

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

THE CENTER FOR MISSION AND EVANGELISM  
OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION  
IN POLAND



WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVE FOR 21 YEARS ALREADY  
WE HAVE BEEN A PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANIZATION FOR 13 YEARS



## THE YEAR 2017 IN A FEW SENTENCES

In connection with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland announced 2017 as a Year of Reformation. As the Center for Mission and Evangelism is the part of the Evangelical Church, it was reflected in many our projects, actions, meetings and publications this year.

In all our actions and events we were accompanied by the Biblical verse of the year from the Ezekiel 36:24, referring to the fact, that Reformation started a renewal of the Church: *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.*

A renewal is something we need constantly, both in Church, country, society dimension and in family life. Lack of renewal means no development, stagnation, standing in forms, stereotypes and doctrines that are unadjusted to modern times.

In our actions we reminded both the achievements of Reformation and its influence on changes in religious, cultural, economic and socio-political space. We also tried to inspire to be creative in interpreting and transforming reality, to be involved in positive and renewing actions.

We hope that recipients of our programs, partners cooperating with us and those who support our actions were encouraged to grow, both spiritually and socially.

### THE AREAS OF OUR ENGAGEMENT ARE I.A.:

#### **Social actions:**

Family for a Family, Give Children Hope, help for Burkina Faso and Aswan

#### **charitable actions:**

Christmas Present bringing hope for children endangered with poverty in Ukraine, Belarus, Romania and Bulgaria; A Letter to the Baby directed to the street children and their families

#### **evangelization activities:**

evangelistic crusades

#### **projects for the youth:**

Sleepless night, Night with Luther, Music Workshops, camps street workers' activity in upper Silesia with the street children

#### **psychological-pastoral counseling:**

working in 1:1 relation and in groups

#### **media:**

radio program "Po prostu" broadcasted in a local radio and on the internet (January and February), social media, Internet trainings:

Bible School, counseling and supervision courses, course for Sunday School teachers

#### **publishing house:**

it has been publishing Christian literature, music and plays. We also have a "Warto" bookstore in Cieszyn and on the internet - [warto.com.pl](http://warto.com.pl)

Since the beginning we have been trying to reach children and youth, adults and seniors. We cooperate with non-governmental organizations and local governments in realizing projects in various parts of Poland, and with our international partners.

We accompany children, youth and adults in everyday life, to improve their life quality. This improvement is closely related to spiritual needs.

CME is trying to motivate and create opportunities to:

- discover one's calling
- be involved in helping others
- develop abilities that God gives each of us
- acquire new skills and competence
- create good interpersonal relations

### CME COUNCIL

It is the highest authority, it supervises the realization of its tasks, initiates activities and controls.

President: Rev. Bp Paweł Anweiler

Secretary: Jan Macura

Members: Rev. Bp Jerzy Samiec, Rev. Bp Marian Niemiec, Maciej Oczkowski

## EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

In 2017 there was a change in the position of the director of Center for Mission and Evangelism. Since the establishment of CME this position was held by Rev. Grzegorz Giemza. In 2017 deacon Paweł Gumpert became a new director.

In 2017 there were 25 full-time employees working in CME (4 of them on vacation), 76 employees on contracts. 1 person is working abroad, in Aswan (Egypt) as a missionary nurse. There were 50 volunteers on contracts and 894 who helped during our actions throughout the year. In 2017 we celebrated 8 weddings among our employees and volunteers.

## EVANGELICAL CHURCH DAYS

An important event in this Reformation Year was Evangelical Church Days, organized in Poland for the first time. In Cieszyn Silesia, where more than half of Polish Lutherans live, evangelicals from Poland met on 15- 18 of June. In this special year we remembered the history and achievements of Polish Lutherans, we talked about our church today and debated about the future. Services, meetings, seminars, concerts were connected with the slogan "Yesterday" (Ustroń, Wisła 15.06), "Today" (Cieszyn 16.06), "Tomorrow" (Bielsko-Biała 17.06). CME employees joined in organizing ECD, i.a. we coordinated volunteers' work (Katarzyna Wesner-Macura), led seminars (Bożena Giemza, Joanna Rączkowiak, Mariola and Roman Fenger, Rev. Grzegorz Olek), and coordinated performances by theater groups in Adam Mickiewicz's Theater in Cieszyn (Rev. Grzegorz Olek), we had a stand on market square in Cieszyn during CME concert. We publicized events in Wisła (15.06) and Cieszyn (16.06) and run an internet broadcast of the main service (17.06) in a sport and entertainment hall "Pod Dębowcem" in Bielsko-Biała (Marcin Iskrzycki). After the service our CME music group took part in jubilee concert.

## EVANGELISTIC CRUSADES

These are our annual summer events which take place in three cities in Poland.

### DZIĘGIELÓW, 1ST - 9TH JULY 2017

9 evangelization meetings - 11000 participants, 14370 on-line entries  
27 evangelization meetings for children in 3 groups - 3270 participants  
50 meetings such as seminars, workshops, activities for children and youth - 4520 participants  
8 concerts and 2 services

236 volunteers: lecturers, people who work with children and youth, registration, café, supervising meals, responsible for cleaning up, technicians, sound, video broadcast

### ZELÓW, 16TH - 22ND JULY 2017

7 evangelization meetings with concerts for adults - 730 participants  
7 seminars - 320 participants  
6 meetings for children - 580 participants  
1 service - 280 participants

38 volunteers: lecturers, people working with children, café, technicians

### MRAĞOWO, 20TH - 27TH AUGUST

7 evangelization meetings - 550 participants  
7 seminars - 190 participants  
7 meetings for children - 240 participants  
2 services - 260 participants

26 volunteers: lecturers, people working with children, in a café, technicians

## CHARITABLE ACTIONS

### FAMILY FOR A FAMILY SINCE 1999

During this year we were regularly supporting 4 families endangered with poverty. In July we co-financed the participation costs in the Evangelistic Crusade in Dzięgielów for 4 people. In August we covered the participation costs in the Evangelistic Crusade in Mrağowo for one family. Together in 2017 our financial support was equal to PLN 15,953.

5 volunteers: members of Care Council

### CHRISTMAS PRESENT SINCE 2001

It was already 17th edition of this action. Thanks to the generosity of Polish donors from schools, kindergartens and Churches we sent 5812 Christmas presents to Belarus, Ukraine and Romania to children endangered with poverty, and - for the first time - to Bulgaria, to children from refugee camp.

More than 300 volunteers: regional and local coordinators, school, kindergarten and parish coordinators, people helping in collecting, sorting, packing etc.

### GIVE CHILDREN HOPE SINCE 2009

This is a fund of financial holiday support for children from families in a difficult life situation. This year we co-financed the participation costs in "Nice!" camp for youth for 3 people, with the total sum of PLN 3000.

7 volunteers: 5 Hope Ambassadors, 2 members of Care Council

## **LETTER TO THE BABY SINCE 2011**

We asked children, with whom we work in Bytom's districts (Bobrek, Karb and Rozbark) to write a letter to the Baby. Then the letters were given to people and groups who were willing to prepare gifts for their authors, PLN 100 each. It was not about collecting money but about buying and packing the gift for a particular child, according to his or her wishes included in the letter. The gifts were handed to 137 children by our street pedagogues during Christmas Eve meetings and during private visits at their homes.

Gifts were prepared by 117 people – families, coworkers, parish and student groups.

## **FOR CHILDREN**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SYNOPSSES**

A year-round project

Working on materials in the form of synopses which are practical help in Sunday Schools for children in parishes  
44 synopses were prepared and published on [www.materialy.cme.org.pl](http://www.materialy.cme.org.pl).

2 volunteers: one is preparing the main topic of the Sunday School, second one is preparing ideas for art activities

### **PASSION RETREAT**

1st March – 12th April

58 meetings for children in 13 different places, e.x. Ustroń, Jaworze, Jasienica, Cisownica, Stare Bielsko, Drogomyśl, Wisła-Czarne, Biała, Orzesze, Gliwice, Lasowice.

Main topics of the meetings:

1. Jesus understands your feelings, because He was a child too.
2. Jesus showed how to fight with temptation.
3. Jesus wants children to know Him as God.

The theme of meetings for youth was "Godly surgeon".

Meetings were prepared by 7 CME employees, 6 volunteers and 3 students from Christian Theological Academy.

### **COURSE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

25th-28th July

It was the first part of a course which is prepared to help people who want to lead a Sunday School in their parish. 8 participants took part in our program, which involved psychological lectures, music workshops, spiritual workshops, working on Sunday School themes, working with Biblical figure.

Program was prepared by 2 CME employees and 4 volunteers.

### **CAMP FOR CHILDREN "WITH A FRIEND"**

6th-15th August

Interesting, active holidays for children, developing the fe-

eling of responsibility and independence, integration of children from various parts of Poland and from abroad.

Theme: Rivers of miracles. Learning about 6 biblical rivers, where miracles happened.

31 participants from Opole, Skoczów, Kończyce Małe, Górki Wielkie, Jasienica, Jaworze, Zelów, Włocławek, Bytom, Sulejów, Jastrzębie Zdrój, Cisownica, Katowice, Hażlach, Bełk, Cieszyn, Kępa, Germany.

2 CME employees and 3 volunteers were engaged in organizing the camp.

### **CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH ENGLISH**

18th-31st July in Brenna, Dziegiełłów, Kraków, Skoczów, Słupsk

1st-14th August in Konin, Radom

Educational-evangelization character, 290 participants.

75 volunteers – people who led Sunday Schools, art, dancing and sport activities.

40 volunteers from Poland, 35 from the USA.

## **FOR YOUTH**

### **CHOT CHRISTIAN TECHNOLOGICAL CAMP**

15th-22nd January in Wisła-Czarne.

Integration, developing talents, workshops: 3D printing, Electronics and programming, designing and operating a milling machine, Cooking workshops, "Game for the Kingdom".

30 participants, 10 volunteers: leaders and tutors.

### **SLEEPLESS NIGHT**

15th-16th April in Skoczów

Open meeting for youth on Great Saturday (for the 20th time), impulse for reflection on the meaning of Passion, Easter and one's own spirituality.

800 participants, 42 volunteers.

### **NICE! YOUTH CAMP**

24th July-2nd August in Ptaszyniec

Integration of young people from all over Poland, discovering new places in our country, getting to know God and His Word better

45 participants, 4 leaders

### **MUSICAL WORKSHOPS**

22nd-24th September in Wisła

Integration, developing talents (vocal workshops), learning and performing over a dozen songs

350 participants, 1300 people on the audience during a final concert, 20 volunteers – conductors, acousticians, staff

## **NIGHT WITH LUTHER**

31st October in Adam Mickiewicz Theater in Cieszyn

Reflection on Reformation's message, integration of young people. Spectacle about the "solae".

500 participants, 25 volunteers: actors, acousticians, musicians, vocalists.

## **BIBLE AND FORMATION MEETINGS MEETINGS FOR WOMEN AND MARRIAGES**

### **BIBLICAL HOUR**

It is a series of regular meetings with God's Word - usually once in a week. Meetings take place in many evangelical parishes in Poland and are led by 21 evangelists.

From the beginning of 2017 Bible and formation meetings, and meetings for women and marriages are led by Mariola and Roman Fenger.

*Leader: Mariola Fenger*

- Meetings for woman in Tychy, Bytom-Miechowice, home groups for ladies in Tychy and Katowice
- Conferences for women in Dziegielów - Spring conference on 13th May, Autumn conference on 11th November- 450 participants, 20 volunteers
- Breakfast for women in Tychy, 20th May - 154 participants, 15 volunteers
- Breakfast for women in Świętochłowice, 4th November - 164 participants, 16 volunteers

*Leader: Roman Fenger*

- Biblical Hours in Cisownica, Czerwionka Leszczyny, Tychy, Mikołów and Pszczyna
- Meetings „Discovering Christianity” in Bytom-Miechowice and Hołdunów
- Bible meetings at the headquarters of “Uskrzydlij dzieciaki” foundation in Chorzów

- Services on Sundays and during a week in Tychy

*Leaders: Mariola and Roman Fenger*

- Lectures at the meetings for marriages in Wisła (26.01), Cieszyn (18.02), Golasowice (25.02), Czech Cieszyn (26.03), Pszczyna (1.04), Dębowiec (6.05), Poznań (19.02)
- 24 meetings for seniors in Tychy
- 6 Bible meetings in Pszczyna
- 3 meetings 'Marriage+' in Kraków

In all those meetings in conferences there was more than 2000 participants.

## **GROUP OF STREET PEDAGOGUES 'UNO'**

In 2017 we were during the two-year project “Program of a day care facility for children and youth in the form of a street work” which was co-financed by the European Union under the European Social Fund. It is a street pedagogy of

an animation and prohibition and educational nature, for children and adolescents between the ages of 6 and 16, who spend their time in the backyards, playgrounds of 3 districts of Bytom: Bobrek, Karb, Rozbark. The project is focused on increasing the self-esteem of children through participating in the prohibition and educational activities.

Participants in 2017: 24 protégés of the program “Expand your wings”, 100 participants of Mobile School program. In the frames of that project there were several trainings: “School different than others” (31.03-2.04); Festival of fun (12-14.07 Rozbark, 19-21.07 Bobrek, 26-28.07 Karb), drug prevention workshops FRED Goes Net (29-30.09), culinary workshops (14.11), and preventive workshop (30.11), Santa Claus Day (6.12), Christmas Eve with protégés (19.12).

6 streetworkers in project “Expand your wings”, 3 backyard educators in Mobile School project, 58 volunteers.

## **BIBLE SCHOOL**

This is a place for those who want to understand God's Word better and build their life on it. Here we get familiar with the content and the message of the Old and New Testament and with the basic Biblical doctrines. Learning takes place in a two-year cycle, includes 36 meetings (lectures at Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). On 2nd July during the ceremonial service on Evangelistic Crusade in Dziegielów, 5 students received graduation diplomas.

In 2017 there were 18 meetings and events such as inauguration of the new academic year (8th October; 12 new students, 8 second year students), quarter meetings of graduates and former students.

## **PASTORAL COURSES**

On October 2017 another certified course at the basic and advanced level began. The course consists of 8 two-week conventions. There are 7 participants and is led by Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Giemza and Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Olek, according to Polish Society of Counseling and Pastoral Psychology standards.

## **EGZEGEZA.PL**

In 2017 there were 9 authors (men and women) of 54 commentaries to various Bible Texts regularly presented on the website. It was already the fifth year of running this project.

## RADIO PROGRAM "PO PROSTU"

In 2017 we produced 59 programs (half an hour each) that were broadcasted in the Radio CCM and on the internet in January and February, every day at 9 p.m. These were the final two months of the program's broadcast. After 14 years of everyday broadcast (6.01.2003 - 28.02.2017), this project has been closed. In the 1st Program of Polish Radio, in the cycle "Churches in Poland and in the world" there were 4 our documentaries broadcasted, and in our studio we recorded 8 auditions for the 2nd Program of Polish Radio and its cycle "Five minutes with the Bible".

22 volunteers: lecturers, actors, preachers

## RECORDING STUDIO AND SOUND SYSTEM

In March 2017, after we have finished "Po prostu", we started reconstruction of our recording studio, and prepared it to be useful for recording music bands and vocalists. In May we recorded the first groups - BeHappy and the Bells from Skoczów. We also recorded such bands as "For Him", the Bells from Zelów, regional band Wisła. We made a mix and mastering of CD records for those bands, we also made a play "Animals from the clearing".

Thanks to the development of our equipment base, we were responsible for a sound system for several events, such as convention of confirmators in Drogomyśl, Youths conference in Cieszyn, Sleepless night in Skoczów, Evangelical Church Days in Wisła and Cieszyn, Evangelistic Crusades in Dziegiełłów, Zelów and Mrągowo, Music workshops 500+ in Wisła, Family Christmas Meeting in Cieszyn. We also prepared a few videos and presentations promoting Warto bookshop, Christmas Present project, Evangelistic Crusade in Dziegiełłów and others.

## MUSIC GROUP CME

20 volunteers, musicians and vocalists formed a band. They performed e.g. on Youth's Conference in Cieszyn (25.03), in evangelical church in Tychy (4.06), Cieszyn and Bielsko-Biała during Evangelical Church Days (15 and 16.06) and in amphitheater in Wisła (9.09). During the crusade in Dziegiełłów (1-9.07) the band was leading worship every evening and gave a concert on 7th July.

## CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CRIME

The Center worked whole 2017 year, in the frames of a project organized by the Ministry of Justice's Department of Family and Juvenile Affairs. Its aim is to support people affected by crime in area of legal and psychological consult and material help. We received a donation from Funds of Postpenitentiary Help and Help for the People Affected by Crime. This help was provided in the main center in Gliwice, Chorzów, Cieszyn and Katowice.

Our first contact consultants supported about 500 people, and 381 were the clients of the Center. There were 1357 hours of psychological advice, 968 hours of legal advice, including mediations. We also led inner trainings on the help system, concerning legal and social support instruments for people affected by crime. We also participated in the Week of Help for People Affected by Crime, in cooperation with courts and police. Our specialists were on duty, giving psychological and legal advice.

Center for the people affected by crime, in cooperation with the Foster Families Association "Under the wings" in Gliwice, took part in preparing and realizing a project Christmas Action Motivation 9-16 December 2017, which was implemented by Evangelical parish in Gliwice. Christmas events were planned as a part of addiction prevention activities. The aim was to promote a sober lifestyle and counteract alcoholism. We organized a Christmas meeting for Center's protégés and their families. On 31st December the Center's activity has come to an end.

## WARTO PUBLISHING HOUSE

Reformation theme was reflected in many our publications. We published 9 books: *From conflict to communion. Lutheran-catholic commemoration of Reformation in 2017. Report of Lutheran-catholic Dialogue Commission for Unity.* Common prayer in the translation of Dariusz Bruncz, Called edited by Emil Gajdacz, Bożena Giemza, Joanna Rączkowiak, *God without beard* by Piotr Lorek, *Lutheran catechism for adults* edited by Bożena Giemza and Marcin Hintz, *The Church, the Bible and public involvement: World Lutheran Federation in the consideration of 500 years of Reformation jubilee* edited by National Committee of World Lutheran Federation, in the translation of Monika Mendroch. *Daily contemplation for women* edited by Katarzyna Rudkowska and Aleksandra Błahut-Kowalczyk, *Dad!* by Lidia Czyż, *Christian signposts for every day. Selection of Marcin Luther's sermons and scriptures*, in translation of Stefan Kozieł and edited by Bożena Giemza and Joanna Rączkowiak, *Crumbs of God's Word* by Roman Mikler in cooperation with evangelical

parish in Kraków. We published one trilingual title *Friend and stranger in the context of the current migration crisis. Experiences and tasks for the Church and society* edited by Rev. Prof. Zygfryd Glaeser and Rev. Dr. Grzegorz Giemza.

For our youngest recipients, we prepared our eighth play *Animals from the clearing* in cooperation with Good Heart Theater in Warsaw, we also resumed our Christmas play *Teoś and Christmas*. For the third time already we have released a CD with the Bells from Zelów, this time entitled *10000 reasons. Bless the Lord, oh, my soul*. During the Evangelization Crusade in Dziegiełków we released 27 CDs with lectures and seminars, both in audio and mp3.

In September we moved our main office from Dziegiełków to Warsaw, to Willowa Street 1. During the last three months of the year we had an intern working with us, in the frames of the project "SOS Family - counteracting social exclusion of Warsaw residents" co-financed with the European Social Fund. The distributor of all our publications is Warto bookshop. On the website [www.warto.cme.org.pl](http://www.warto.cme.org.pl) there are more information about our work.

## WARTO BOOKSHOP

There were about 3500 titles: books, CDs, postcards, gadgets etc. available in the bookshop. We served 20 stands during outer events, e.g. conference for women, Evangelical Church Days, pastors' conference and Synod, Evangelization Crusades. Our bookshop was visited by over 15,000 clients and 3,000 on outer stands. Almost every evangelical parish in Poland did shopping in our bookshop, as well as other communities, organizations, bookshops, institutions.

We cooperate with around 50 publishers, warehouses and producers. We have released our own Reformation products: postcards, posters, umbrellas, reflections with the Luther rose, bracelets with the Luther rose, angels with Psalms and other.

## KITCHEN AND MEALS ON WHEELS

We served 17,334 dinners. We cooked dinners for workers, volunteers, old and lonely people living in the area of Cieszyn, Goleiszów and Ustroń. We drove altogether 28,068 km.

## WWW

Since 28th February 2017 we have a new website [www.cme.org.pl](http://www.cme.org.pl) It was visited by almost 14,000 people. The greatest number - 600 people every day - visited our website during Evangelization Crusade in Dziegiełków in July. Our online bookstore [warto.com.pl](http://warto.com.pl) noticed 28,000 entrances and the biggest interest was also in July. Our Facebook profile had 2601 fans at the beginning of the year and 2953 at the end. Number of CME's fans has grown from 1203 to 1280. The average number of displays from evangelization meetings in Dziegiełków is equal to 2500 (data from 19.03.2018), 1000 people were watching it every night LIVE.

Our websites: [www.cme.org.pl](http://www.cme.org.pl), [www.warto.cme.org.pl](http://www.warto.cme.org.pl), [www.te.cme.org.pl](http://www.te.cme.org.pl), [www.prochrist.pl](http://www.prochrist.pl), [www.warto.com.pl](http://www.warto.com.pl), [www.egzegeza.pl](http://www.egzegeza.pl), [www.prezent.cme.org.pl](http://www.prezent.cme.org.pl), [www.jesushouse.pl](http://www.jesushouse.pl).

## FINANCES

We are really grateful to all donors!

Our projects were feasible thanks to the revenues obtained as follows:

Church donation	7%
Offerings	19%
National grants	30%
International grants	7%
Income from selling goods and services, participation fees	33%
Income from 1% <i>(people in Poland can give 1% of their tax to a certain public benefit organization)</i>	2%
Other revenues	2%
Income 3,534,826	= 100%

In the year 2017 we reached ca. 57 000 people, with the help of 894 volunteers, 50 of whom are regular ones. We cooperated with 293 partners.



# THANK YOU

FOR COOPERATION AND FEEL INVITED TO IT.



ul. Misyjna 8  
43-445 Dzięgielów  
cme@cme.org.pl  
www.cme.org.pl  
FB: CentrumMisji