

Dariusz Bywalec - Interview Testimonies

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I invite brother Souza Zaniefsky to come forward with the opening prayer.

Let's pray. The creator of earth, Heaven, everything which we could able to see, which we couldn't able to see it. Our God Almighty Jehovah, we praise you, we thank you, we obey you. Thanks for this beautiful opportunity that you are in given to us. Thanks for this meeting.

I pray for all the brethren. I pray for all the cliches all over the world. I pray for everybody who is suffering from lot of diseases all over the world.

Please be with us now and rest of this convention and guide us. Help us to understand about your divine plan and secret. Let us understand about you, your only son.

And thanks for giving this opportunity that we could able to attend this meeting after a long time. I pray for. I thank for that you are given this opportunity that we could able to meet our every brethren from all over the world, and also who all attending this convention by online also please be with him, be with them and please leave this meeting under your circumstance and be thankful for Jesus Christ who sacrificed his own life just because of our sin. Make us to remember about it all the time.

I pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thank you.

The last session of the day.

I invite brother Darek Bivalets to go ahead and start the session. In the interest of time, the interviews and testimonies.

My dear brethren, beloved ones in our Lord Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters, our friends and our dear children. It is our great joy to be here in this place, in the community of brothers and sisters in Christ from so many different countries all over the world. I bring you special greetings which I bring from the brethren in Wroclaw. All the brothers and sisters asked to send their special brotherly love and Christian greetings for all of those participating in the international convention.

Brethren also came and handed me other greetings from other classes in Poland. We still have two brotherly Christian greetings from the brethren for the brethren in Svzhenza.

Brotherly love for all of the participants of the convention come from the brethren in Lublin, Poland.

We thank you for these wonderful greetings, my dear brethren.

We had a particular day today in which we participated in the baptismal service and we would like to take the time to get to know these brethren who were the candidates for baptism today, and we still haven't learned what their names are, where they're from and what ecclesia they come from. I asked these brethren if they could come for a moment and so we could them and get to know them. So we can introduce them to everybody. Could those individuals please come up to the front?

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I would like to. You speak English, right? Yeah. We'll switch English for a moment. I would like you to introduce yourself.

What is your name and what ecclesia you come from? My name is Daniel Dudescu. I live in the United States and my ecclesia is from Chicago. So you come from America? Currently.

Okay. It's very nice to meet you, and I wish you the Lord's guidance in your new life, so that Christ may live in you and you may live the life of Christ.

I don't speak Romanian. Maybe someone can help me. Can you help us introduce the sister Theodora? Please stand so everyone can see you and tell us what your name is and what from which ecclesia you're from.

My name is Theodora. I am now one of your sister, and now we are more and more brethren. I'm from Moldova. I'm from the southern part of Moldova.

In the Tsincerang general meeting. Thank you.

My name is. I come from the Bugoray class.

Another brother, Brother Miro Sas, whom which I spoke with before dinner. Unfortunately, he had to leave to go home because of family and personal matters. But tomorrow he will be back. He was a bit disappointed that he couldn't be with us this evening, but I wanted to share that this was his very happy day. He comes from from the class in Bjar Skopjawa and the local brethren know him well.

Now, dear brethren, we will move to the program that was prepared for today's evening.

My dear brethren, this evening is another evening that we're able to spend together. I think we feel a great joy from this common fellowship that we can share. This evening we are going to have the privilege to have a few short conversations with some brethren who have come to visit us from different parts of the world. First, in a few words, I would like to share the theme idea of this fellowship meeting, which I would like to be read from Hebrews 10, 24 and 25.

It is for thoughtful listeners. You might have noticed that this verse was already mentioned in a discourse, and brother Archevsky already mentioned it, and we will read it. I would like this scripture to light our path this evening and guide our thinking about this common fellowship that we have with these brethren who will speak to us today.

Let us read the scripture from Hebrews 10:24, 25, and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

In these words, the Apostle Paul reminds us to observe our fellow brethren in the truth, to provide positive stimulus for our fellow brethren, types of stimuli that would lead to greater love for our Heavenly Father and for our brethren, that that love may grow and that the faith that they have may become perfect.

It is a common gathering of saints, just like the one that we've had over these past few days.

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It really plays an important role in the life of the saints, in those who have sacrificed their lives to the Lord.

It's an integral part of our life because we don't live for ourselves, but Jesus Christ lives in us.

This life in Christ should reveal itself through our activities and behaviors towards our brothers and sisters. We will read 2nd Corinthians 4, 10, 11, 2 Corinthians 4, 10 and 11 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

We all shared our well wishes to the brethren who began this day their walk with the Lord. I think these beautiful words of introduction can also be a wonderful wish for you that your life may become similar to that of Christ, that his life will become true in yours through the love that you will show to other brethren in Christ.

Returning back to the thought in Hebrews 10, the apostle emphasizes time.

He says all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Some translations say the day of the Lord is drawing near, and what kind of day is mentioned here? What does it mean? It's about the day of the Lord.

It is the day that will come after the completion of the church, when the door to the high calling is closed. It still is to happen.

Look at each other and try to stimulate each other unto good work. Then love even the more that if we understand and we see it, are we motivated in order to do so?

Even the more that we see as this day draws near and the day of our salvation, we should have this common goal in our common meeting together.

In these last most recent times, there have been significant changes in the world and society that the world never ever saw before.

The pandemic which raged the world brought on certain processes at accelerated speed. In politics, in religion. These changes had a significant impact on our fellowship too.

What does our fellowship look like today? What do our meetings look like? Has anything changed? On one hand, the new opportunities have been Opened opportunities for new fellowship, to organize conventions and meetings online. But on the other hand, along with those new phenomena, we see new challenges, dangers, which became a test for the faithful.

I myself asked myself this. How different brethren in various ecclesias around the world handle this problem. In preparing for tonight, I had a certain theme text in mind.

But the rest of my thoughts were still open, and I spent time with the brethren in discussion and fellowship, and I've already shared this thought that I came with this vessel that I had already filled a little bit, but the rest was empty, and today, after several days of convention, I have gained a great blessing because this vessel is not only full, but it's overflowing.

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All these inspiring thoughts that I received from brethren. I received many inspiring verses, things to think about and consider, and in inviting some of the brethren today, I want them to share what their life looks like in their ecclesias. For some specific examples. First I would like to invite brother Dyson from India.

And now I will switch to English only. In the last section will be the Polish language used first. Brother Dyson, please.

Hello. Let's test microphones. Okay. Hello. Welcome.

Brother Da San. I would like to introduce you here. Can you tell us what is your name and what ecclesia do you come from? Okay, thank you. Dear brethren, first grace and peace in the name of our God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And myself, Brother Dyson from India, and I, and I came from the Ecclesia in Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore, Ratnapuri Ecclesia, one of the very oldest ecclesia in India, and many of our senior elder brothers visited and attended the international conventions in Poland.

I am the third generation Bible student and I saw the picture of Indian Bible student convention and I saw my grandmother in that picture. So happy.

Okay, so it's southern part of India, right? So the majority of Indian brethren live in southern India. Yes, brother. India we have North India, South India. So in South India we have majority of Bible students brethren in South India only.

And the Ecclesia Coimbatore Ecclesia. Can you tell us about how big the class is roughly to get another idea? Yes, brother. We have almost nearly 100 brothers and sisters in my class, and moreover, 75 brothers and sisters are consecrated.

Can you tell us how does the spiritual life in your class look like nowadays? Mostly we have elder brothers in my class. So from their guidance, as per our apostle Peter says, respect your elders and follow the words. So we, the younger generation brothers and sisters are from what our senior elder brothers is Suggesting us, motivating us. We'll following that.

And as per the Bible scriptures. What forms of meetings do you conduct in the class?

Yeah, now we are conducting in physical mode. That is the physical presence. Almost 90 percentage of the brothers and sisters are coming directly to the Ecclesia to attend the various the gatherings, and 10 percentage are especially the the senior elder brothers. They couldn't able to come to the Ecclesia.

They are attending via Zoom. We are using several technologies because it is helping us the obs softwares, Zooms, Facebooks. So we are doing that. Yeah, just to help using these tools for the benefit of the brethren, for the elderly brothers, those who are unable to come to the Ecclesiastes. So this is one of the dimensions for the forms of meetings.

But what I also meant what types of that means do you study the Bible like the Berean? Berean study or maybe you study volumes or other writings. Can you tell us about this? Yes, brother. In Tuesdays we are studying tabernacle shadows in our class.

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Then Wednesday we are having the business meetings. Especially the senior brothers. They will be senior elder brothers will be visiting all the ecclesia members houses and they will get a lot of information with their how their spiritual life is going on and they will what help they need. So everything will be planned and scheduled in Wednesdays that is we have a business meetings and Thursday we are studying the Revelation study and, and moreover we are doing the Berean study like the recently we have completed Corinthians, the book of Corinthians.

Now we are studying the book of Timothy, and in Sundays the youth fellowship will have a choir. Then I mean about divine plan of the ages we are studying. So this is a more topical study. Yes, more topical study.

And we are doing the the basic study also basic doctrines. Basic doctrines. Okay. Yeah. Is the study based on some writings like volume or you prepare the the top topics up front.

Okay. We have almost 53 basic doctrines. So based on that we'll be giving each week we'll have a 1:1 subject. So for the newly brethren. Yes, those are coming.

Those will be the Christians Non Bible students will be telling the about the scriptures, how to study Bible about the hell, all the basic doctrines. Then they will be consecrating later after hearing all the doctrines. So that we are doing. It's interesting how you mentioned so many meetings during the week, right? Sunday meeting is only one part of the whole class life or gradual life.

Interesting.

So you already mentioned that you meet mostly in person and online meetings are only supplementary. So 90 percentage of brothers and sisters. We have to slow down. Okay.

Can you tell us maybe your view on what in what ways your class has changed in the last few recent years? As I understood as you told me in our conversation, you were born and grown in this class, right? This is your like mother home class, and you can tell us something about how you grew with the class, and recent years as we mentioned brought about some changes in society that also has influence on our fellowship.

Or maybe this new technology, new tools change the way you do the fellowship. Can you tell us about. Yes, brother. Usually we will be concentrating on the youths because we have plenty of youths in Bible student. Especially in our ecclesia.

What we felt is that growing from the children from the age what to say as what they did in the children's class. So from that age itself we have to give the truth to them, and it will be the similar kind of party we are doing practicing in our ecclesia. We have a children class then children's class then sorry. Then we have the youth class mean motivating the youths by teaching about some of the interesting characters.

The youth characters in Bible. So like that they will be. We are doing like that. So you do the work with children and children education? Yes, from we are starting from the small age itself.

Great. So that's how I grown up. I was interested myself and I think the brethren might also be interested in public witness activity in your area and your class, and maybe some individual activity. I know you have some backgrounds.

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Can you tell us about this? So this is an interesting question because almost all the ecclesias in India they will be doing the public witnessing. That means preaching the gospel work and harvest work throughout India for that there is no support from the government, especially from the Babylonian system. They are deadly against us. So even though we are not stopping because as per Bible says, so spread the gospel.

So that's what. Whatever persecution comes, we are not going to get fear or afraid for that, and still now we are doing the gospel work. Almost all the ecclesiastes doing the gospel work in India. You mentioned persecutions.

Can you tell us how big persecutions do you experience? And yeah, so recently we don't have that much persecutions. Maybe before. From which side do you get persecut? That is?

I mean mostly from the. The Babylonian systems. They. They never allow us to give the tracks and to post the posters or the flux banners or advertise. They won't allow us to do that.

And any persecutions from the government? Yeah, of Course government because our government we have other religion government. So they never support Christianity. Especially that with that two Bible students they never support us. I'm exploring this thought because many brethren are not aware we live in the country that you know, it's mostly Christian some somehow so we never have this side of like really other religions.

So earlier it was good. But now in the recent 10 years the the government changed so there is no support for the Christianity in our country. Let's move on and talk a little bit about our faith, and our faith that is linked should be linked with works. How our faith linked with works could motivate our brethren in the class.

Our thoughts are still around this dim text. So of course we read lot of characters from Bible especially from the ancient worthies. Even though they are not going to get that heavenly price or heavenly coin. So they did 100 percentage they did in faith. Very good in faith.

So we motivate ourselves by learning by seeing the characters in Bible. Especially one among with our the most senior elder brothers will be there. So they never bother about anything especially about their food or anything travel. But only thing they are concentrating more on how to elevate the brothers and sisters in class. So really our senior elder brothers are teaching a lot.

I mean their life is very example for our faith also. Yeah, I have another question that might be a practical more practical. What can I do on my own part so that other brethren could receive edification? Everyone can ask himself what can I do on my part? What is my responsibility so that other brethren get edified?

Okay. Most importantly, dwelling with brethren is very very important as per Psalms 13:31. So whatever conventions either it may be a zoom or either it may be a physical. So we should attend all the conventions and let's repeat the psalm for. For the translation Psalm 133 and verse 1 and you can move on.

Yes, we continue. Please, please continue your thought. Yes, if we attend almost in recent years we are attending only the zoom conventions. Really it was so useful especially in India. So we are conducting lot of zoom international conventions so we could see some brethren's.

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We are speaking to them and they are sharing the Laos and especially here. In 2018 I couldn't make it. But in this year me and some brethren from India we are here. So that itself a very biggest sharing lovers for us. Can you share maybe with one thing that really you were surprised to see among the brethren?

I'm not using the word shock but sometimes you know with these cultural differences you get this experience somehow what is something that is uplifting to you. That surprised you here among the brethren in Europe?

Really. When I arrived Poland, I could see some in Krakow, especially in Krakow Iglesia, I could see a lot of the youths, the young brothers and sisters singing for a whole night with praising our God and our Lord. So really usually in India we use mostly we'll give preference for the reading Bible verses, doctrine, speaking like that. But the sing of mean the praise to God and Lord is almost here. I could see.

Wonderful. Even I was blessed with that. I can feel that God and Lord is with us with the sing of praise. Thank you for this statement, and in conclusion, we have to move on.

I would like to ask you whether you would like to share some scripture, any scripture to edify the brethren, to encourage them. A scripture that you could maybe shortly comment so that you can provoke the brethren to love good works, zeal in service for the Lord and brethren.

After asking this, I mean getting this question, I like to remember or make all you to remember Galatians chapter three, verse 27 and 28. I repeat Galatians chapter three, verse twenty seven and twenty eight. So we are all united in Christ. There is no Jew or no man or female. Whatever it may be, we are connected through Christ, through the blood of Christ.

So whoever it may be, whether it from India or whether it may be from Poland or whether it may be Romania, whether it may be us, we are all united in Christ. So that's what our Christ and the teachings of our apostles said. So we could feel that in this room as well as in the upcoming years, also the same. So I like to make all you to remember this wonderful verse. Thank you very much.

Brother Daesan. I appreciate these couple of thoughts that you were able to share with the brethren, and we are also glad to that you are with us at this convention, and please convey also our love warmest your brethren and also give reports what you saw here, and yeah.

So almost 3,000 plus Indian brothers loving and greetings. I'm just sharing to all the brothers who are participating in this international convention. Thank you very much. We have to move to. Thanks for this interview.

Okay. I'm inviting brother Tom Gilbert.

Brother Tom Gilbert from the usa. Let's wait few moments until brother arrives at the table.

Be my guest and our guest. I appreciate you accepting this. This is Simon. Yeah, it's a privilege to me to talk to you. I would like you to introduce yourself briefly from what class do you come from which area of the United States is a big country again?

Is this on yeah, it should be on. Okay. My name is Tom Gilbert. My wife and I live in the Madison, Wisconsin area, about 2 1/2 hours drive northwest of Chicago. Our ecclesia is known as the Southern Wisconsin Bible Students.

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We don't identify with the city because there's a couple here, a couple there. So we're very, very scattered, and presently we have not met in person since the beginning of the pandemic. Oh, that's interesting. We have met via Zoom.

There are still such classes that they have not met since that time when the pandemic starts. One of the reasons that we're still not meeting in person is the home in which we used to meet, the home of the other elder and his wife, Paul and Jean Mesra, some of you may know their son Jeff. I know the name. Jeff is my friend, and Jean had a stroke and she's recovering from a stroke.

And so there's lots of challenges on brother Paul, and so we have. Have not pushed the issue. Another reason is because once we transition to Zoom, it's become more convenient. Well, it's convenient, but we also have three people from Michigan meeting with us via Zoom, and they are a very valuable part of our meeting.

There's a broader circle, I would say. Yeah, and they're concerned if we get back to in person meetings, will we provide a connection for them or you stay hybrid. So the mix in mixed mode. Let's.

So how big is your class, briefly? So the number that gather are. 13. 13. 13.

Brethren, can you tell us about your spiritual life and spiritual life of your class? In which way nowadays? Well, we are all. We have no children, so, you know, they're all adult meetings and studies. Before the pandemic, part of us gathered for weeknight study, but that got discontinued with the pandemic.

We did not transition that one to Zoom yet. So we all know at least. Yes, as of yet.

When we had our weeknight studies, one of our marathon studies was we studied the book of Revelation and we lost track of how long that study took. It was somewhere between 14 and 16 years. Oh, so this is speaking of the topics. Right. What do you study?

Apart from Revelation, which is also very important topic, I presume you also study some other topics or some other types of meetings, forms of meetings. Our meetings on Sunday are always devoted to study, and for quite a number of years now, we have been studying different books of the Bible. Right now we are studying through the book of Jeremiah. Prior to that, we studied First Corinthians and then Second Corinthians.

We decided to go to an Old Testament. We may come to a New Testament book, but primarily that is our mode of study. Do you read and study like topical study according to some writings, like volumes or reference? We have in the past, as I say we, in quite a number of years now we've been studying different books of the Bible. You know, all of us have been in the fellowship for quite some time.

We've. We've studied. Familiar with writings. Yeah, and we've studied through those.

We studied the book of Hebrews a few years ago and prior to conducting that study, we had a study through tabernacle shadows as good basic material for that study of Hebrews. In what way has your class changed in the last few years? You mentioned the beginning of pandemics that changed the way you. The manner you actually meet and utilize the new tools and technological opportunities. But have there been any other changes?

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I mean, apart from what you're saying? The class is getting older and older. No children, no perspective in a sense, no hope for continuity, at least in this area. Or maybe you conduct some public witness.

We, we have not conducted, you know, class sponsored public witness for quite a few years. Sometimes it's now hard in our area to utilize a facility like a school. Yes. Due to some restrictions.

Interestingly, Madison, Wisconsin happens to be the home of, of a non profit organization called the Freedom from Religion Foundation, and they are always campaigning, in fact, when we did any religion. Right. Yeah. Having anything to do with public facilities.

So they actually came out and protested years ago when we were holding a public witness, probably showing the 4 this cause program at one of the high schools, and they came out and protested to the school district that we were using it for religious purposes of public building. As we discussed before a couple of times we talked before and during this convention. You mentioned very interesting experience of public witness, but as an individual, not as a class. Yeah.

Can you tell us and can you tell the brethren as well? Well, sure. You know, individually, we do our best to witness to those with whom we come in contact. Once I retired, I got involved in some volunteer work in my community and that mainly involves driving seniors who have no transportation to medical appointments or sometimes shopping, and this has given me a lot of opportunity to hear their life stories and in some cases hear the tragedies that they're experiencing.

Is one example a woman that I was driving and you have opportunity during the drive to talk and, and she was distraught because her son had recently committed suicide, and she said that her daughter blamed her, the mother, for the son's suicide, and, and especially because they were of the faith that believe that if you commit suicide you can't go to heaven. So the, the daughter was very, very angry at her.

Yes. So I was able to, to share what I believe, and one of the things that this has enabled me to do and is, you know, I carry booklets in my car to give out. Weren't always prepared. I try to be.

So this is a lesson also for me. Always be prepared. Yeah. Well, I, there are better examples in our fellowship than me. But you know, I was able to share that and, and to reassure her that the Bible guaranteed that she would see her son again, that he will have a place in the resurrection.

And through these experiences, what has become. Has been a transformation to me is that suddenly the, the, the kind of. The label of I'm witnessing, which always kind of made me nervous, has kind of gone away. I'm just sharing my life and my experiences and my perspectives. Naturally.

Speaking to live people. Yeah, and now I just talk about what I believe in the course of normal conversation with, with complete strangers and it's made the personal witnessing so much easier and, and, and more natural, and I think there's a like shorter distance between you and the other individual you are talking. Yeah.

Because it becomes more personal than, you know, official.

I've got to get. Give this message. Yeah. No, you, you connect with the person. Let's come back for a moment to the topic of our faith and how it can motivate our brethren in the class, the manner we do things in our class and how do we contribute?

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What is my part so that the other brethren would receive edification from your experience already from the Ecclesia life.

I'm not sure how to answer that question. I mean we, we have our meetings. We just recently once a year, a few classes in the United States. We enjoy camping and spend time together. Yes.

So we have an annual camping weekend where we all get together and we did that just what, a week, week or two before we left on this trip. But you know, we connect with each other a lot and. Yeah. Specific things. I don't know.

Perhaps you would like to share some scripture with the brethren that they would receive some motivation to love, good works and zeal. I mean, in this context of this Dima Scripture.

Can I share two? Sure. Okay. It's better to speak scriptures than give your own thought. Well, one, one that we talked about earlier that I would like to.

Effusions. Well, yeah, that's one. That was the one. But another, if I can Just say a few words about Isaiah 61 and 2. Isaiah 61, 1 and 2.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to prisoners, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and that has become a motivation for some of the activities that I do, and we, you know, in working with that woman, you know, she was brokenhearted and I had the option. It was only one example.

That's only one example. Yes, I could. We're out of time. But I could tell you many experiences because some of you know we have a son who is in prison, an adopted son with mental health issues, and that has led to many stories and many impacts on our lives that have brought about a lot of experiences in my life.

The one relating to the brethren would be the Ephesians 4 passage. Ephesians 4, Ephesians 4, verses 2 and 3, verses 2 and 3, and this is a guideline that I like to remember, especially when we as brethren, because of our differences, sometimes perhaps irritate one another, which is easy to do because we're all so different, and I'm reading it because I like it from the Phillips translation, the English Phillips translation, and it says, accept life with humility and patience, making allowances for each other because you love each other.

And I think you love each other. Yeah. You make encouragement to love, but you. You make allowances for your differences because you love one another. Not the opposite.

Not the opposite. Make it your aim to be at one in the spirit, and you will inevitably be at peace with one another. So that says if you strive for unity, it will automatically result in peace among you. So that is the care and the focus that we should do for the care of the common assembly, as the scripture says. Yes.

Thank you, Brother Tom, for sharing these thoughts for the brethren, and please take warmest love to the brethren in your area from our convention. Thank you very much. Thank you, and I will take this opportunity to give you their love.

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I didn't do that during my discourse, but they all sent their love to this convention. Now we have a turn for next interviewee, Brother Darren from Australia. So we have like representatives from various parts of the world and we go to the other part, so second hemisphere, and could you please introduce yourself briefly from what area you are from? What Ecclesia.

How does the spiritual life in your area look like nowadays. Hello brother Darius and God bless brethren. It's a privilege to be with you. I bring love from the brethren in Australia, My mother and my sister and her family, they live in Perth in Western Australia and also bring love from the brethren in Romania in art Giselle and in Ulchuk. Hungarian speaking brethren.

So I would greet you with Second Corinthians, chapter 5, verse 17 and 20 and 21. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. The old things passed away. Behold, new things have come.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us. We beg you on the behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made him who knew no sin to be seen on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. So we bring that love, and we are all from different countries, but we are all ambassadors for Christ.

Yes, brethren in Poland, maybe mostly know Bible student brethren from Melbourne. But you are from different area of Australia. Where are you located? Just to imagine. That's correct.

There's brethren scattered throughout Australia. I'm from the area in north of Brisbane, which is Gympie and Ambo was east of Australia, the northeast brethren in Sydney, in Melbourne, in Adelaide and in Perth. How big is the class? Just we have some feeling. Only a handful of brethren in our area, but we are scattered in twos and threes.

If we come together, we which we haven't had so many opportunities. How do you meet? Do you meet in person or in a meeting call or you meet online? So we currently meet online. So since 2018, our small.

Even before the pandemic started. Before the pandemic, our small class of about 10 brethren had our studies. It had been held this way for some 50 years. But with aging brethren, some health issues, we moved to technology and started with Skype. This was successful at first.

It was strange not to be meeting in person. Unfortunately, we couldn't shake each other's hand and share the fellowship with Emile. But this was somewhat of a start of a change. Yes, it was a generation change even before the pandemic started. So how does the spiritual life of your class look nowadays?

What does it mean, the class? I mean, are you. Are you actually a class or maybe some associated brethren or some broader circle? How do you consider it? We have Australian Bible students.

We've joined with the larger community of brethren and we have up to 25 brethren, English speaking brethren. But as well as this, we have three other. So from one study on a Sunday, we now have three additional studies. Also On Sunday or during the week, a Friday night we have a first John study. First John.

Saturday morning we have a James study. James episode of James. The Sunday morning is our home class, which is Second Corinthians. Second Corinthians and also our most holy faith. So there's two studies.

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Oh, is it a topical study? Correct. Okay, yeah, topical studies, and also we have opportunity. Myself is on a Monday morning join some brethren in the US And a few other countries, some I think from Poland too.

And it's a prophetic study in Zechariah, Daniel and Revelation with David Rice, Jim Parkinson. Oh, Jim Parkinson. All right, great.

Yeah, we already touched this topic of changes in the last years. Right. So some older brethren passed away and then of course joining and associating with other brethren from other parts of Australia, and do you have, do you conduct any public witness activity in the area or maybe individually or as a class? We have two forms.

I would say our website is. Australian biology is involved. The website is helpful. It keeps a witness activity happening for inquiries. The other option is personal contact, which we have within our workplace, our family, our friends.

That, that seems to be a good opportunity to give a witness.

Coming to the topic of faith and good works. How can my faith motivate other brethren in the class? And how do I contribute? How does my faith motivates me to motivate the other brethren? Could you share some thoughts on this topic?

Yeah, we certainly with Bible study, the helps, its encouragements. We. We use, you know, the tools with Christian resources. We have our hard copies, our dictionaries, commentaries. I always think it's good, a pen and a paper, a notepad to join the study.

Be prepared for the study. Oh, that's one of the thoughts that I learned from you. It's so simple that it's so obvious that you'll never mention it in this context, but I think I learned in myself to be better prepared for the meetings, to collect some scriptures, some thoughts from writings so that the brethren in the class during the study can benefit from that. So it's like our input first, correct? Yes.

If we have prepared for the study, that is a primary reason we're there to be edifying one another, and our older brethren, they. If there's nobody discussing a point, they'll be. They'll be saying, sorry if I'm talking too much, but that's sort of encouraging you to. Okay, let's share the, you know, raise the hand and share the thoughts.

Also, we ask the younger people to read. We have. So you get involved the young people so that they feel themselves like necessary or that they are integral part of the meeting. Not just the young people, but that's important. Maybe some friends of Truth friends or some brethren that aren't comfortable to speak up perhaps so they're, you know, they'll be asked to read the scriptures that are cited.

We have brethren from the Philippines join in. Oh, can you tell us about the connections with Philippines brethren? So some of the Australian brethren and have visited the Philippines in the last number of years which has been a wonderful witness for them and that joint with the online. Do you conduct meetings together with them? We do, we have.

It's using Uber conference which is a different program but yeah, it's only a tool. Yeah. So this is assisting the brethren in the Philippines. There's also in one of the other multinational studies brethren from Finland, Sweden, the UK and New Zealand. Interesting.

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So it's really international fellowship with the brethren, smaller groups between 10 and 25. This is something that the new technology has enabled open these opportunities for this kind of fellowship. Despite the time zones. That's correct. It's really hard, especially for the Australian brethren.

The time difference is so big that usually the meetings are late night or middle of the night or early morning. So if I could just mention also my wife, sister Melinda, she is Hungarian speaking and she's been able to join a small, well a group of Hungarian speaking brethren of 25 or 30 and it was the time zone that affected that she was unable to meet sometimes but that wasn't possible prior to this technology.

I would like to ask you about. Maybe you would like to share some scripture with brethren the same as the other brothers had the opportunity to quote some passage and also comment just to motivate other brethren to love, works and zeal. Yes, I can bring Romans chapter 15, Romans 15 and 16, and we, we need to certainly encourage each other in our faith. It reads now we who are strong ought to bear the weakness of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please himself. But as it is written, the reproach of those who reproached you fell on me. For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Very inspiring scriptures, I think. Thank you very much, Brother Darren, for these few words, few thoughts that you shared with us. Now it's turn for the last interviewee, and now we are going to switch into Polish language. Sinful for the translators now invite brother Przemyslav Kurek from Ukraine to join us.

Brother, please speak slowly, but we have a little time so we will try to use the time wisely. If you could just quickly introduce yourself. What's your name, where are you from and what class are you from? I come from the Lvov Ethosia.

I'm from.

I live in Ukraine, although I come from Poland originally and now I'm in Lvov because I was recently married. Could you tell us a few words about the spiritual life in the Ecclesia? What topics? What does the life look like? We meet on Sundays in our ecclesia, where we always have three parts to our Sunday meetings from around 11 o' clock to maybe 3 or 4pm and what do you do during those meetings?

We have topics like for example, the Gospel of Matthew. We also study Revelation and also the sixth volume. So you have quite a nice diverse topic to choose from.

Right now we're talking about practical topics like how to be a part of Ecclesia. This is kind of the idea of the organization of the new creation. Yes, exactly.

And are there other forms of meetings that you have in your class? Yes, we also have meetings on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the evening. So we have lots of weeknight meetings and also Saturday and also Sunday. So practically every day. But they're all online, correct?

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Yes, those weeknight meetings are online and only the one on Sunday is in person.

So do you come to.

No, we go to Brethren's home. The Brethren invite each other.

I'd like to ask you that with this change, when you came to live in Poland since then, do you see a difference?

Something that maybe surprised you or that builds you up, Something you see in maybe a different way of leading meetings that inspires you?

What's interesting is that the Brethren in Vulc from not too long ago, they began leading online studies. They used to have it on Skype and now they have it on Zoom. It's quite encouraging to see that they are able to use this form of meeting, and it wasn't such a big shock to them that the Zoom Bible study environment began because the Brethren were already ready and prepared for it, in a sense. Now, what about the war actions that are happening in Ukraine?

Do they have influence on your Bible study? Do you have any types of restrictions or can you meet freely? Because of course, external circumstances can definitely have an impact on what happens in the fellowship.

Well, right now we have pretty much freedom when it comes to meeting together.

When it comes to fear of the situation, some brethren are worried that they might be drafted into the army.

They're in a way afraid to show up to the meeting physically because they're worried that they might be stopped and taken into the army.

Is there any type of persecution on the part of the government that you experience? No, rather not.

Do you have many witness opportunities? We have a website in Ukrainian and in Russian as well, where there are reprints the volumes.

We also have some YouTube videos with nice music that presents, for example, the photo, drama or other articles from.

Yeah, thank you. So it looks like you also have online efforts in order to share the good word with those who are looking for it.

The faith supported by works in your case, motivate our fellow brethren.

I can tell you about time.

For example, I'll start with new opportunities when it comes to leading meetings.

We have a testimony meeting that is thematic. For example, a week before the meeting, we will choose the verse from the mana text and the comment to the manna, for example, about patients, and everyone prepares for a week and they try to work on this concept of patience and collect stories about how they practice it and to share how it worked out. Did they in fact have patience? Or maybe not really?

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So it's almost kind of like we get homework. We have to prepare for the homework so then we can then share something positive so that other people can benefit from it.

Unfortunately, our time has run away with us, so we have to bring the meeting to a close. So at the end of our little talk here, I wanted to ask you, brother, do you have a verse that you would like to share with us in order to stimulate us to good works and maybe a quick commentary? I don't have a verse, but I just wanted to provide a comment just to summarize general service to the Lord. You know, I asked myself, what does it mean? To serve God means to serve the body of Christ, to serve his Christ, the members of his body.

That's why we should be paying attention to this, paying most attention to it. To serve our brethren, especially those who are elderly and isolated, to build them up with our words and our actions. Thank you very much, Brother Przemek.

I wish we had more time in order to talk, but my time is running away with us and his Tongue to an end.

Brotherly fellowship is very important. These words that I shared, the theme text really, truly inspire me. Even from the beginning of this convention they inspired me. I just wanted to underline again how important this common fellowship is. It's more important than us ourselves.

It's look at others, not just at ourselves. I think it's a lesson that flows from these words even the more so that we see that this day of the Lord is coming near. This brotherly fellowship should be a two way street. First you give positive, something positive, you put something positive, you bring it to your ecclesia so that others can benefit from it, and what others bring, we benefit from that.

That is the true concept Here.

Let us pay close special attention not to forsake the meeting of ourselves together. Because from meeting together and we receive a blessing. Last verse Matthew 5:15, Matthew 5:15 or 16. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

This fellowship that we had today, before I turn it back to brother Mariusz, I wanted to just share a hymn 46 in the Polish hymn book.

Brother Hubert has prepared this hymn for us. He tried his best and I'm very very grateful for his help. So I would like this him to sound here in this room. As we finish up our fellowship, we're going to stand and sing it before the brethren align themselves up. After this meeting there's a the opportunity to buy books and pictures and to buy any other literature.

Because tomorrow we will only be selling the pictures and the discourse book. If you want to buy any type of other literature, you must do so. Please. After this meeting is the last opportunity for that. Let's listen to the words of this hymn.

It we would ask that all the brethren would join us together in singing so that we can sing together. So the brothers will begin and sing the first three and then the fourth and fifth. We would invite you all to sing with us this beautiful hymn Sa call J as.

Thank you dear brother. This was him to close the day. Now I ask that we all rise.

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We will all pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Dai nam jishai nasimovai nas pokushanyak alenas bab.

I wish you all a good night till tomorrow.