

“IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO KNOW” CONFERENCE AT KRAKOW (28-31 OCTOBER 2005)

During the long weekend 28th to 31st October, more than 200 university student and alumni believers from all the major cities in Poland gathered together at the Pedagogical Academy in Krakow for an exciting and exhorting time of learning, worship, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

A unique feature of this conference was the rich diversity in the background of the speakers. A total of eleven Polish speakers comprising of local pastors, seminary lecturers, and Christian professionals were invited to speak at this conference. (*For a complete list of speakers, lecture and seminar topics, please see below*)

The 4-day conference - “It is not enough to know”- officially began on Friday evening with a time of worship and prayer. This was followed by a thought-provoking lecture on “Where am I” by Andrzej Horyza, a lecturer from the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Wroclaw. The evening ended with a couple of ice-breakers where the participants were able to relax as they made new friends.

Each morning, all participants congregated for a time of worship and inspiring preaching by a local pastor. Two lectures were presented each morning on Saturday and Sunday. Lecture topics were “Understanding Yourself” by Henryk Wieja, “The Purpose of Life” by Wojciech Gajewski; “My Responsibility” by Tomek Zoltko, and “Being Active” by Andrzej Horyza.

On Saturday afternoon, the participants had a choice of attending any of the three group meetings - ChSA Students, Alumni, and International Students. In each group, the participants brainstormed on how to start a student group in the university or an alumni gathering/group within their city.

Sunday afternoon was set aside for participants to relax and explore their creativity with handicraft activities such as T-shirt painting, mask making, and origami. Some preferred to take advantage of the exceptionally good autumn weather to go for a leisurely afternoon stroll and enjoy the cool crisp air and the colorful leaves of Creation.

Participants wishing to further explore the topics presented in the morning lectures were able to do so during the evening interactive seminars. However, as there were five seminar topics each evening, having to choose only one was a difficult decision for some. Other seminar topics were “Challenges of Culture faced by the Early Church”, “Challenges of Culture faced by the Modern Church”, “Christians at Work”, “Sex...Needed or Not?, Can One Live Without It...”, and “Wise Decisions”.

After an intensive day of learning and discussion, the participants were given the opportunity on Saturday night to unwind and relax in the concert performance by Tomek Zolko, the renowned Christian guitarist and singer in Poland.

A special time was also allocated to prayers for the IFES ministry in Eastern and Central Europe on Sunday night. To give the students and alumni a chance to bless

the student ministry in Pakistan, an offering was collected specifically for this ministry. The evening ended with an inspirational time of praise and worship.

On Monday morning, as the conference drew to a close, Ewa Pieszka, the Director of ChSA Poland, gave the closing lecture-“It is not enough to know. What should I do now?” Ewa challenged and exhorted the students and alumni to live a blameless life for God so that Christ can become visible in their lives and that they can be God’s channel to reach and impact lives for Christ wherever they are.

Has this conference achieved its objectives? A casual chat with a random few gave us some hints. They had enjoyed the conference tremendously. Some commented that they were particularly blessed by the fellowship time as well as the praise and worship session. The lectures and the seminars had given them some helpful advice in making wise decisions, challenged their faith, inspired them to walk closer with God, and to live out their faith in a proactive way in the universities and the workplace.

The participants left the conference with much food for thought. As many have confessed, they would need time in the days to come to reflect on and digest what they had learned. It is our prayer and hope that the end of the conference will be the beginning of a transformational journey of deep spiritual awakening and renewal for many.

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SPEAKERS, LECTURE AND SEMINAR TOPICS OF CONFERENCE

DAY 1(28th October, Friday)

OPENING LECTURE – “*Where Am I?*”, Mr. Andrzej Horyza (Lecturer, Evangelical Biblical Seminary, Wrocław, Poland)

DAY 2(29th October, Saturday)

MORNING SERMON, Pastor Piotr Gasiarowski

MORNING LECTURES

2) LECTURE I – “*Understanding Yourself*”, Dr. Henryk Wieja (Pastor, Christian Counselor)

3) LECTURE II – “*The Purpose of Life*”, Dr. Wojciech Gajewski (Part-time Lecturer at Warsaw Biblical Seminary and Professor at Gdansk University)

EVENING SEMINARS

1) “*Understanding Yourself*”, Dr. Henryk Wieja (Pastor, Christian Counselor)

2) “*The Purpose of Life*” Dr Wojciech Gajewski (Part-time Lecturer at Warsaw Biblical Seminary and Professor at Gdansk University)

3) “*Challenges of Culture faced by the Early Church*” Dr Wojciech Szczerba (Academic Dean, Evangelical Biblical Seminary, Wrocław, Poland)

4) “*Christians at Work*”, Mr. Tomek Peterman (Director of Human Resources, Kupiec Company)

5) “*Wise Decisions*”, Mr. Mirosław Pieszka (IFES Coordinator for Eastern and Central Europe)

DAY 3(30th October, Sunday)

MORNING SERMON, Pastor Wojciech Wloch

MORNING LECTURES

1) “*My Responsibility*”, Mr. Tomek Zoltko (Christian Guitarist and Singer)

2) “*Being Active*”, Mr. Andrzej Horyza (Lecturer, Evangelical Biblical Seminary, Wrocław, Poland)

EVENING SEMINARS

1) “*My Responsibility*”, Mr. Tomek Zoltko (Christian Guitarist and Singer)

2) “*Being Active*”, Mr. Andrzej Horyza (Lecturer, Evangelical Biblical Seminary, Wrocław, Poland)

3) “*Challenges of Culture faced by the Modern Church*”, Dr Mirosław Patalon (Part-time Lecturer at Evangelical Biblical Seminary and Professor at Pomorska Pedagogic Academy)

4) “*Christians at Work*”, Mr. Tomasz Peterman (Director of Human Resources, Kupiec Company)

5) “*Sex...Needed or Not? Can One Live Without It...?*”, Ms Anna Lechowska (Sex Education Specialist)

DAY 4 (31st October, Monday)

MORNING SERMON, Adam Panczak

CLOSING LECTURE

1) “*It is not enough to know –What shall I do now?*”, Mrs. Ewa Pieszka (Director of ChSA Poland)