

## Steven D. Reece

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**From:** Stephen Folker <stephen.folker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2011 10:32  
**To:** sdreece@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: Update from Trip to Poland

Thanks for your encouragement. I will let you know something as soon as I get down there.

See ya soon!

2011/8/19 Steven D. Reece <[sdreece@gmail.com](mailto:sdreece@gmail.com)>

Stephen,

Congratulations! I believe that this is a good fit for you combining your passion for worship and missions. Long-term this could pave the way for overseas service or it would allow you to become an equipper, sender and participant in missions.

If you and your pastor would like to discuss taking part in a project next summer, I would be glad to come down and discuss it more. I would probably bring Daniel Compton along with me.

Please let me know when might be a good time between now and the end of the year. I will be traveling to India in early October.

Steven

**From:** Stephen Folker [mailto:[stephen.folker@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.folker@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2011 2:58 PM  
**To:** [sdreece@gmail.com](mailto:sdreece@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Re: Update from Trip to Poland

Hey Steven,

I have read the email. This sounds like a great plan. For Matzevah to reach its long term goals of planting churches and

bringing Jewish people to a saving knowledge that Jesus is the true Messiah, trust is one of the most important pieces of a strong foundation to accomplish what God has put before us. I believe you have laid out all the possibilities of the short-term and the long-term possibilities of partnership. I am excited about what God wants to do through Matzevah.

Also, just to update you on me... I will be resigning from PBC this Sunday, and my last Sunday will be September 11. I imagine that Deborah told you this when you got home. She told me that you got a reference call from a church in Macon. The church is Lawrence Drive Baptist Church in Macon, Ga. This is a fairly young church (40yrs)... a lot younger than your typical Southern Baptist Church. I will begin on or around September 19 as their Associate Pastor of Worship & Missions. I would like to possibly lead a team from Lawrence Drive to do one of these projects next summer if they are interested in entering into this work. I would be open to teaming up with another group if this would maximize our efforts to accomplish more work. I certainly would like to share with the pastor there about my heart for Poland and the Jewish Cemeteries and what Matzevah's purpose. He and I have not really had a chance to talk about this in depth but he knows that I have been there many times.

If you have some wisdom or advice about this.. please let me know. Maybe after Jennifer and I move and get settled again, we can meet together and talk more about these projects next summer. As well as meet with the pastor at Lawrence Drive (Brad Marchman). He used to be a Mission's Pastor at a church in Louisiana prior to coming to Lawrence Drive as Senior Pastor about 7 years ago.

Hope to see you soon!!!!

Stephen

2011/8/18 Steven D. Reece <[sdreece@gmail.com](mailto:sdreece@gmail.com)>

Greetings,

First of all, I would like to thank Dr. Robin Park for going to Warsaw this summer in order to pray and prayerwalk for our work. Robin spent a great deal of time praying for the Jewish community, Rabbi Michael and possibilities that God has for in the future.

As you all know my son Aaron, JoAnn, Kevin and I were in Warsaw during the first week of August. JoAnn, Aaron and I met with the Rabbinic Council for Matters of Jewish Cemeteries and following our meeting we came to understand a few things about how the Jewish Community operates in Poland. Firstly, the Rabbinic Council is responsible for religious matters concerning the care and preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Poland and although they have responsibility for the care of some cemeteries the majority of the Jewish cemeteries in Poland lie in the hands of others and other organizations. This means that the Rabbinic Council has limited ability to assist us especially as it relates to resolving technical and logistical issues concerning any project.

Secondly, although the Rabbinic Council did not specifically speak to the question of Pruszków they intimated that the person and organization who has responsibility for this particular cemetery is unresponsive to them, as well as to us, meaning that the matter is out of hand and there is nothing that we can do about it. We take this to mean that God is leading us elsewhere to work. Thirdly, the Rabbinic Council proposed that we consider working in the Jewish cemetery in Błonie a city on the northwest side of Warsaw. Primarily, this cemetery is in an empty field surrounded by new homes and the Rabbinic Council would like to build a wall around it to preserve its integrity.

Fourthly, the Rabbinic Council recommended that we meet with representatives of the Foundation for the Protection of Jewish Heritage in Poland (FODZ: <http://fodz.pl/?d=1&l=en>), which JoAnn, Monika and I did. We met with Monika Krawczyk, the General Director and Marcin Bartosiewicz, the Project Coordinator and learned that FODZ has responsibility for 90 Jewish Cemeteries in Poland are able to assist us with local government permits, logistical needs and interfacing with schools and community leaders who could work with us in cemetery renovation projects.

One thing that came out of this meeting was the fact that many non-profits approach this foundation and say that they wish to partner with them and raise funds. Monika Krawczyk said that from many of these non-profits they never see the funds. Here are a few highlights from the meeting:

1. FODZ has cemeteries all over Poland and geographic distance is great from Warsaw.
2. Local governments demand that these cemeteries be kept clean.
3. In some of these locations there is a great deal of Anti-Semitism.
4. FODZ desires to keep these cemeteries in proper condition.
5. FODZ does a great deal of restoration projects for Jewish cemeteries, synagogues and other historically significant places.
6. FODZ desires to do things professionally and have projects completed in a timely fashion.
7. FODZ desires "to bring memory back" of the Jewish heritage that was lost in Poland.

FODZ offered us the possibility of restoring the Jewish cemetery in Zambrów <http://zambrow.sisco.pl/kirkut/index1.htm>, which is on the northeast side of Warsaw about 60 miles away. It is near the Treblinka Death Camp and is about a two hour drive from Warsaw. Aaron and I visited the cemetery by bus and spent about 30 minutes surveying the cemetery and its needs. Aaron and I feel that this cemetery is very similar to the one in Otwock and is to some degree situated like the one in Pruszkow, as it is along a main road and surrounded by homes on three sides. I made a video and made a few photographs. The video is not ready, but I have attached four photos for you to see what it looks like. I will forward an email that I received from Marcin that also has some photos.

After our trip, JoAnn, Kevin, Rachel, Chelsea and I met to discuss what we see as future possibilities. I also met with Monika Radkiewicz. Primarily we see the need to begin with something small and demonstrate what we can do in line with the wishes of FODZ. We see four areas in which we can cooperate with FODZ:

1. Raising funds for cleaning Jewish cemeteries on a regular basis that are far away from Warsaw

2. Adopting some of these cemeteries and clean them annually with teams of volunteers
3. Restoring the Zambrów Jewish cemetery with teams of volunteers (in the future as we gain trust we may be able to do other cemeteries)
4. Restoring some other significant place at some point in the future with volunteers

In light of FODZ desire to do things professionally and along with time considerations, we may not be able to some of the work; however there are some things that we can do with volunteers. FODZ can help us greatly with gaining permissions and introducing us to local people. So with all of this in mind and based on what we have discussed, I believe that we should focus on the Jewish cemetery in Zambrów.

We feel that this is something that we can do and would like to establish three volunteer projects for next summer. I will develop a plan of what I think that we can do later but for now here is an outline of what I believe that we can do:

1. Three teams for next June or August, more than likely August due to the soccer tournament in Warsaw next June
2. Partner with local teachers and students to clean the cemetery
3. Clean and clear the cemetery of debris in phases
4. Clean and remove brush and bushes along fence lines especially along the front and north sides in phases
5. Raise funds for building a wall along the front of the cemetery facing the main road
6. Dig foundation
7. Hire professionals to build the wall along the main road
8. Repair the wall along the northern side with concrete panels
9. Close the gap in the fencing along the eastern side of the cemetery
10. Long-term we can build a wall around the entire cemetery as we raise funds
11. We can plan cultural exchange nights with students and teachers

I believe that this is a tremendous opportunity and something which God is calling us to do. I will write FODZ and begin the process of developing a plan. Our main task now is to determine if we can raise the funds to do this, which I estimate to be \$150,000 possibly more and enlist at least three volunteer groups to do the work of cleaning and clearing the cemetery.

Please let me know what you think, when you get a chance.

Grace and Peace,

Steven

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