

Jim Trill, Report on JFR's European Study Program in Germany and Poland.

Our group (12) arrived in Munich - Cradle of the Nazi Party - and toured various sites that were frequented by Hitler and NSDAP. We toured the "White Rose" exhibit, marched in the footsteps of leaders along streets where the attempted putsch took place. We set off for Dachau, then onto Nuremberg - documentation center and the Zeppelin Field. Weimar and then to Buchenwald, Berlin, Wannsee and Sachsenhausen. The drive to Warsaw was a long slog, however we got to see a few sites and the changing scenery. What an incredible experience (my first visit to Poland) - great people. We spent three days touring the various sites, ghetto, museums, cemetery, uprising, *Umschlagplatz*, the list went on and on - we met with many wonderful people who were active during this time period. I will get to document their stories on a computer file and pass copies of the info along to you for your records.

We ventured to Treblinka and Tykocin. The time at Tykocin was extremely moving. We walked the path taken by the Jews of Tykocin, into the pine forest where they were all murdered. It was a painful walk, a beautiful warm day, the sun glistening through the trees, the smell of fresh pine, and then the solitude of a place where three sites marked the burial of murdered Jews.

We ventured onto Majdanek and Lublin then to Kracow-what a beautiful city. We got to see Schindlers factory, the remaining part of the ghetto wall and some other key sites. On the way to Oswiecim we got to stop off at Wadowice and visit Pope John Paul II birthplace and church where he was baptized and served mass. Four days at Auschwitz gave us plenty of time for debrief and walking the camps. It was a perfect end to an incredible trip. Great people and some powerful moments that will stay with me forever.