

In this issue: *A powerful testimony from Pavol Strežo in Slovakia on reconciliation in society by repentance, given in the European Catholic charismatic conference in Warsaw, last October.*

Spiritual realm influences our society. Repentance changes things!

In 2011 I discovered in my home town Dolny Kubin a Jewish woman who was daughter of a man, who perished in Holocaust. 250 Jewish citizens of my town were deported and killed in a nazi-destruction camp. I asked her: 'did anybody ever say sorry to you for this?' She said 'No'.

I called my Christian friends from Slovakia, who love Israel to Dolny Kubin and we prayed.

It was good, but in my spirit I knew, that this should be a matter of authorities of our town – spiritual and secular.

I went to the mayor with a request for a reconciliation meeting. I promised him, that God will bless our city for that, because he promised, that if his people will repent, he will come and heal the Land (2 Chronicles 7,14). The mayor, who was not a believer, was open to organize it. So in September 2012 we had a first reconciliation meeting. The mayor, church authorities and all the people asked for forgiveness to God and to official Jewish representatives and Holocaust survivors.* After the repentance, one Jewish woman expressed forgiveness and prayed Aarons blessing over our city.

Few months later I realized, that a new factory came to our city and two other big companies enlarged their capacities. Our mayor sees a clear connection between repentance and release of blessing in our city.

Next year, I saw on the website of our city that *the city government was asking for help, to deal with vandalism of the young people in our city centre.* They stated that police guards and cameras didn't helped so much. I prayed and the Lord gave me idea, to identify: which houses belonged to Jews and which to do Christian before the war. I did so and when I came with the map to the main square, I was in shock! All problematic pubs were in houses, which belonged before the war to Jews and were stole from Jews.

I immediately knew that we had to organize another repentance meeting, with the focus on the main city square. So I went to the mayor and told him my plan.

I invited a pastor, who is the son of a Nazi-soldier and a priest, who is the grandson of a Slovak guardist (member of the military force of the Slovak party, which collaborate with Hitler). They prayed with whole their heart Nehemiah's prayer: *Lord, forgive us and our fathers...* (Nehemia 1,5-11).

Two weeks later, young people from our community came to me with a request. They wanted to pray every Monday and Friday in main city square.

Few months later, our mayor called me and invited me to his office. He expressed his thankfulness that we helped to deal with vandalism in city square. He told me, that reports of police decreased rapidly and they do not need to spend so much money to repair destroyed things. The two worst pubs were closed and a third one had problems, so they needed to move to other place.

Lutheran young people opened alternative club called "Garage", where many young people go to instead of going to pubs.

Praise the Lord for his mercy and for the great weapon in our hands, which is repentance!

Pavol Strežo

Co-leader of New Evangelization community in Dolny Kubin, Slovakia

*The person who moderate this said: 'I would like to ask all of you, who are gathered here, that we will all together express regret and repentance towards God and towards representatives of the Jewish nation with the language of the Bible, used when a living generation returns back to repenting failures of a previous generation: „God, forgive us and our forefathers...“

And then we confessed:

1. Hatred and haughty attitude against Jews, jokes and anti-Jewish propaganda.
2. Thoughts, words and acts, which agreed with deportations.
3. Envy and desire for their wealth.

4. Unwillingness to risk more for Jews, to rescue them.
5. Those who could do anything, but did nothing from fear and were quiet, when they should speak.

In this way we have asked for forgiveness to the Jewish representatives and to God.

This is the second testimony we have heard in our conference in Warsaw. The first was from Malta, see EUCCRIL 281.

More

Reconciliation has also been an important theme in the previous [open European conference of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 2002](#) and in our [Reconciliation conference for Central and Eastern Europe in September 2014](#).

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