

## Grace Baptist Mission church plant handed over to Poland's ecumenical Baptists

The Baptist church plant in Legionowo, Poland, which has for some years operated under the auspices of the UK-based Grace Baptist Mission, has—following years of increasingly close cooperation—finally joined Poland's deeply compromised ecumenical Baptist denomination, *Kościół Chrześcijan Baptystów* (KChB). [Formal accession occurred on 15 March 2024](#), with the church at Legionowo becoming a branch mission of KChB's Second Baptist Church, Warsaw, and [GBM-supported missionary Andrzej Kempczyński](#) becoming an unordained clergyman of the Polish denomination, preparing for service in the office of pastor under the guidance of Second Baptist's Senior Pastor Marek Głodek. The latter is also currently Chairman of KChB's governing council.

### What we mean by ecumenical

No doubt ought to be entertained as to the appropriateness of the words “deeply compromised” and “ecumenical.” Rev. Głodek is a [member of the Presidium](#) of the Polish Ecumenical Council. None of the other members of this august body will be in the slightest doubt but that Rev. Głodek fully shares their aims: [to promote reconciliation between Christian denominations, that they all may be one](#). Photographs of a [recent meeting of the Polish Ecumenical Council](#) held on 11 January 2024 show Rev. Głodek sitting [front row centre](#) alongside an impressive range of high-ranking ecclesiastical dignitaries. The Baptist representative was not—naturally—called upon to address the meeting; this honour fell, amongst others, to the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop of Warsaw, [Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz](#), while greetings from the Papal Nuncio to Poland, Archbishop Antonio Guido Filipazzi, were brought by the Apostolic Nunciature's Chargé d'affaires, [Monsignor Pavol Talapka](#).

Rev. Głodek was also recently billed to participate in an ecumenical debate on the subject “Why is God silent and insensitive to suffering?” in Poznań on 19 October 2023, as part of the city's [21st Ecumenical Festival of the Bible](#), together with Roman Catholic Bishop Damian Bryl and others, the event being organised by the Poznań Ecumenical Group, an organisation which includes both the Roman Catholic Church and the local Baptist church. In the event, Rev. Głodek's place was taken by [another leading Baptist figure, the Rev. Dr Włodzimierz Tasak](#). Amongst his other roles, Dr Tasak is Second Pastor of Second Baptist Church, Warsaw, assisting Rev. Głodek.

It is to these men, and in particular to [Rev. Głodek](#), that [GBM missionary Andrzej Kempczyński](#) has submitted in order to undergo the training required for recognition by KChB.

### Entire KChB Presidium deeply sold out to ecumenism

Sitting [three rows behind Rev. Głodek](#) at the recent meeting of the Polish Ecumenical Council was a close colleague of his, the Rev. Dr Mateusz Wichary. A member of KChB's governing council as well as the [four-man Presidium](#) (alongside Rev. Głodek) that manages the denomination's affairs, Dr Wichary has a very long record of enthusiastic and deep-level participation in a multiplicity of events whose aim is to foster and celebrate the fraternal unity it is supposed exists between Baptists, Roman Catholics, and others, as well as to pray for its further realisation. So much did all the Rev. Dr stuff go to his head, that during his term of office as Chairman of the KChB Council, he brought a motion before the denomination's national assembly that would have allowed him to use the title Bishop of the Church, and for the Deputy Chairman of the KChB Council to use the title [Auxiliary Bishop](#), because the current titles "[do not build the prestige of the \[Baptist\] Church](#)." Polish rules of etiquette require a bishop to be addressed as "Your Excellency." As just one example of the Rev. Dr Wichary's ecumenical activity, we might cite his participation in [this procession](#) at a service of thanksgiving and [penance](#) held in the Roman Catholic Gniezno Cathedral. The [homily](#) was delivered—naturally—by Roman Catholic Bishop Grzegorz Ryś, while Dr Wichary was given a bit part assisting in a [ritual washing of penance](#), and [prayers were offered seeking forgiveness for the "sin" of division in the Church](#) (more photos of this [here](#)). Another example is Rev. Dr Wichary's participation in [these processions](#), where readers may watch [him plodding dutifully in at a respectful distance](#) behind Roman Catholic Primate of Poland Archbishop Wojciech Polak and the other Their Excellencies (many kings have gathered their meat under my table), and will also find him in the photo gallery. Out of numerous other [videos](#) and [photographs](#) that could be selected, we have chosen to highlight a further three: [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Another member of KChB's Presidium is Rev. Henryk Skrzypkowski. Despite his being a [long-term supporter of ecumenical efforts](#), in a [sermon delivered in November 2014](#) in the Baptist Church at Chełm, where Rev. Skrzypkowski was and continues to be pastor, he said that [he is an opponent of ecumenism](#) and the idea that all Christians should be one. A mere two months later, in the very same church building, we find [him on his knees before local ecclesiastical dignitaries](#) at a special [meeting convened to pray for unity](#). The [event was repeated](#) a year later, [the party continued](#) the next day, and he is [still at it today](#). Rev. Skrzypkowski's claim to be an opponent of ecumenism illustrates a common

pattern seen among Christian workers in Poland in their dealings with the naïve and doctrinally indifferent leaders of British, American, and German mission agencies, who do not understand Polish and are dependent for their knowledge of the situation on the ground on contacts who all have a vested financial and reputational interest in maintaining the deception. This writer could cite a string of serious and shocking cases.

The fourth member of KChB's Presidium is Rev. Marcin Górnicki. Readers can see him singing the praises of ecumenism at Holy Mass in a [TV news report](#), and will also spot him, again at a Holy Mass to pray for unity with Rome, in the [photo gallery here](#).

It bears repeating that it is to these men, and to others like them, that Mr Kempczyński has submitted himself, bringing himself under their power in exchange for official ministerial recognition from a registered denomination.

### **The same pattern at local level**

Ecumenical compromise of this nature is repeated on a very regular basis by ministers of KChB the length and breadth of the country. Numerous examples could be given, but the case of Rev. Leszek Wakuła of the Baptist Church in Łódź, [whose friends flatter him by saying he is such an important man as to be equivalent to a bishop](#), is of particular interest. One of the processions featured above also shows [Rev. Wakuła taking an active part, assisted by the Rev. Dr Wichary](#). Rev. Wakuła also holds ecumenical meetings in the Baptist Church at Łódź, and how pleased the [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Łódź](#) is to announce that—at an ecumenical meeting hosted in the Baptist Church in Łódź on 14 January 2024, organised with *the specific purpose of expressing unity between the churches represented and praying for its further development*—even the Soli Deo Gloria Evangelical Church was happy to lend its name to the cause. Not a Baptist church this time, but the Soli Deo Gloria Evangelical Church pastored by [Zbigniew Modnicki](#). How sad to see [what distinguished company Mr and Mrs Modnicki keep](#). How sad to see them giving such [enthusiastic applause](#). Is this what they tell their financial supporters in the UK? Is this an Evangelical pastor faithfully warning great and small, night and day with tears of their need of the New Birth and conversion to Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and men? The purpose of the meeting was *not* to [sing Christmas carols](#), but to *pray for unity with Rome*, and no impartial observer, nor any of the meeting's participants, would think

anything other than that by his presence and active participation, Pastor Modnicki was lending his support—despite the numerous and seemingly insurmountable theological obstacles—to this ideal. And this was no isolated incident, because the two EMF missionaries did [exactly the same in January 2023](#). Is *this* what comes of maintaining a friendship with the local ecumenical Baptist pastor?

Our very rushed tour of ecumenical Baptists around the country continues with the Rev. Dr Jerzy Rogaczewski, pastor of the Baptist Church in Katowice. Will they just *never* get why it is that the [Baptists so often get shuffled off to the side](#)? (Whatever happened to Friend, go up higher?) Except when they're playing at home, of course, when Rev. Dr Rogaczewski even gets to be the [dude at the front with the guitar](#). Admittedly, at [this](#) event the Baptist *was* given centre stage, but then he's really famous and a guaranteed crowd-puller, something the people who run Katowice's huge Roman Catholic Cathedral, in a day of plummeting church attendance in Poland, were more than keen to exploit. GBM's supporters are encouraged to enjoy the video right to the end, looking out on the way for the Rev. Dr Rogaczewski, the Rev. Dr Wojciech Kowalewski of Second Baptist Church, Wrocław, Mr Mikołaj Fibik from the Baptist Church in Zabrze, the two Roman Catholic priests who comment (one a very senior theologian), the Rev. Dr Franklin Graham, and—in the enthroned row of dozing dignitaries—the Rev. Dr Wichary. (The Rev. Dr Billy Graham addressed a crowd of around 10,000 in [the very same cathedral on 11 October 1978](#)).

### **Not so fast, Rev. Dr Sobczak**

We move on to the great southern city of Cracow and the Rev. Dr Zbigniew Sobczak, not just because Dr Sobczak is another member of KChB's governing council and so is representative of KChB at large, but for another, and more sinister, reason—Dr Sobczak, who somehow managed to gain a doctorate in something from somewhere, on occasions needs help writing his own research papers. A man known to [pray earnestly for unity between his denomination and the Roman Catholic Church over a long ministerial career](#), he was long of the opinion that [“\[ecumenical\] dialogue is essential. We do not have a choice, we must talk with each other, work together, because the alternative is a fight. We profess the same values, and dialogue is something that results from the foundations of our faith.”](#) Indeed, for some time [he held the position of Chair of the Cracow Branch of the Polish Ecumenical Council](#), a body whose aims and objectives (that they all may be one) we have referred to above. Yet in 2016 he gave a [series of lectures](#) in which he appears now to be opposed to the ecumenical movement. This might be all well and good if not for the fact, amongst others, that the lectures contain

striking similarities to the work of another person.<sup>1</sup> Using someone else's research without crediting the real author is bad enough, but throughout the lectures Dr Sobczak constantly gives the impression that he is reading from his own material, in some cases stating directly that the research is his.<sup>2, 3</sup> The plagiarised author has been the subject of attacks from several of KChB's ministers stung by his drawing attention to facts such as those detailed in the present article and unable to respond substantively to the trenchant criticism implied. Is it now time for the KChB Council—of which the Rev. Dr Sobczak is a member—to act on the principle suggested by Acts 16:37?

The plagiarised material discusses at length ecumenists' misuse of the words of the Lord Jesus in Mark 9:40, and [at one point Dr Sobczak echoes this](#), apparently agreeing that this is indeed an abuse of this verse. Why, then, in addressing the local Seventh-Day Adventist congregation (whom he calls "brothers and sisters") in Cracow in 2021, does he justify his presence there by perpetrating [precisely this same abuse](#)? We labour this point because Dr Sobczak's plagiarism and his two-tongued presentation of his views are further illustrations of how foreign mission agencies may so easily be misled when they prefer to rely on "their man" in Poland rather than face up to the facts. Readers should consider very carefully the following: when such people tell their Roman Catholic and liberal Protestant counterparts that they consider them to be brothers and that they are joining in prayers for unity that they all may be one, and when they tell people with Biblical objections to this participation that they do not desire ecumenical unity and are doing it as a form of evangelism, in which situation are they telling the truth, if at all?

### Scriptural reasons for joining KChB?

Which brings us to Daryl Jones, [Mission Director at GBM](#). As far back as 2018, when he and several other members of the GBM Mission Council were warned of Mr Kempczyński's plans—being laid at that time in league with Dr Wichary—for the church plant at Legionowo to join KChB, he carefully avoided denying that this was the case, instead providing his assurances that he was in close contact with the sending church and with Mr Kempczyński himself, adding that "[n]o decisions have been

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<sup>1</sup> For example, plagiarising directly [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#); and using the very same quotations from other theological works, sometimes reading them with identical omissions, for example [here](#) and [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> For example: "[jakie udało mi się znaleźć ... na jaki natrafiłem](#)" and "[jeszcze jeden wyjątek znalazłem](#)."

<sup>3</sup> We should add that several of the photographs used with this article were saved from web pages that are no longer available online and are used here for criticism under the principle of fair dealing. The sites concerned did not give the photographers' names.

made and any that are made will, as was evident from Andrzej's skype call to me, be made in the light of scripture." With GBM today making *precisely* the same disastrous mistakes that were made under its auspices in the fiasco of its "contribution" to mission in Poland in the late 1980s and early 90s, GBM's supporters would do well to ask what *scriptural* light Mr Jones can now shed on this most recent decision. We suggest *touch not the unclean thing*.

**Peter Nicholson, Katowice, Poland**

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Finally, brethren, **pray** for us, **that the word of the Lord may have free course**, and be glorified, even as it is with you: and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: *for all men have not faith*.