

Christian Education Center "Diamond"

Białystok, May 19, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

First of all, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on the 210th anniversary of International Ministries. This is a special opportunity to express gratitude to God for using you for over two centuries in the work of preaching the Gospel in various ways, in many places around the world, including in our country, Poland. We are very grateful for the invitations to participate in such a unique event. We consider it a great privilege. Unfortunately, we cannot be with you physically, but we will be with you spiritually.

Your anniversary inspired us with memories and we realized that our partnership has a long history, lasting 25 years. From the very beginning of our cooperation, we met many wonderful people from International Ministries who treated us with love and friendship. It was not only emotions, but above all practical action, thanks to which the ministry of the "Diamond" Christian Education Center in Poland was our common ministry. Thanks to our partnership, we were able to help hundreds of children and young people in several cities in Poland. These are children and youth from dysfunctional, poor and pathological families with such problems as alcoholism, drugs, the children from orphanages also.

Over the last 25 years, thanks to your help, we have been able to complete many projects and events together. These were clubs for children and youth in several cities in Poland, summer campaigns during which camps and day camps were organized, winter campaigns, rehabilitation camps for handicapped children and their families, actions to help children from orphanages, special actions to help poor families, publishing books for parents, children and teenagers, organization the workshops and conferences for parents and people involved in the ministry among children.

The main message of our projects was sharing the Gospel through everyday Christian attitude. This important principle was proven that together with you we could do more to help people and glorify our Lord in a practical way.

The conversations with former participants of our projects are very valuable to us. Today, they are adults over 30. They express their gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the activities organized by the "Diamond" Christian Education Center. The time spent with us, and daily influencing them changed their thinking and behavior for the better. In the past, some of them caused enormous educational problems as teenagers, were aggressive, and did not respect social rules. Our daily Christian attitude, patient work and conversations changed the lives of many of them. Today, as adults, they started a families, have their own children, and work to support them. It is gratifying that they often repeat that we, as educators, have a large share in arranging their lives.

Our work is a witness of the Baptist Church in Poland, as a denomination which in practical solving of social problems takes part.

Once again, we congratulate you on such a wonderful Jubilee and we wish God's wisdom and His guidance in the coming years of this very fruitful service.

May God bless you richly.



Ryszard Gutkowski
Director of Christian Education Center "Diamond"