



1997-2022

Who are  
25 year old

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

In 2022, we started our 25th year of activity. The regulation granting us legal personality was signed on December 24, 1997, so it was, in a way, a Christmas present! The establishment of our structures by the Consistory of the Lutheran Church took place on April 1, 1998 and had nothing to do with ... April Fool's Day – the work started in earnest and in full swing! From the beginning, we have acted and continue to operate in the following fields: evangelization, mission, education, social, charitable and culture-forming. The need and the possibility of developing such activities were to a large extent related to the systemic changes that initiated the Round Table talks in our country. New opportunities for creative initiatives opened up also for all Churches in the Republic of Poland, freed from the pressure of communist ideology.

In the implementation of projects, the first and the current, we cooperate with non-governmental organizations and local governments in various places in Poland, as well as with international organizations. There were hundreds of partners, supporters and people who prayed, and thousands of recipients of our activities. But it is not about numbers and names, although our gratitude is great, but about **friendly accompaniment to others, motivating and creating opportunities to discover your calling, get involved, develop your abilities, acquire new skills and competences, and above all create good and valuable relationships, in trust in God** – and this has been our mission from the very beginning!

## **GOSPEL**

Since the 1980s, the Evangelization Weeks in Dziegiełków have attracted thousands of participants every year, so almost immediately, apart from continuing this largest and most important campaign, we decided to organize similar Weeks in northern and central Poland. Already in 1998, the first Evangelization Week was organized in Mrągowo in cooperation with the Evangelical parish in Mrągowo and the Masurian diocese, and in 2006 in Żelów together with the Evangelical Reformed Church and the Reformed parish in Żelów. The purpose of all Weeks is to preach the gospel, the truth about Jesus Christ, and to invite you to bind your life with Him as Savior. We also initiated other forms of evangelization meetings, such as Evangelization Days in Gliwice, Koszalin, Bible Days with a Biblebus, or Weeks of Christian Culture in Karpacz. We also established cooperation with international organizations, and so already in 2000 we participated in satellite evangelistic campaigns ProChrist and JesusHouse. These meetings, broadcast to many places all over Europe, are held periodically every few years, and we have the privilege of being their representative and coordinator in Poland. In 2008, in „Spodek” in Katowice, the largest evangelization campaign, ProChrist, was held so far, with satellite transmission to over 100 locations in Poland. Eight evenings with good music, shows and life stories, combined with the proclamation of God's Word, gave a strong impetus to many people and entire communities. It was an unprecedented event in which almost all Churches in Poland took part. In 2019, in June, at the Bielsko Cultural Center, we organized, on a smaller scale, three ProChrist Evenings under the slogan „Incredible?” with speakers from different Churches.

## **HELP**

“To improve the quality of life” is one of our slogans, which expresses the conviction stemming from the gospel that helping your neighbor should be both spiritual and material. Therefore, from the very beginning of our existence, evangelization activities have been accompanied by charitable initiatives. The „Family to the Family” assistance fund provides support for families affected by traumatic events, e.g. death, disease, fire. Since 2009, there has also been a fund called „Give

children hope”, which provides financial support for recreation to children and adolescents from families in a difficult life situation. And since 2011, in Bytom, where our streetworkers work, the „Letter to the Child” campaign has been organized, which is about buying and packing a gift for a specific child, in accordance with his or her request contained in the letter. These gifts are then given to the children during Christmas Eve meetings or during private visits to homes.

We also do charity work on an international scale. Since 2001, we have been organizing, in cooperation with the Polish Diakonia and the Joannici Dzieło Pomocy Oddział Śląski (Joanniter Relief Organization Silesian Branch) the action „A Christmas present”. Thanks to the involvement of Polish donors, from kindergartens, schools and churches, several thousand Christmas parcels are sent every year to Ukraine, Belarus, Romania and – recently – to children staying in refugee camps in Bulgaria and Serbia. Many packages go to orphanages, children's homes and families at risk of poverty. Several hundred volunteers are involved in the action, including 144 local coordinators. Since the beginning of the campaign, we have sent over 90,000 parcels.

## **INSIDE AND OUTSIDE**

Poland is our primary place for missionary activities. Some of them are a continuation of those conducted before the establishment of the Center, under the patronage of the Evangelization and Mission Commission of the Cieszyn Diocese of the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in the Republic of Poland. The first years of our operation and the present one have one thing in common – focusing on relationships. And as in the beginning, as a young and developing institution, we changed according to the needs that appeared and new opportunities, so today our development confirms the truth of the thesis that institutions are subject to analogous processes that take place in society - in this sense CME is a child of its era. Building identity as an institution is a process that is constantly taking place in our country. The recent changes have necessitated a new, but constantly pointing to another human being, as our main slogan says: „People are God's method”.

We are convinced that where people are the subject of work, interpersonal relationships must not be neglected, so we took a step further... and for several years we have been implementing – mainly through volunteers – the project „Aid for Africa”. Its aim is to help the people of Pobe Mengao in the northern part of Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world. During the Evangelization Weeks in Dziegielów, African workshops and a handicraft stand are organized, and all the money collected is allocated to help the inhabitants of this country. Thanks to the generosity of many people, we were able to, among others: buy textbooks and school aids, finance the feeding and maintenance of orphans and equipment for the tailor's workshop, construction of a brick workshop building, organize a screening of the film „Jesus” in Moore language in several villages, buy Bibles, conduct AIDS lessons, pay for birth certificates for the poorest children. In 2016, we organized a nationwide collection of underwear for women from this country under the slogan „Women's Secret Mission”. For several years, the Center had a group called „Mission of the Heart and the Gospel” acting for the benefit of Africa, and the project „Ukraine” was carried out, the aim of which was to provide material and spiritual help to our neighbors from beyond the eastern border, for example by creating conditions for studying theology for young Ukrainians, conducting seminars in Ukraine and international camps or cooperation on the „Christmas Gift”. Since 2014, we have been employing a missionary nurse who works in an Egyptian mission hospital in Aswan (Evangelical Mission Hospital Al Germaniyya), a city located on the upper Nile. In addition to typical nursing work, she organizes training for nurses and male nurses, and works to reorganize

and equip the intensive care unit. On the occasion of her work, we conducted the campaigns to raise funds for medical materials and disposable equipment, which are constantly missing there.

## **FREELY**

Our volunteers are hundreds of people of all ages who voluntarily support missionary and evangelization activities, both during our events (and this is the most numerous group) and long-term, or in the form of e-volunteering, family volunteering. They are people who give a good testimony of service to God – not motivated by financial compensation. Work based on voluntary work is carried out in all our departments, e.g. by brothers evangelists in several dozen parishes, mainly in the Cieszyn diocese. For several years, we were the holders of the Volunteer-Friendly Organization certificate, which we received as part of the Good Volunteering program, implemented by the Polish Network of Volunteer Centers and the Research and Social Innovation Center STOCZNIA from Warsaw.

## **MEETINGS**

Our main forms of meetings over 25 years include: quarterly conferences for married couples (for several years in Wisła-Jawornik), meetings for married couples co-organized with several evangelical parishes of the Cieszyn and Katowice dioceses, conferences for women, women's clubs, breakfasts for women, breakfasts for men, meetings for seniors, family holidays, holidays with the Bible, meetings and courses for engaged couples, family counselling. There were also forms of work dedicated to special events or topics, such as the seminar „How to instil Christianity” or the series „Support groups for people after loss”.

## **THE YOUNGEST AND THE YOUNG**

From the very beginning, we have organized winter camps, summer trainings for Sunday school teachers and, until now, summer camps for children, winter conferences and Passion retreats, regional and advent conferences and other trainings on work with children. The „Rainbow Harvest Camps”, „English Camps” and, recently, „Camps with English language” with the participation of volunteer teachers from the USA and Poland were very popular. Children and teenagers have learned and learn English, but also biblical truths, culture and customs of Anglo-Saxon countries. For several years, we have been preparing materials in the form of drafts to help run Sunday schools, i.e. church services for children in parishes. In 2020, due to the pandemic, we organized a day camp instead of a traditional summer camp. In 2021, we started several new online projects for children, incl. „Szkółkowieści”, a Christian information service for children, which presents information from the world of missions, biblical stories, literature and ideas on how to spend your free time creatively. And for people working with children, thematic e-conferences are regularly held, where experts from various fields present interesting methods and forms of work.

Working with and for young people is a very important space for us and rich in creative ideas. From the beginning, we organized camps, special events and trainings, e.g. a mission camp “Filiplip”, Titanic II, Obozury, a preventive program for secondary schools “New lifestyle – no alcohol”, Reggae Czad Festival, ChOT, Cool! youth camp, Sleepless Night, Evangelical Youth Forum, National Evangelical Youth Congress, Night with Luther, Navigation Course, meetings and training for leaders. In 2020, due to the pandemic, instead of a summer camp, we organized outdoor classes. At that time, we also initiated several new online projects: GOOD EVENING! # YOUNG PEOPLE, where a live program was broadcast every evening, which included: conversations with specialists,



stories of young people, devotion of the Word of God, prayer, and a culinary corner. The meetings GOOD ADVENT # YOUNG PEOPLE had a similar course. The series of „Talks” and „In Their Own Words” were also launched.

In 2008, we focused our activities on the development of pedagogical and pastoral work on the street. We have completed two projects in two cities as Intergenerational Meeting Places. Our experience prompted us to create a concept for the development of street work among children and young people at risk of social exclusion. And so, after two years, the UNO Street Pedagogues Group was established and started its streetworking activities in Bytom-Miechowice in cooperation with the local Evangelical parish. It operates to this day in several districts to establish and maintain relationships with children who are characterized by difficult behavior, and to show them the world – the local and global – at the same time confronting them with the world of values that are little known to them. The several-year project „Backyard without violence” is behind us, and „UNOsMOCNI” is in progress. We look after children and adolescents from 6 to 18 years of age who spend their free time in the yard or in shopping centers. There is also a Mobile School, i.e. a school on wheels, thanks to which children can take part in interesting educational activities.

### **CARING FOR OTHERS**

First, there were trainings for counsellors, later, the website [duszpasterz.pl](http://duszpasterz.pl) was created, then the whole counselling movement, pastoral courses, conferences, workshops, and from 2010, cooperation with the Association of Pastoral Counselling and Psychology in Poland. In the meantime, we organized Counselling Points in Tychy and Cieszyn, which operated for several years. On the basis of all this, the Mediation, Supervision and Counselling Center was born as a local unit of CME, where mediation, pastoral talks and supervision are still conducted today. In the last two years we have been offering „Pastoral SOS” for people looking for support or help, with generally available telephone numbers: 509 398 530 and 509 398 505 and by e-mail: [rozmowa@cme.org.pl](mailto:rozmowa@cme.org.pl). Our goal in this area is to professionally accompany people in their personal and professional problems and provide emotional support based on the principle of confidentiality.

Organizational changes took place in 2004. In June, the „Warto” Publishing House was established, and on December 28, we obtained the status of a public benefit organization, which allowed us to receive 1% from people’s taxes. These two events had a significant impact on our further activities, e.g. it was possible to implement projects dedicated to NGOs. After 10 years, the Crime Victims Assistance Center was established, which operated for two years on the basis of a project from the Crime Victims Assistance Fund and Post-penitentiary Assistance of the Ministry of Justice and in cooperation with the parish in Gliwice. We implemented it in 8 locations with the headquarters in Gliwice. For a year, in cooperation with local institutions, we also ran an Information and Consultation Point for Addicts and Co-addicts.

Our social activities also include material collections, e.g. of clothes or household chemicals for families at risk of poverty. For several years, in our headquarters, there was a community center run by the Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Dzieci (Society of the Friends of Children). For years, we have been running the „Meals on wheels” campaign, under which our kitchen prepares and delivers dinners to lonely and elderly people, mainly to the inhabitants of Cieszyn, Golezów and Ustroń communes. Every year, we deliver over a dozen thousand lunches and travel about 20 thousand km.

## EDUCATION

The Bible School has been operating for 22 years, and the thought of establishing it also started to create plans for a place like CME today. It is here that, for several years in the in-house mode, and for a dozen or so in extramural mode, we familiarize ourselves with the content and message of the Old and New Testaments as well as with the basic biblical doctrines. Its continuation is the Homiletic and Liturgical Course, i.e. the so-called third year, which prepares them to conduct Bible meetings, studies or lecture services. Completion of the course is required to take the exam admitting to the service of an evangelist in the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in the Republic of Poland.

For several years, we ran a Bible Correspondence Course and a library, which was mainly used by students of the Bible School and course participants, but it was also a place open to the residents of Dzięgielów.

All our educational projects, carried out under the appointed Volunteer Training Center, are in line with the idea of lifelong learning and the belief that education multiplies good, and learners become teachers for the next generations. It is a representation of the way God works.

## CULTURE

All our activities have always had media and publishing support. Leaflets, posters, treatises, brochures and the missionary quarterly „Warto” appeared since 1997. Later, we started publishing „Warto” as a magazine on relationships and spirituality, and it continued for over 10 years. Selected years have been digitized and are kept in the Silesian Digital Library.

In the years 2003–2017, in cooperation with the Evangelical parish in Gliwice, a radio program „Po Prostu” was created and broadcast every evening on Radio CCM, covering Silesia and part of Lesser Poland. Several years in the dimension of an hour, then 30 minutes, it conveyed information on the life of the Church, reports on important and interesting events, reports, and interviews. There were also broadcasts of novels in episodes, biblical cycles, such as „From Genesis to the Apocalypse” or „Poetry of the Lord God”, as well as short devotions and prayer reflections.



Our radio plays for children were created in the radio studio, and to this day it is a thriving place where all audio and video materials are recorded and prepared.

In 2004, we established the Wartyo Publishing House, which, i.e., encourages contemporary Lutherans to create. This resulted in, among others, publishing the novel by Lidia Czyż, books by Piotr Lorek, Ilona Hajewska, Rev. Manfred Uglorz, Rev. Sławomir Sikora, Rev. Katarzyna Kowalska. So far, we have released over 100 books, 30 albums, including radio plays, audiobooks, films and an animated series.

The titles published by „Wartyo” as well as Bibles, biblical commentaries and Christian literature can be bought in our bookstore „Wartyo” in Cieszyn – it is a continuator of the activities of „Logos” (1983), and then for several years it functioned as „Słowo” – or at [www.wartyo.com.pl](http://www.wartyo.com.pl). For some time, in cooperation with the Evangelical parish, there was also a second bookstore called „Wartyo” in Krakow.

The CME Band has been operating, creating and giving concerts since 2000. The members of the band change, but it invariably provides the musical setting for the Evangelization Weeks and other events organized by us.

During all these years we organized, in cooperation with befriended parishes and organizations, many culture-forming events, such as Gospel Workshops, Music Workshops, Reggae Czad Festival, Christian Culture Weeks, Musical Puzzle. It was our privilege to create and collaborate with groups such as: Exodus 3.14 Theater, SU Duo, Artistic Clown Group, Covenant Players, Teatr Dobrego Serca, Bielsko-Biała theater group, Teatr Bajka, Teatr Eden and various ensembles, groups and artists from Poland and abroad.





In 2022, we entered the 25th year of operation to accompany and give hope. All our activities, due to their content and message, have a direct or indirect missionary and evangelizing dimension. It is symbolically expressed in our logo. There are two stylized question marks and a cross in it. The passing of question marks into the cross, which is an exclamation mark, indicates our deep conviction that the closer each person's relationship with God is, the easier it is for a person to find answers to questions that bother him, overcome difficulties, go through suffering and experience freedom in Christ. For years, our goal has been to encourage relationships with God. We want to continue doing this! On the one hand, it is a difficult process, and on the other hand, it is wonderful, timeless, because it brings changes in the life of every human being, makes it happy and gives it an eternal dimension. We wish this to everyone and everyone! WITH GOD.



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**Perhaps you are part of the situations that have happened, the relationships we have established, the meetings and events that we have organized, the joys and difficulties that we have experienced during these 25 years, so thank you!**

**And we still encourage you to use our work and invite you to cooperation.**

CME  
ul. Misyjna 8  
43-445 Dziegielów  
33 8529 781 | 693 419 494  
cme@cme.org.pl  
www.cme.org.pl  
FB CentrumMisji  
YT centrummisji