



30 Years Since the Wall: Contemplation and Continuing



This month marks the 30th anniversary since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and today marks the National Independence Day of Poland, but these times of remembrance deserve some explanation. You see, the Berlin Wall didn't actually "fall." The wall was torn down by those who rejected totalitarianism and thirsted for freedom. However, these people were able to do so because communism did, in a sense, fall. Communism fell apart, crumbling under the weight of its own hopelessness and dysfunctionality. Ironically, unlike some former communist countries, Poland's Independence Day does not commemorate its liberation from communist oppression.

This day harkens back to the end of WWI in 1918 when Poland regained its national sovereignty from the German, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian empires. In short, Poland's national identity transcends the period of communist oppression, and the modern church can learn from this. To be more precise, the church is neither defined by the troubles of its history nor is it limited in its mission by human barriers. The Apostle Paul said,

***"for a wide door for effective service has opened to me,
and there are many adversaries." (1 Cor 16:9)***

Paul did not gloss over his difficulties. We understand "adversaries" quite well, but who or what opened that door?

***"...Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut,
because you have a little power, and have kept My word,
and have not denied My name." (Rev. 3:8)***

This speaks to Christ and his sacrifice being the sole access – the "narrow gate" – through whom we enter the kingdom. But it is also about God opening opportunities to advance the gospel even when we only have a "little" power amid adversaries.



This is a photo of me on my first trip to Poland and Ukraine in 1990, and that rock is a piece of the Berlin Wall I broke off after passing through one of the abandoned Berlin east-west checkpoints. My journey began years before as I began to study Russian in 1985 and took a summer language course in Moscow in 1989. Myra was on a similar journey in her Russian studies at the same time. Why did we prepare for ministry when the door – the Iron Curtain – was deemed closed? I think you understand the answer. Scripture is ripe with stories of God dealing with the walls, doors, curtains, and veils that separate his creation from him. Let's stand upon these truths.



Next week we will travel back to where the dominoes of communist totalitarianism began to fall, to Timisoara, Romania. We continue to work with the local team to develop a church plant for next year, and if time permits, we will take a short scouting trip into neighboring Belgrade, Serbia. Immediately after this trip, we will travel to Tbilisi, Georgia for strategic planning with regional missionaries, and following that trip, we will be in Gent, Belgium with our good friend, Pastor Trevor Botha, to continue developing our ministry's church planters training materials.

Significant moments in history warrant that we pause and reflect on the battles and sufferings of others who have allowed us to continue the mission. They are the heroes whom we honor during this month of remembrance, and the best way we can honor them is to continue the mission to honor God by advancing his kingdom. We thank you for making that possible. God bless,

Mike and Myra

Prayer Requests

1. Strength and grace for our travels
2. New financial partners for our expanded ministry
3. Team development for projects in Romania, the Caucasus, and Prague
4. Peace for Ukraine & Georgia

Join Our Partnership Team!

Mail support to:

Global Impact Resources
Attn: Mike & Myra Watkins
P.O. Box 3012Greenville, NC 27836

Note: Michael Watkins acct# 101

Contact

cell: 919-348-3884

mike.watkins@everynation.org



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