

[Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation: Here's My Story, Part 4!](#)

After actively pursuing genealogy from 1970 to 2000, you would think that research & temple submissions would be near end. However, my patriarchal blessing's counsel still loomed strongly in my mind and heart for further closure. With the lack of Church microfilms for my ancestors in Poland, Ukraine; and Slovenia & without access to original church records, I knew that further research required the services of professional genealogists. But finding one was not never easy to acquire. and even today most native professional genealogists in Eastern Europe are mostly part-timers and not internationally certified. And I have learned over 50 years of doing family history, professional genealogists are not all equal in their skills and abilities. Consequently, their productivity may not always meet your expectations regardless of their fee structure.

2001: A New Era of Travel to Eastern Europe

Shortly before my third son shortly began his Church mission to Chile in 2001, I engineered a third trip to Eastern Europe right before his mission call. There we performed Church Firesides in Vienna, Austria, Rome, Italy, and, Ljubljana, Slovenia. At the Slovenia fireside, several unique networking meetings occurred. We made a bonding relationship with the Majc family in which his wife later became my genealogist in Slovenia and her husband became my 360 degree virtual panorama photographer that later came into much fruition later in 2012 in which all my Eastern European family root locations were photographed in-depth with sensational results. I did accomplish much Polish genealogy in my first 30 years of family history endeavors but without a professional genealogist, it is difficult to pursue further when one doesn't have the language skills and can't really travel to rural parts of the country safely or efficiently relate to village priests. Resulting that my Polish family tree really didn't change much but the seeds for growth were getting more firmly being established for later trips even though I didn't realize it at that time.

2007: Multipoint Videoconferencing Technology Opportunities

In 2007. I was able obtain a videoconferencing subscription with GoToMeeting which was a new startup company in a brand-new industry. Because of their early promotions, I was able to procure a one-time only annual life-time subscription rate that was guaranteed for life. I naively subscribed to it without really knowing that it would be incredibly important for the rest of my life for both genealogy and my career. Videoconferencing technology at that time was starting to advance with more Internet connectivity speed and wider bandwidth that progressed far beyond the earlier days of videoconferencing via telephone line modem connections of the 1990s. In 2007, my children were no longer living at home as they all had their own college studies, marriages and careers. But through GoToMeeting we could regularly meet weekly on Sunday evenings with multipoint videoconferencing capabilities, we had the ability to conference together on-line regardless of where my children lived and it was affordable. Resulting that all my children continued to be actively involved with our family history even after 10 years following their initial Eastern Europe trips.

2008: Key Networking Opportunities for Polish Genealogy Assistance

In 2008, I was starting to submit a substantial amount of names to the temples for ordinance work. On the very last day of the older temple IGI submission process at the Littleton Family History Center, the center's director was processing my latest batch of names and discovered at person in Provo, Utah who was also submitting names to our temples from the same small, rural villages in Poland as mine. *"I immediately called my wife with instructions to drive 30 miles to the Denver Temple with my Sunday clothes and I got dressed in the temple parking lot in order to meet the closing of the temple at 4 pm. When submitting the IGI floppy disk with data, I was able to receive the person's contact information."* I was given her contact information and contacted her the next day and to my surprise, she had been extensively networking and traveling in Poland for 10+ years. This was the first time in 38 years of genealogy work that I ever knew of anybody in the Church who had family roots in the same villages as mine She had already digitized all the records for my same two villages of my paternal ancestors in covering every birth, marriage and death

record for each village. From her, I learned new of tips and technique to incorporate in my international genealogical research aspirations. And a bigger surprise was that I was eventually able to hire her Polish genealogist in 2009. Together with these two new networking individuals, a new era of Eastern Europe research was born by having trusted professionals available to network in accomplishing what I couldn't ever have hoped to achieve on my own in my entire lifetime!

2009: The Game Changer in my Eastern European Family History

With the networking of this person in Provo and her Polish genealogist, Roslyn and I traveled to Eastern Europe in 2009 for the fourth time. But this time without our children, we traveled extensively with the newly found Polish genealogist visiting every location of my paternal and maternal heritage in Poland. By traveling together with the genealogist, the priests were receptive to my family history requests. Resulting that my Polish genealogist was able to schedule later a separate second visit to each Catholic church in December 2009 to digitize every birth, marriage and death record in three of my historic villages for my maternal lines. Getting permission to do this legally represented an impossible dream that isn't realistically possible because Catholic priests guard their church records as it is a money-making business by charging outrageous fees for each record. At miracle occurred in that both the genealogist and I had to sign contracts stating that we would never publish the images. If so, my full-time Polish genealogist would be banned for life by the Catholic Church which would immediately end his career in Eastern Europe. But the story had a major glitch that almost derailed this entire success story from ever occurring.

Here's "The Rest Of The Story" That Is Even More Incredible.

It was December 2009 and my Polish genealogist traveled without a car nearly 400 kilometers from his home to Szaflary, Poland with appointments to digitize the complete church records of all three churches for me. But when he arrived, *the priest treated him rudely and asked him point blank: Are you a good Catholic? He said yes. Then you need to return home and obtain an authorized letter from your priest stating that and bring it back to me before I will ever let you do any digitizing!* Then the genealogist had to travel by train, bus, and taxi nearly 800 kilometer round trip in snowy, freezing weather conditions. And he did it to the priest's astonishment without any argument or protest even though he already had prearranged appointments.

Resulting from these extensive collection of images photographed, I now had daily access to every church birth, marriage and death record digitized for my perusal in my home in America. Suddenly with confidence, my genealogy dreams were expanding exponentially before my eyes. However, this was a monumental task to extract/index 300 years of Church records from each of three different church before ever being able to even submit the names of ancestors to temples for processing. It needs to be noted, that my Polish genealogist has the gift of tongues and I am eternally blessed for him to have convinced these three priests to allow him to legally digitize their church books in such depth. But remember, I had previously failed to extract Church microfilms at the Littleton Family History Center in 1998 and to have prospects of extracting/indexing hundreds of thousands of records in Latin using the Polish alphabet by myself for my ancestors who had lived there between 250 to 300 years ago was a back breaking responsibility for me to pursue especially when considering the poor quality of some of the priest's handwritings. The condition of earliest church records in the 17th century were also a nightmare to have these historic records that were nearly unreadable which would require miracles to read them accurately.

In the second decade of the 21st century, my prayers, fasting, and networking opportunities changed drastically through my continued faith and family history activities as related to my patriarchal blessing. I was previously succeeding slowly in attempts to meet the patriarchal blessing promises of 1971 which had been very surreal to me for three decades. But I faithfully committed my talents, professional career and Church service and never flinched which represents an amazing journey of my life story from 1970 to 2009.

Closing Comments: 2010 to 2019 A Brighter Future

Each decade of my genealogical pursuits had different challenges along with abundant unanticipated blessings both spiritually and temporally for me and my family. The first decade of the 21st century was indeed the jump-start era of true international successes in Poland, Ukraine and Slovenia in which I now knew that my future genealogical successes were no longer deadlocked by me living America. My networking at the Littleton Family History in 1998 and since then has been the reservoir for my rapid acceleration of temple submissions in the 2nd decade of the 21st century. My Polish and Slovenian genealogists are the difference-makers of me generating huge amounts of temple submissions in the 2nd decade that extend far beyond my wildest expectations of the previous 40 years for achieving the impossible dreams of such quantitative temple and family history accomplishments. And lastly, my entire family's commitment to genealogy was not only established from our previous three trips to Eastern Europe but also substantially enhanced with the potential of extracting the digitalizations from the incredible 2009 digitized historic village collections obtained from my Polish genealogist. This significant library of historic church records where my ancestors lived for hundreds of years gave me hope for future genealogy in the next decade with both my children, grandchildren and extending far beyond to future generations of becoming actively involved especially since technology breakthroughs were rapidly taking place in the 2nd decade of the 21st century.

Again and again, if there's a magical story to share with you, it is my patriarchal blessing which provided both short and long-term hope for accomplishing much for both temple and original family history research. And from each decade beginning in the 1970's, the accelerating genealogical progress is astounding to reflect on especially now along with its exponential technology expansions with "warp speed" which will be the main theme presented in part 5 of this motivational series of postings entitled *My Story of Family History Success By Spiritual Motivation through the "Spirit of Elijah" for the past 50 years*. Without any exaggeration or hesitation, this spiritual motivation that has been a constant companion to me in striving for excellence in my temple and family history endeavors still 50 years later and well into the future which will also be further expanded in the 5th posting!!! Without this constant spiritual companionship, it would have been easy to lose the focus with my temple and family history pursuits over 40 years when considering the cost of research, travel expenses, time commitments, lack of networking, and personal sacrifices involved that have miraculously reaped so many blessings to my entire family and me. And above all, Roslyn gets special kudos for supporting and sustaining these genealogical milestones that have been achieved when the odds of such success were not clearly predictable or even remotely obtainable over those many years.