

WEST: Further Failure to Separate from Ecumenists in Poland

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Visitors to the website of the Wales Evangelical School of Theology are greeted by a banner¹ proclaiming that “WEST is OM Europe’s official training partner for its church planters” and that “WEST is proud to serve missional Church across Europe by training OM Europe’s church planters”. That this is indeed the case is confirmed by the seminary’s principal himself,² while the seminary’s former Development Manager, writing in defence of the “good name of WEST”, says “Praise God ... OM missionaries in Europe will now receive Reformed teaching”.³

Evangelical believers with a genuine interest in mission to the Roman Catholic nations of Europe – and in particular those with a proven commitment to mission in Poland – ought to be deeply concerned at this news. For despite the numbers of very sincere believers who still embark on missionary activity with Operation Mobilisation, and notwithstanding the many fine examples of evangelistic zeal and sacrifice found throughout the mission’s history, anyone with the Biblical discernment one would expect of a seminary principal will be well aware that the organisation today is severely blighted by false doctrine of many kinds.

A not untypical example is the leader of Operation Mobilisation’s work in Poland, Arkadiusz (Arek) Delik.⁴ Mr Delik is a committed ecumenist. Poland’s Catholic Information Agency reports that on 23 January 2013 Mr Delik took an active part in an ecumenical service held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Nicholas in Łowicz as part of the 2013 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity organised jointly by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.⁵ The local Lutherans report the same.⁶ But is this information true? The Roman Catholic Newspaper *Gość Niedzielny* has furnished us with photographs.⁷ Doubters can even listen to a recording of the service and hear Mr Delik welcomed by name in part 1 at 8:48 or listen as he leads in prayer for “full visible unity” in part 2

¹ <http://strateias.org/OM.JPG>

² <http://www.webcitation.org/6FbuUMYTQ>

³ <http://www.webcitation.org/6FbugjAwL>

⁴ <http://www.webcitation.org/6FbtKq9hm> <http://www.webcitation.org/6Fbt9zFBv>

⁵ <http://www.webcitation.org/6FbsGnouu> <http://www.katedra.lowicz.pl/index.php?page=the-guide> Virtual tour: <http://www.katedra.lowicz.pl/index.php?page=bazylika-katedralna>.

⁶ <http://www.plock.luteranie.pl/index.php?r=news/index>

⁷ <http://www.webcitation.org/6FbslYIKF> Mr Delik is pictured in photographs 6, 13 and 17.

at 14:56.⁸ And Mr Delik's enthusiastic support for "outreach" activity such as Festival of Life, with its open cooperation with Roman Catholics, is no new phenomenon.⁹

Mr Delik is not a sincere but naive young believer misguidedly following his elders, because as well as being long-term Director of Operation Mobilisation in Poland he is a pastor and seminary lecturer and until recently served his denomination, the Pentecostal Church in Poland, as head of foreign mission.¹⁰ Neither is he someone who remains in the denomination despite and in opposition to its actively ecumenical stance. He is a denominational leader who takes an active role in driving that stance, and in praying for ecumenical unity with Rome. This is someone who has nailed his colours very firmly to the ecumenical mast.

What should we say to a sincere young believer from an FIEC church who wants to serve in overseas mission and is thinking of responding to OM's current calls for workers in Poland – in the church pastored by its country Director?¹¹ Such a believer would come under the pastoral care of an ecumenist, someone who in addition heartily recommends what he calls the "good teaching" of Mars Hill and Desiring God.¹² Such a young person would find themselves being asked to take part in evangelism events alongside Roman Catholics, as we saw was the case with the Festival of Life meeting. Until it was recently withdrawn, the 1996 FIEC Council Statement on Ecumenism would have instantly resolved the matter.¹³ The Scripture texts it quoted still do.

In any case, believers really should not have any difficulty in separating from OM Poland. Since they cannot attend the Cathedral Basilica to join in the Director's prayers for unity with Rome, and since they cannot take part in joint evangelism events with Catholics, what *can* they do in concert with OM Poland? For those who know what it means – and what it costs – to turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God, separation is an instinctive and entirely warranted consequence.¹⁴

⁸ <http://www.webcitation.org/6FbstPaDc>

⁹ <http://www.webcitation.org/6Fdlx95Tm> The second link in footnote 4 refers to Mr Delik's cooperation with Campus Crusade, which from the outset of its work in Poland has been intimately associated with the Roman Catholic Church: <http://www.webcitation.org/6FhrRM28C>.

¹⁰ <http://www.webcitation.org/6Fenl2OFc> <http://www.webcitation.org/6FenYBysf> The seminary was formerly called WST, but has recently been renamed WSTS: <http://www.webcitation.org/6FepplA7M>.

¹¹ <http://www.webcitation.org/6Fg2OgcCw> <http://www.webcitation.org/6Feqk1rRf>

¹² <http://www.webcitation.org/6FbtVr2TH>

¹³ <http://www.strateias.org/96statement.htm>

¹⁴ "I was once a Pharisee of repute, adorned with many titles and dignities, splendidly endowed with many and rich benefices from the days of my boyhood; but now, after I have voluntarily left all this behind through the grace of God, after I have given up my country and my friends, because I saw that *I could not live in the midst of them* according to Christ's mind and spirit, now I am in a strange land only a poor servant of my poor Lord Christ, crucified for me [...]. For what drawing of the Spirit you are still waiting I know not. I believe that it is the Spirit of God who says (Isa. 52.11, 2 Cor. 6.17) 'Come out from among them, and be ye separate'. And the same

A not insignificant twist in the tail is the fact that Operation Mobilisation Poland is formally united with *Biblijne Stowarzyszenie Misyjne*, a member of the Wycliffe Global Alliance. The two organisations have a joint bank account,¹⁵ and they even have a joint Board of Management, whose members include Mr Delik and, well, it's a small world, the emissary in Poland of the FIEC's Carey Baptist Church, Malcolm Clegg.¹⁶ Readers of the *Bible League Quarterly* will remember him.¹⁷

However, is it not the case that at WEST future OM missionaries are to benefit from Reformed teaching? Will this not help stem the tide? Turn back the flood of ecumenical and other error with which UK evangelical mission funding has helped infect almost every corner of evangelicalism in Poland? Based on the country's experience of two Polish WEST graduates,¹⁸ both of whom were given their initial theological training by the current principal's contact in Poland, Malcolm Clegg, before spending several years at WEST, one hardly thinks this likely. Quite the contrary, by supporting Operation Mobilisation in Poland, particularly in view of the close ties that have been cultivated over many years, WEST is directly supporting ecumenical compromise of the worst order.

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Spirit speaks a like word in the Revelation (18.4): 'Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins'. If you refer this to the spiritual flight, it is certain that he who has once truly in spirit thus pondered on this flight *will not still cleave to those whom he sees continually dishonouring the virtue and merit of Christ*. As for myself, I love you, my Albert, as ever; but your dilatoriness I do not love" – Polish Reformation leader John a Lasco (emphasis added). See: <http://archive.org/details/cu31924029231004>, pp. 183-184, 237-238. Much similar contemporary testimony could be added.

¹⁵ <http://www.webcitation.org/6FbtPUYdu>

¹⁶ <http://www.webcitation.org/6Fbtbuime>

¹⁷ <http://www.strateias.org/wroclaw.htm>

¹⁸ <http://www.strateias.org/west.pdf> <http://www.strateias.org/Expanding.pdf>