

GLOBAL REPORT

FALL 2023

REST FROM THE STORM

FOI'S MINISTRY IN POLAND

Welcome Ania Kur to FOI's International Team! Read about her unique ministry that provides safety and spiritual nourishment for the Jewish people of Poland and Eastern Europe.



As Ania Kur, our newest full-time representative in Poland, greeted the Ukrainian women and children arriving at summer camp this past June, she recognized a familiar face. Ania realized the woman, accompanied by her 11-year-old son, was the very same girl with whom she had played as a child nearly 25 years earlier.

More than two decades had passed since this woman visited “the Farm” for summer camp, but she remembered the Bible stories and songs perfectly enough to teach them to others. She recalled the week she and Ania spent there as children as “a very special time, an experience that [she] never forgot.” She told Ania, “Coming to the farm this year felt like I came back home.”

Located just outside of Warsaw, Poland, the facility called the Farm has served as a haven for Jewish people for more than 40 years. From one generation to the next, the love of God has met the physical and spiritual needs of those who visit. Ania, her husband, Lukas, and their five sons live and serve at the Farm.

Ania officially joined The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry’s (FOI) team as our representative to Poland in February 2023. As I share her ministry in Eastern Europe, **will you prayerfully consider how your support could impact the lives she touches?**

THE IMPACT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

As thousands fled Ukraine at the onslaught of the Russian invasion, Ania and her family welcomed hundreds of refugees at the Farm. They drove van loads of people to safety and provided food and supplies to those in need.

“The war in Ukraine turned our lives upside down in an instant. From the beginning, we were ready to serve 24/7. We welcomed both Jewish and non-Jewish Ukrainian people searching for a safe haven.” Ania recalls, “Ukrainian Jewish communities passed our phone number to each other and could count on our help for whatever was needed. Sometimes it was just for one night and a warm dinner, and sometimes I helped arrange documents and accommodations. For several months, we hosted a family who performed the DNA tests required to make *aliyah* [immigrate to Israel].”



Ania with a Polish volunteer preparing meals for Ukrainian refugees.



Another refugee family fled Ukraine with two disabled children and a grandparent. While waiting to cross the border, the family learned that a bomb destroyed their house after they left. They came to the Farm without hope. At the same time, Ania was hosting Christian friends from Europe who came to supply humanitarian aid at the border with an empty bus.

“They stayed with us and, unaware of the situation, they asked, ‘Do you have any family that we can take back with us to the Netherlands?’” Ania recounts. The Ukrainian family went with them, seeking asylum in Europe. Today, this family is praising God for His provision through the connections FOI made.

HISTORY OF THE FARM

Gustaw and Maria Muszkiet, Ania’s parents, were touched by their encounter with Sister Halina Ostik in 1976. Halina was a pioneer for work on behalf of the Jewish people in Poland. During World War II, she smuggled many Jews to safety. Halina’s story inspired the Muszkiets to also serve the chosen nation. With generous financial gifts and prayer support from believers around the world, the Farm was purchased to carry on the work Halina started.

Ania’s family sought to create a safe place where Jewish people wouldn’t have to hide their identity. Before the Holocaust, nearly 3.5 million Jews lived in Poland. The Nazis killed around 90 percent of the Jewish population, and those that survived stopped identifying as

Jewish. Then, in 1968, around 15,000 Jews were exiled when the government blamed the Jewish community for its economic problems. They could not return until a new government was formed in 1989.

Ania explains, “As soon as the house was built, *aliyah* from Russia and former USSR countries began, and my parents helped Jews who wanted to leave for Israel. My dad helped organize air transport to Israel and humanitarian aid and support for the Jews present there. We had a lot of guests who were waiting for visas and other legal documents.”

Growing up on the Farm, Ania enjoyed helping in kids’ classes, dancing, and singing with the visiting children. Whether she was preparing guest rooms or learning to work in the kitchen, these opportunities prepared her for her ministry today.

Ania is full of life and love for God and for all those with whom she journeys. Her excitement and passion for serving the Jewish people is contagious. She has loved serving for as long as she can remember.

“I love what I do,” she shares. “I love hearing stories of lives being changed, stories of God’s action. I am just trying to fulfill God’s will with every breath.”

DAILY MINISTRY AT THE FARM

Summer is a very busy and exciting time at the Farm. For more than 30 years, summer camps have provided



Ania and Lukas with their five sons (left to right) Tomas (17), Peter (4), Matthias (10), John (12), and Benjamin (16).

fun and rest to children from Jewish communities in Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia.

“Our Bible lessons help them learn about their own stories,” Ania describes. “They get to know God, His love for them, and how He can affect their daily lives.” Each child leaves with his or her own Bible, having experienced time with Christians who have shared the love of our Savior with them.

“Holidays With the Bible” provides an opportunity for older Jewish people to study God’s Word together. Ania explains, “We get to know the difficult lives of the people who come to us. We show them our love in practice while they learn about God’s love for them. I like getting to know their lives and to support them as much as I can. Many have questions of faith, and we lovingly answer as many as we can.”

Other times, they host weekend conferences for Christian communities, creating opportunities for Ania to share her mission. “Our guests often ask us why this house was built, and we tell them about our vocation and the importance of the Jewish people in God’s plan,” she says. “In Poland, this is not an obvious topic, because we still see deeply rooted antisemitism. We

thank God that we can have a little influence on them.”

Ania and Lukas are heavily involved in their church, Christian Baptist Church in Mińsk Mazowiecki. Lukas serves as a worship leader and an elder with four other men who lead the church as a pastoral team. They also began a youth group which 15 teenagers currently attend. Ania teaches Sunday school and women’s

Bible study each week. Their two oldest sons have ministered with the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) movement, attending missionary school and going on missions during holidays.

Ania shares, “Joshua 24:15 has always been close to my heart: ‘As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.’ My prayer is that my ministry will be multiplied and expanded in the ministry of my children.”

With your help, the gospel will continue to reach the next generation throughout Eastern Europe. Your support will enable Ania’s work to continue for generations.

As Ania explains, “The work is huge. We want to serve the Jewish people here and point them to our Savior, Jesus. We serve every day as we can.” Will you prayerfully consider giving today?

Mike Stallard

MIKE STALLARD
Director of International Ministries



If God has spoken to you about providing much-needed support for the ministry of Ania Kur, please send your gift to The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc, PO Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099, or visit foi.org/global-report to donate online.