

Dearly Beloved in the Lord, Jesus Christ:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

The above quote from Hebrews was to accompany us continually during the 20th International Convention of Bible Students in Szczyrk, on August 4-9 of this year. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has thwarted our plans. Many of us had made the decision to participate in this convention. Our hearts desired to see the brethren, shake their hands, joyfully look into their eyes, raise our voices in songs of glory, listen to considerations of God's Word and discuss important matters of our lives. All these important, uniting aspects of our fellowship have to be postponed because of the pandemic present in our surroundings.

Through this letter, Beloved Brethren, we wish to inform you that we are **cancelling** the upcoming international convention, as well as the choir workshop and the youth seminar.

The information about the new dates of the convention will be sent to the Brethren at a much later time.

Dear Brethren – this information is sad; it brings us sorrow, disappointment, bitterness and pain in our hearts.

However, when we look at our Savior, the “finisher of faith”, let us consider that His Great Sacrifice was also supposed to help us – two thousand years later and worn out with the reality of sickness and death – to not be discouraged in the spirit. We are assured thanks to our faith that this “*light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but the things which are not seen [are] eternal.*” (2 Cor. 4:17-19)

On behalf of the Polish and international committees for the International Convention of Bible Students,

By His Grace,

Bro. Staszek Sławiński