a position in Chicago, but I do not know if this will materialize. So at this point, I am waiting for clarity as it relates to seeking places of ministry.

I have been considering what God may desire to do in relationship to the Jews of the Atlanta area. I was aware, but I did not know that there were that many Jews living in the area, where we are living. I suspected that there were many because I know of at least 2 synagogues within 2 miles of where we are living. I think that this is significant and I am seeking what God would have us do as it relates to what has gone before in ministering to the Jews and Gentiles of Poland.

Deborah has been interviewed by NAMB for a staff job (we will not know anything about this possibility until sometime after Thanksgiving). In light of Deborah's job opportunity, this may mean for me a change in either looking at something locally such as a pastoral/ministerial role, returning to school (DMin), or working in a completely different direction. I will explain. I would like to share with you three scenarios that I see as possibilities as it relates to continuing work with Jews.

1. If Deborah is hired this indicates to me two things. Firstly, we have an interim job, which would give me more time to look/wait for God's timing concerning a ministry role for me. Secondly, if she is hired this would allow me to begin working with the Jews here in a radically different way. I think that God may desire an independent approach in the context of a local church. This is unclear presently how this would look, but my idea is simple. Mobilize Jews from Synagogues in the US and team them with SELECT volunteers from churches that I know like North Lanier and continue the restoration work on Jewish Cemeteries in Poland.
2. I have submitted my resume to the FBC of Columbus, GA. They have an opening for a Minister of Missions. I do not know if this is what God desires, but it would allow me to pursue

what I have outlined above in the context of a local church. Whether or not, I am called to this church, serving a local church is an option.

3. I have submitted my resume for the senior pastor role to churches/associations that have large Jewish populations: Chicago, St. Louis, and Louisville (KY). I would lead the church to move toward working with Jews.

At any rate, we are here and we are asking the question: "What would God have us do now?"

I have asked for a letter of introduction from the Synagogue in Warsaw. If they grant it, I would like to go to local Jewish congregation beginning with the one behind Deborah's parent's home and share with them what we have been doing in Poland related to the Jews over the past 5 years. I do not know if this is what God is leading me to do, but I am testing the waters. Please pray with me about this. Even if this letter of introduction is not granted, I plan to go to local rabbis. I have begun researching and praying about this possibility.

I would like to ask you to pray with me about what God would have me do as it relates to continuing the work with Jews and Jewish Cemeteries in Poland. I do not know if God is leading me in this direction, but I am open to his will and actively seeking what he would have me do.

I realize that this is a radical step, but Alek shared with me two important things before I left. Firstly, I have entered into the "dialogue" with Jews, which is very difficult to do. I would like to go further in this dialogue involving American Jews. Secondly, he said that he did not see that our partnership should end and in day, in which we live in a global community, where there are no boundaries.

I am seeking God's leadership and direction. You are a part of this searching process. I would like to meet with you and visit with you this week if possible. If not we can get together after Thanksgiving. Just so you know, we are traveling to Texas for a family reunion next week and then the following week we are traveling to St. Louis to speak at a church.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Z Bogiem,

Steven

Steven D. Reece
6884 Tilton Lane
Doraville, GA 30360

Phone: 770-396-4264
Mobile: 404-663-2383
Email: sdreece@gmail.com

From: Ron DeMoss [mailto:rondemoss@northlanier.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 12:51 PM
To: warsaw@everyheart.net
Subject: RE: Poland 09

Steven,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Please let us know when you will be back here so maybe we can meet and talk. I have some questions about future work in Poland and what will be the direction of the cemetery restoration projects. I know we will work with the Poland Team in place because of the wonderful job you have done preparing them and equipping them for the ministry. You should know that God used you in a powerful way to impact many lives for the kingdom...on both sides of the Atlantic.

I am excited about future ministry opportunities apart and (or) together and pray for God's revelation to that end in both our lives.

Ron DeMoss
North Lanier Baptist Church

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven D. Reece [mailto:warsaw@everyheart.net]

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 5:17 AM

To: 'Kimberly Sizemore'

Cc: Ron DeMoss

Subject: RE: Poland 09

Dear Kimberly,

Thank you for the email! I am sorry for the delayed response, but much has been going on lately that I have not been able to write you until now.

First of all, we would like for you and our friends at North Lanier to know that it is with deep sadness that we are resigning with the International Mission Board. We have been wrestling with this decision for more than two years; however, we are confident and certain now that this is the correct decision for us and our family. We have prayerfully sought the Lord's will and sought godly counsel in this matter as we have moved toward this decision. We have God's peace and assurance that even though the future is uncertain, resigning is what the Lord is leading us to do. We will trust Him.

So, that you know, our primary reason for resigning from the IMB is due to the changing needs of our family. With these needs in mind we feel that moving back to the United States will provide the best solution for what our family needs at this time. We are planning to return home to Georgia on October 15th and will formally resign by the end of the year.

We have felt great joy from our many years of working with the Polish people. They will always be dear to our hearts and we are certain that we will return in some capacity in the future. We know that the Lord has used us over the past 12 years to lay a foundation grounded upon and solely based Jesus Christ and not us. We are confident that we are being released from our current assignment and that the Lord will and is calling out others to build upon this foundation of Christ.

We are confident that the Lord will continue to use us as strong advocates for the IMB and for the Polish people. We will continue to support and be a catalyst for the work of the IMB in reaching a lost world for Christ in whatever capacity the Lord provides for us. God has not changed His call on our lives. He has simply changed the location where we will reside for now.

Secondly, we have enjoyed our years of service with the IMB and our partnership with North Lanier. Thank you for your partnership, as you have played an on-going role in

what the Lord has planned for Poland. We pray that your role will continue and join us as we pray for the Lord to bring a true spiritual awakening to Poland and for the hearts of the Polish people to turn to Christ for their salvation.

Thirdly, despite this change in our role, the work in Warsaw will continue. I have talked with our team about North Lanier's desire to return to Poland and they welcome you and would like for you all to bring a team next summer and minister in some part of Warsaw. Susan Carson works with families and young professionals and would like to talk with you about bringing a team next summer to assist her and her work. This of course is your decision. If you wish to proceed with bringing a team next summer, I will put you in contact with Susan Carson.

Lastly, concerning your questions regarding expenses related to housing and meals, all of this will depend upon where you all will work in Warsaw. With this in mind, I can give you a range of costs from between \$50 to \$100 per day per person for housing and meals. Other expenses will be related to transportation, translators, gifts for hosts, ministry, rental for ministry space, etc. Generally speaking, most teams spend between \$2,500 and \$3,000 per person including airfare for a 10 ministry project in Poland. I hope that this helps you in what you need.

Blessings,

Steven Reece

Steven and Deborah Reece

Strategy Coordinator

Team Warsaw

International Mission Board, SBC

Field Address:

ul. Dembego 12 m 22

02-796 Warsaw, Poland

Home: 48-22-648-8350

Mobile: 48-501-256-000

Team Warsaw Prayer Updates: <http://www.teamwarsaw.blogspot.com>

From: Kimberly Sizemore [mailto:kimberlysizemore@northlanier.org]

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2008 5:23 PM

To: warsaw@everyheart.net

Cc: 'Ron DeMoss'

Subject: Poland 09

Hey Steven – Our team is thinking about coming again next summer (as I'm sure you already know). I have had SUCH a problem getting everyone's payments before a big trip that I'm trying to start SUPER early this year. Would it be possible for us to interact and pick some dates that work for you guys? Also, because I want to advertise the total cost of the trip then I'll also need to know cost of stay, materials (renting chainsaws or whatever we'll need), rent for VBS space (or whatever you want us to do), gas/vehicle costs, and any other expenses you think we might have.

The dates we're thinking of would be end of June, beginning of July ...

Just let me know what you think! Thanks!

Kimberly Sizemore
North Lanier Baptist Church
Assistant to Missions and Outreach Pastor
Assistant to Student Pastor
Assistant to Hispanic Worship Pastor
770-781-5433
www.northlanier.org