



# INTERNATIONAL MESSENGERS GOOD NEWS

## Living Fearlessly in Fearful Times

By Darwin Anderson

It is hard to tune into any type of conservative media broadcasts these days without hearing about a looming financial crisis in this nation. As a mission we are being impacted by the loss of individual supporters from areas of high unemployment. This downturn has also caused churches to be uninterested or to think they're unable to send adult short-term teams to serve our missionary staff. This may eventually impact the level of care we can offer our staff and it may even threaten our survival as a mission. How do we as followers of Jesus live in these fearful times?


First, I think we accept this downturn from God's hand. To *"not be offended"* (Matthew 11:6) by what He allows and to trust His heart during this time is how we live with an active faith that pleases Him. Maybe these next few years will bring the real revival we've been praying for. Possibly we'll see new ways to serve and share the Gospel with people that have been unavailable to us in prosperous times. Maybe watching us live by faith will drastically reduce the loss of our kids to the world. Maybe this will really be OUR time to impact our culture!

Second, I think we must purpose to be God's light where we are and to engage in God's work with new intensity. Engaging in Kingdom affairs does wonders for our satisfaction with life and for our perspective. Giving and living by faith changes us and exposes us to God's great passion for the lost. Let's recommit to the good works that God has created us to do. If a downturn will cause

us to break loose from the culture and our fleshly love for comfort, maybe investing in the eternal needs of those around us will help us become thankful—even for these tougher days. We are encouraged in Luke 12:33-34 to build treasure where moth and rust will not destroy it; maybe this downturn will help us refocus on that goal.

Finally, we must cooperate with the Lord Jesus by more rigorously getting after the dark corners of our hearts. The frantic pace of material prosperity has not brought us spiritual prosperity. We are actually pretty impoverished in walking with and living out our love for Jesus. Maybe these fearful days will drive us to put extra time on examining our hearts in light of Scripture and giving God the time to speak to us. There is much to gain from godliness and contentment. Could this be our time to restore the community of our local churches, to strengthen our ties in our homes, to build real relationships with the folks who live around us, and to give ourselves to honest repentance?

It is our privilege as believers to prosper in dark times in ways the world can't imagine. Let's focus on Kingdom priorities and let God work out His wonderful design for our lives to the glory of His name.

*"And He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for Him and make the Kingdom your primary concern."*  
Matthew 6:33 (NLT) 



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# THE MOST BEAUTIFUL

By Bronislav Lipus

Yes, it's true. Twenty years have passed since the Velvet Revolution, when on November 17, 1989 the university students of Prague, later joined by students from other universities and the working people, started the transition from communism to freedom. At that time people, especially those at the beginning of productive age, were excited and full of expectations of what the new freedom would bring into their life.

Many things have changed since those days; many have used the opportunity of living in a free market economy to improve their lifestyle and devoted themselves to developing and building their own businesses, building huge houses, and buying expensive cars. Those were the symbols of success, happiness, and the meaning of life.

In that situation, fifteen years ago, my wife Lora and I, together with our children, started conducting Evangelistic English Camps designed especially for business and career people. Our ministry was very hard and challenging, especially at the beginning, as Christianity was considered to be a religion of the weak and unsuccessful. However, business people wanted to learn English so we were able to run camps with attendance between 50 to 90 business people at each camp.

When we look back at our ministry we see that it was a long time of sowing the seed into the hearts of career people without much visible results. So far, about 300 adult career people living in our area have heard the Gospel proclaimed in a very clear and understandable way. Today, those who started their lives focusing on materialism and success are in their late 40s and 50s and can evaluate if what they hoped for their lives came true or not.

At our last camp, there was a man, Ceslav, who has attended our English camps several times before. He was

a very nice man and was happy with his life and successful business, until this Spring when he got seriously ill and had to be taken to the ICU in the local hospital. At the camp this summer he told me this, "Bronek, I have always been coming to the camps to have fun, relax and learn English. But on that day, when I was lying in the ambulance being taken to the hospital, I realized that the things I built in my life and lived for mean nothing to me. They are just dirt. I remembered what I learned about Jesus during the camps and I want to refocus my life on spiritual things now and follow Jesus." That was the most beautiful confession that I heard during the camp this summer. The Scripture says that there is *a time of sowing and a time of harvesting*. Between those two times "there is a time of farmer's patience and prayer." Dear brother, this is just one example out of many that really keep us pressing

forward faithfully in proclaiming the Gospel and that keep us trusting the Holy Spirit to do his part in the lives of people we minister to in His time. For the Glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! 🌍



"The trip was pretty emotional for me because of my [late] wife's previous involvement and I expected that. However, I never expected to see and feel the eagerness and thirst for the Bible that the people had. When some of the nationals shared stories about my wife, I realized what an impact some of us and our effort has long term." — John, Poland

"This trip has reinforced in my heart that you can never go wrong showing someone that you care. You can never go wrong sharing a bit of Christ with someone everyday." — Todd, Romania

**Short-Termers' Comments**



# SENT.. NOT FORGOTTEN

By David Beger



How many missionaries feel abandoned? According to experts, most of them feel forgotten by churches, organizations, family and friends at some point. Usually no one knows that they feel this way. One way in which we have felt cared for and not forgotten is the commitment of small groups in the States dedicated to us.

Recently a missions committee asked us (and others) about the successes and failures of small care groups or missionary advocacy teams. Often, there are more failures than successes with these groups. The following sums up my answer to them and I hope that it will serve other missionaries and groups who care for those who are on the field.

**Fellowship** – Small care groups will only “survive” if they can survive without the missionaries. There needs to be relationship within the group aside from the missionary. Think of it as a Bible study or small group fellowship. The missionaries are simply cared for as part of that small group.

**Leaders** – Leaders need simply to hold together a small group. If they can organize the basics of a small group, then they can handle this care team.

**Missionary** – Now that the small group functions on its own, we can add missionaries. It is vital that the team works on loving the missionary. Often teams may not know their missionaries well, and so they need to gain a heart for the missionary. If there is no heart, care becomes a job.

**Communication** – To foster the above, communication is needed. Groups really need to understand this part. No communication, no relationship. No relationship, no heart for the missionaries. And do not put the communication on the shoulders of the missionary. They will often fail to do it. Take the initiative to make this a part of your care for them.

These are the most critical parts of a support team. If you are reading this then you have a connection to a missionary and what God is doing around the globe. Consider starting a small group and adopting the person you know. If you already have a small group, simply add the missionary to that group. Pray for them, learn about them, learn from them, and communicate with them. Care for them. 🌍



## THE WUBBY

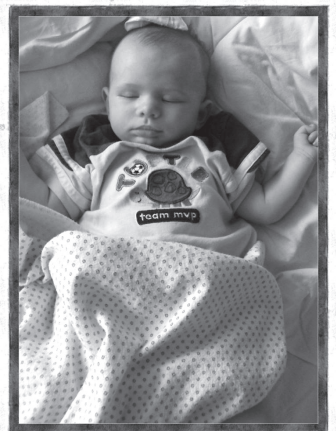
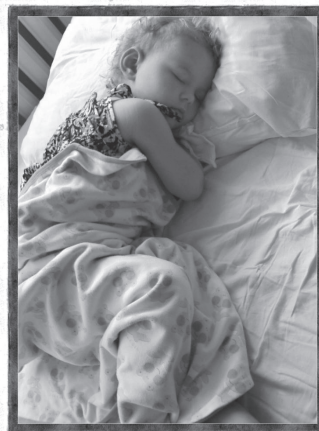
By David & Nicole Beger

A couple of days ago, Nicole was talking with her friends about the differences between Phoebe's and Samuel's baby blankets. They each have their favorite and they are different from each others. The women all laughed, and asked a question: “Why are American children known around the world for their baby blankets?” Wow! It had never occurred to us that a “blanky” or “wubby” was anything other than a universally adored comfort object used by kids of every tongue, tribe and nation. How could this be true?

This is one of many funny issues we as parents raising “third culture” kids must deal with. We have some of the strangest decisions to make simply because of our cultural situations ranging from the serious

to the downright silly. Making these decisions can also be some of the most stressful parts of ministry, especially if it concerns their health or future. Parents around the world ask if they are doing the best things for their children's well being by adding a second cultural view. We must ask ourselves over and over if what we are doing is right for them. Thankfully we have a God who cares about even these details and guides our lives. He is a God in whom we can trust as sovereign in all the outcomes.

Well, we are not tossing out the concept of the security blanket so quickly. As it turns out, Americans are not the only people in the world to use security blankets for their children.



After doing a little research, we found that other countries use them as well. There are many reasons for using them especially for more transient people like us. Because we are ever traveling and often in transition Phoebe and Samuel get to keep their “wubbies” since it is one of the things that stay constant when it is time for bed. The other is a God who is there no matter where they lay their head. 🌍



# MUTUAL SHARPENING

By Brent Howland

***As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.***

(Proverbs 27:17)


Over the last year I've been working hard at developing accountability relationships—the kind of relationships that will purposefully help me and the other person grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. God has blessed me with relationships with several pastors and ministry leaders who have been a great encouragement to me. As I look back at those relationships, three things stand out.

The masks that we wear to protect ourselves really hurt more than they help. I tend to talk about sports, family highlights, and more sports. On my really spiritual days I can talk missions, theology, or philosophy of ministry. But all of those things tend to mask what we really need to talk about: time in God's Word, sexual temptation, leading our families, and other heart-issues. In the end, pretending to have it together keeps us from the help that we need. We try to keep from getting hurt, but our way of coping through presenting ourselves as "together" really hurts us far more than confession and accountability ever could. Wearing masks shackles us to guilt, pretense, and shallowness, while confessing to one another is powerful and freeing.

A second thing I'm learning is that many of our shepherds are in desperate need of encouragement. It's hard for pastors and those in full-time ministry to be vulnerable because there's

a pressure (from within and without) to be spiritually strong even though they struggle with most of the same things that everyone else struggles with. Discouragement and loneliness are pretty common for a lot of pastors. One pastor shared, "I'm bleeding all over and nobody really knows about it." Who is shepherding our shepherds and encouraging our encouragers?

I am also learning that I simply need to be more assertive and intentional. The culture of the church can be pretty shallow, but I know that most people, including the leaders, need encouragement, accountability, and prayer. I need to break through the tentativeness and social patterns I've established and to have the courage to ask simple questions like, "What can I pray for you about this week?" "How's your marriage holding up lately?" and, "Have you been able to get any quality time with God these last few days? What's He been teaching you?"

Throwing aside our masks, encouraging one another, and assertively taking an interest in others are all part of growing in God's grace. It's vital for us as the body of Christ to relate to each other on this level so that we can sharpen one another and be more useful in God's hands. 



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHURCHES

*International Messengers is looking for opportunities to serve you! If any of the opportunities below is something your church would be interested in, please call the IM office at 800-243-6763 or e-mail [office@im-usa.org](mailto:office@im-usa.org).*

### **Ed Kleiman, Messengers of Hope:**

Prayer Conferences  
Men's Conferences  
God's Work—God's Way Conference: deals with prayer, Gods' Word, and reaching the lost  
Teaching on the Importance of the Church  
Missions Conferences

### **Brent Howland, Assistant Director:**

Pulpit Fill  
Missions Conferences  
Men's Meetings  
Mission Committee Vision and Encouragement

### **Terry Baxter, Messengers of Hope:**

Marriage Quest Weekends  
Sportsmen's Retreats  
Church Renewal Meetings  
Evangelistic Meetings of all Kinds

### **Darlis Anderson:**

Women's Ministry/Banquet Speaker

### **Darwin Anderson, President:**

Missions Conferences  
Missions Concerts  
Elder Retreats  
Men's Retreats  
Marriage Weekends  
Pulpit Fill  
Mission Committee Vision and Encouragement

### **Other:**

Connecting Missionaries with your Church when they are home on furlough.





# RENEWED HOPE FOR AN IMMENSE TASK



By Terry Baxter

The task of reaching the world with the Gospel is immense, yet it is not impossible. Let me cite several things that bring me great hope and encouragement that momentum is building toward a fresh surge of focus and energy for the gospel as we quickly approach the end times.

First, I am observing a ground swell of intercessory prayer and taking God at His Word to pray about everything. I am frequently hearing of weekly all-night prayer vigils as a normal part of local churches in many countries. It's not uncommon to hear of churches that set aside 40 days for fasting and prayer or 24/7 prayer slots to intercede for the work of the church. These praying churches are beginning to prevail with a renewed power as they discover the power of the Holy Spirit.

Second, lay people are beginning to discover their vital role in the body of Christ to *"do the work of the ministry"* (Ephesians 4:12). I am absolutely amazed at the huge ministries that ordinary people are leading and

developing. I have seen everything from huge jail and prison ministries to fruitful evangelistic events. It doesn't surprise me when I consider that Jesus called ordinary men and entrusted them with the extraordinary task of changing the world.

Third, this generation is sending a message that can best be described as "All In or All Out!" The days of passivity and playing church are over. If it's not real, life consuming, relational and transforming they're not interested. On the other hand, when they find the real thing they are fully committed and ready to put everything on the line for their faith.

Fourth, with the current economic shake up and increase in natural disasters, people are searching for the true meaning and purpose of life as in no time in recent history. It is no longer difficult to start conversations about God and spiritual things because people are searching for answers. If you want to start a good discussion, just ask the next person you meet,

"So do you think we are moving into what the Bible describes as the end times?" Caution: be ready to steer the conversation toward the gospel.

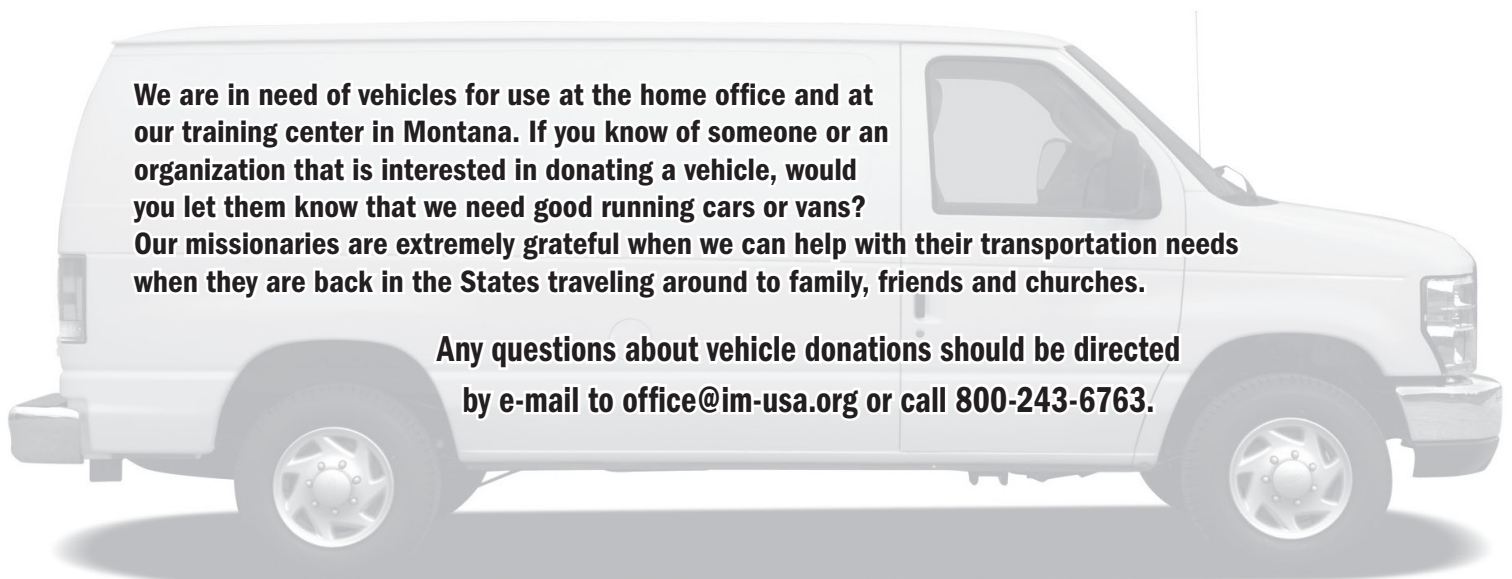
Finally, as we are seeing the collapse of many liberal denominations, there is a hunger to get back to the Bible and the basic truths of the Christian life. This is currently being seen in the fall out from one denomination's move toward ordaining homosexuals. In the wake of this unbiblical decision, many new congregations are springing up with the desire to seek God in truth and simplicity. I see this as a sign that people across a broad span are beginning to follow the admonition, *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches"* (Revelation 3:22). We could call this the age of "denominational distrust."

These combined signs bring us great hope and encouragement as we push forward into our 16th year with International Messengers. We are so blessed to serve Christ locally and around the world with the IM family. 🌐

**We are in need of vehicles for use at the home office and at our training center in Montana. If you know of someone or an organization that is interested in donating a vehicle, would you let them know that we need good running cars or vans?**

**Our missionaries are extremely grateful when we can help with their transportation needs when they are back in the States traveling around to family, friends and churches.**

**Any questions about vehicle donations should be directed by e-mail to [office@im-usa.org](mailto:office@im-usa.org) or call 800-243-6763.**





# WHAT IS REALLY LIVING?

By Jan McKinnon

"What is really living?" I have been challenged by this question.

In just three years my perspective has changed. I used to think that sitting in a comfortable home, having a good steady job, having good health, and having great relationships with friends and family was really living. I think I confused the pursuit of life and happiness with the pursuit of luxury. I had developed a taste for it! I liked this world's security.

I was confronted with Psalm 62:1-2: *"My soul finds rest in God alone, He alone is my rock and salvation, he is my fortress and I will never be shaken."* Does my soul find rest in God? In God alone?

I have wanted to feel settled, to have a feeling of rest and even security. But I am realizing this is really wrapped up in HIM. Really living is trusting Him and watching Him work in my life or another's.

Real living is seeing bills from the doctor that are huge and insurance seems to cover only a small portion. Then God steps in and makes it manageable. When I trust Him in the midst of turmoil, peace floods my soul.

It is real living when someone donates money to your account and you don't really know them very well or even at all. It touches your soul that God cares for you and prompts others to love on you.

It is real living when a person you have been meeting with gives a testimony that they are trusting Jesus for something they can't do on their own.

Real living is when I am asked to do something that is totally out of my comfort zone and know I have to trust Him to

carry me. It's wonderful when it's over and especially amazing if someone else is benefitted from it.

When I wake up kind of blah, mildly depressed, and it's dark and dreary outside I go to God's Word and He meets my soul. The sun shines in my soul, and I gain God's perspective. Wow, that's real living!

Real living is when your husband reads books on the economy or listens to the news about what is happening in our country and he says, "Aren't these exciting times?" I sure don't think of it as exciting! I think it is downright scary! Then he gently reminds me we are heaven-bound—our home is not here. It is a biblical perspective, Jesus may be coming soon. That's real living.

Real living is connecting across the thousands of miles back to home when God prompts you to pray for dear friends and loved ones. Even if you can't be with them, God gives you the privilege to pray and connect in that intimate way.

At our stage in life we are watching our children raise children. What is really living to them? What have I passed on? What are their priorities? Beth Moore captured it for me in a prayer, "More than anything else we pray that God would prosper our loved ones with the abundance of You. If they can handle some ease and earthly success, wonderful, but Oh God, insist that they really live. Please make us courageous enough to pray that no earthly luxury would ever cheat us of true prosperity."

My challenge to you is really live! 

**If you participated in a short-term trip in 2010 with IM and haven't had an opportunity to complete your camp evaluation form, please take a moment and fill out the online form now available at: [www.im-usa.org/eval.html](http://www.im-usa.org/eval.html)**



*God accomplished much through the willingness and heart of our staff and short-termers in 2010. We sent a total of 292 short-term workers and conducted 52 outreaches, as follows at right.*

## Ministries Report 2010

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2 Basketball/English Day Camps         | 1 Medical Ministry Trip                           |
| 1 Celebrate Recovery/Homeless Outreach | 1 Men's Ministry                                  |
| 7 Children's Camps                     | 2 Professional English Camps (Business, Teachers) |
| 3 Discipleship Camp                    | 2 Softball/English Camps                          |
| 1 Early Childhood Education Workshop   | 1 Staff Conference                                |
| 2 Encouragement Trips                  | 1 Teachers' Workshop                              |
| 4 English Day Camps                    | 1 Village & Care Home Ministry                    |
| 4 English Language Camps               | 1 Women's Conference                              |
| 9 Family English Camps                 | 1 Women's Quilting Retreat                        |
| 1 H.S. Senior Tutoring                 | 1 Women's Sewing Ministry                         |
| 3 Longer-Term Ministries               | 1 Youth with HIV/AIDS Camp                        |
| 1 Marriage Quest                       |   |

The average age of our short-termers in 2010 was 39.4 years old, and 50% of our short-termers were alumni. Our oldest short-termer was 77 and our youngest was 1-year old. We sent 10 pastors & 4 of their wives.

***We give God all the glory for another blessed year!***



# LATE NIGHT VISIT

By Paula Roberts



3:00 a.m. in a Romanian train depot. People wander or sit hunched in their coats.

We walk in. There are five of us and we're certainly not of their descent. Heads turn and stares begin. Warnings from seasoned travelers control my hand as it clutches tightly to our visas. "Train and bus stations are where you need to be careful. Someone will cause a distraction, and while you look over there, another hand will be here, and your valuables will be lost."

The nightlife of the train depot is compliments of Abby. She's catching a train to return to Hungary. It turns out there is little catching involved. The train is late. Another cold forty minutes to wait.

As we seek specifics about the train I notice half a man. His wheelchair holds two stumps, and his mouth holds four teeth. He looks at me. "Do you speak English?"

"Yes," I reply quickly. I was approached by a beggar five days ago, and I, with an utterly non-Christian heart, aim to head off another.

"Are you from America?"

"No," I say, "we live here." My

voice is quick and bothered.

He fumbles with his words, and pries for more information. I barely speak, and blame the hardness of my response to lack of sleep and the foreign world around me. In reality, my sin nature is wide awake, and it seems as if nothing in me has warmth.

"Are you from California? Texas?" He goes on.

"We live here," I say again. "Potcoava, Scornicesti, Bircii."

"Here? For how long?"

"We've been here eight months, but before that we lived in Iowa."

"I know someone from Iowa," he

states.

His one-sided conversation continues while I'm lost in thought. His hands are grimy and calloused.

"Abraham, David, Daniel." The names dance out of his mouth. He goes on, and I focus on his words. His grammar circles and his pronunciation doesn't fit, but, from what I hear... could this man be a believer? Does he know Truth?

"Heaven," he says, and his huge grin explodes. "Jesus wants us all to be in heaven. Would you like to have Him in your heart?"

I'm back on track with his words, and finally, I smile. Though tonight my actions haven't shown it, I know Truth, too.

"He is," I reply. "That's why I'm here... He's why I'm here."

He gives me a grin, and his grimy, calloused hand shakes mine. Joy and hope bounce from him, ricocheting off the walls. "Heaven," he states in parting, and one true missionary rolls away. 🙏



"God taught me on this trip more how to pray and live with expectancy for what He can do. When I do this, He surprises me even more by the opportunities He gives and how He has the power to melt people's hearts of stone. I saw Him answering my prayers in powerful ways, breaking down walls and causing closed-off students to become open. God also blessed me by teaching me more about how He can use me to disciple someone younger in the faith, and how many times He uses me to have more of an impact on others than I realize, all because of Christ's love within me."

— Anna, Hungary

"My relationship with Christ always grows because I have to be more dependent on Him as I am out of my comfort zone. He never ceases to amaze me how each missions trip is unique and different from previous ones. And my life is always enriched with many new friendships." — Mary, Poland

**Short-Termers' Comments**



# WHAT ARE YOUR PASSIONS?

By Kent McKinnon

What activities do you have a passion for and enjoy doing in your free time?

Have you ever considered that God gave you that passion and interest so you can win lost people to Jesus?

Lost people don't usually come to church seeking to know Jesus.

So we have to be like Jesus and go spend time being with lost people.

In reading through the Gospels during my quiet time I have noticed how Jesus modeled reaching out to connect with lost people by visiting and eating with them.

All my life I have loved sports and playing with balls. I graduated in Physical Education and Coaching in 1972.

I thought for sure that I was going to be a football or basketball coach. I became a Christian in my junior year. From that moment, I felt that God had called me into full time ministry. So I never became a coach of any official team.

In 2008, I was given an opportunity to coach for the first time in 36 years. I was afraid and fearful that I couldn't do it.

I thought I was too old and rusty to be any good. Now I am telling 30-40 guys about Jesus in Poland. Who would have imagined it?

I spent some time with some little boys showing them how to catch and throw a football and now they buzz our apartment and want me to come down and play football with them, after I had gone down earlier and showed them how to catch and throw a football. I am praying that I can tell them and their parents about Jesus.

Do you have an activity that you have a passion to do in your free time but you are afraid to use it to connect with the lost?

Are you a golfer? How about teaming up with another Christian and filling out the foursome with non believers? There is a lot of talk time on the course and time to connect with lost people. How about inviting them to stop for something to eat and drink to connect further.

How about inviting the person to golf with you next week? Pretty soon you can invite the person to your home for a meal and now you have a relationship to talk about Jesus.

If you are a parent, how about getting involved with one of your kids' activities? Maybe coach their sports team and ask another lost parent or two to do it with you. You will spend time planning for the practice, going to practice and games. After the game invite the other coaches to go out for a meal or Coke. After the next week or so, you can invite them to your house for a meal and now you have a relationship to talk about Jesus.

Maybe you are a student. When you go to class – pray that you can sit next to another student that would be open to building a relationship. Start a conversation before and after class, invite them to go for a Coke and eventually you can invite them over to your house and you have enough relationship to talk to them about Jesus.

What other activities are out there? Maybe you have a passion for quilting, walking, gym exercise, scrapbooking, playgroups, or lots of other activities. Pray for wisdom how you can take your activity and use it to connect with lost people. Pray also for boldness to overcome

your fears so you will follow through and tell the lost person about Jesus and that lost person will avoid hell for all eternity. 🙏



## NOTICE

It is now possible to receive your donation receipts by e-mail. If you're interested in this, please send an e-mail to the accounting department at: [accounting@im-usa.org](mailto:accounting@im-usa.org) with "e-mail receipts" in the subject line. Thanks!



# SPIRITUAL HUNGER IN THE ARCTIC

By Alex & Beth Oehler

Beth was invited to attend a one-day women's retreat organized by our local church. The retreat took place at a beautiful camp facility located on a tributary of the Mackenzie River near Inuvik. The camp is run by the Gwitch'in Tribal Council and had just hosted a week-long counseling program for residential school survivors from our region. Many of the attendees of the women's retreat are survivors of residential schools themselves. Their lives and families have been deeply marked by the violent repercussions of this traumatic chapter in the history of Aboriginal Canada.

Two very inspiring speakers shared about the unbelievable pain and loss they have experienced as women, and how the Lord has met them in their desperation. Their stories intimately connected with the experiences of many of the women who had come - both seekers and believers. The retreat was an encouragement also for Beth. Besides hearing from other believers, Beth caught a glimpse of the spiritual hunger that exists among women of our community. Since this hunger is rarely talked about, the retreat served as an eye-opener, allowing us to pray more specifically for the women of Inuvik and for their families.

Just in the last week God has brought about several more conversations in which people shared with us about their spiritual hunger. These conversations were a great encouragement to our hearts!



Alex has started a postgraduate interdisciplinary program at University of Northern British Columbia. For us this acceptance means that our legal ground for staying in Canada can be extended. His studies, which focus on language and identity among Inuit of the Western Arctic, will allow him to personally meet with many more carriers of Aboriginal culture and language in this region.

We dearly thank you for your faithful support of our vision, life, and service to God here in a part of the circumpolar world. We cherish your prayers that sustain our joy in the Savior, and which enable us to share His love with those around us. 🌍

## BUCHAREST AWAITS YOU!

*Recent college grad wondering "what to do next?"*

*New retiree trying to fill up some empty days, weeks, and months?*

*Is the "empty nest" too empty?*

**We have a solution!**

How does teaching in **ROMANIA** sound to you? Or, how about serving missionary kids in various roles, such as Librarian or Chaplain? Our wonderful school, Bucharest Christian Academy, is always looking for qualified, energetic believers of all ages to serve for one to two year (or more!!) terms.



**Contact me, Tom Clark, at [tom@tjcmision.org](mailto:tom@tjcmision.org) or e-mail us at [recruiting@bcaromania.org](mailto:recruiting@bcaromania.org)!**

*Tom & Jill Clark are missionaries serving in Romania with International Messengers. Tom is on the board with Bucharest Christian Academy, a missionary-kids' school in Bucharest, Romania.*

"The experience cements my confidence of the working of the Holy Spirit to equip me to meet the needs of those where I am placed. I have seen the transformation of many lives and that is life-changing and faith-deepening."

— Bonnie, Poland

"It is a step of faith to raise the funds, complete the training, travel, pour out yourself to the point of exhaustion and depend on God for each day and each contact. It is a blessing to see God answer prayers in unexpected ways and to really experience the body of Christ in action."

— Rebecca, Poland

### Short-Termers' Comments



# FREELY I RECEIVED, FREELY I GIVE

By Ed Kleiman

Asked to write about the ministry this year, a few cherished verses come to mind: “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!” (Isaiah 55:1)

“For by grace you have been saved

through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). So, I want to take this opportunity to share about an important aspect of my ministry, giving free biblical resources to people. *Freely I received, freely I give* (Matthew 10:8).

Hebrews 6:12 says, “so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Though many of those referred to are given in the 11th chapter of Hebrews, God has also blessed His people with heroes of the faith in the past. Much of the material I give away was written by such people in the past. I have discovered newness is no virtue and oldness is no vice. Nothing is inferior for being old, and nothing is valuable just for being modern. As John Piper said, “This has freed me from the tyranny of novelty and opened me for the wisdom of the ages.”

My house is a warehouse of such materials to give to people. I have profited from them greatly, and know the value they could hold for others. People like the Puritans, as well as those who have been influenced by them today, understand that spiritual problems need spiritual solutions. God, who created the soul, and who died to redeem the soul, best knows how to treat the soul.

It may strike some as unusual that being a missionary I would give away material on so many different aspects of life. But I believe what Abraham Kuyper said, “There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus Christ does not cry out, ‘This is mine!’”

Anyone need only contact me at my e-mail address of edkleiman@afo.net and mention what exact resource, or even the subject matter, while providing me with an address, and I will send them to you free. Freely I received, freely I give. Following are just a few of the quotes from people who have received, and been blessed by, such materials.

“John Bunyan’s (of Pilgrim’s Progress) The Fear of God changed my perspective on what the fear of God is like. Before I started to read him and other Puritans, I do not think I knew what Christianity was really like. I will read this again and again, Lord willing.” — Sean G.

“Thomas Case’s When Christian’s Suffer, David Leyshon’s Sickness, Suffering and Scripture, The Suffering Letters of C. H. Spurgeon, Spurgeon Sermons books: All of these have brought me further up and further into the enjoyment of the vision of GOD.” — Chuck Y.

“One main way Ed has blessed us is not only his ability to encourage, motivate, and challenge through his messages, but also his generosity with the giving of books, booklets, CDs, DVDs, and many other resources that he makes available at no charge. I have heard on numerous occasions both during and after the events, how much those attending were grateful for resources to take home with them.

I have especially been blessed by a book Ed gave me titled, What He Must Be...If He Wants to Marry My Daughter by Voddie Baucham Jr. Ed knows I have two daughters in college and as their father, I have a significant responsibility to protect and guide them as they prepare for marriage. The book had some very helpful information and advice. I have also read some of the booklets Ed gives away on theology and practical Christian living which are a great resource. I know when Ed comes to minister to us he will be leaving behind many valuable tools that will help as we seek to follow Christ.” — Robin T.

“My prayer time has increased greatly. I am spending more time delving into the Word. Your DVDs and CDs have reminded me of what a great and loving God we have.” — Ramona R.

“Ed’s ministry of reading, watching, and listening resources has changed my life in profound ways for the LORD—in terms of my marriage, mothering, ministry, and my walk with Jesus. Specifically, Mothers of the Wise & Good by Jabez Burns has given me a God-glorifying paradigm for raising my children with the goal of multi-generational faithfulness. The Eagle by Jim Elliff (both in book and DVD forms) has given my two year-old girl, Lilly Joy, a fantastic understanding of the biblical gospel. The Hidden Art of Homemaking by Edith Schaeffer has helped me fight against the cultural evils both within and outside the church that seek to define a woman’s true potential and identity as outside her home. Girls Gone Wise in a World Gone Wild by Mary Kassian is currently being used as our mid-week discipleship tool for Jr. High through college ladies at our church. Young Ladies Guide by Harvey Newcomb is an outstanding resource for the teaching and reinforcing of true Biblical Femininity. Also, Charles Spurgeon on Prayer by Lance Wubbles has simply and emphatically taken me deeper into the heart of God with the results of counting Christ increasingly more precious in my life.” — Sarah K.

“The most effective use of information with clients has been sharing the many books and brochures that Ed Kleiman’s ministry has generously donated to the center. (1) The Biblical Counseling book by Jay Adams is being used by all of the volunteers at the center as a guide in dealing with clients (who range in age from 13 to 65). (2) Pursuing God

continued on next page



continued from page 10

by Jim Elliff is used extensively with all clients. (3) Who is God, along with biblical counseling books on depression, dating, marriage, and others by people like Jay Adams and Ed Welch have influenced many clients. Other booklets on self-injury have changed clients' lives. Also, The Eaglet by Jim Elliff booklet & DVD are enjoyed by parents and kids alike. Seeds are planted using these books and brochures. (4) Ed Kleiman's testimony has been requested by many clients, both Christian and non-Christian.

The Pregnancy Care Center will, with God's help, continue to serve our community by sharing information from a biblical perspective." — Jana M. Director

"The results of 'Uncle Edward's' resource ministry in my life, my family's life, and our church body's life are eternal. A Father's Guide to Blessing His Children by Children Desiring GOD has shown me the eternal importance of saturating my children with Scripture every day. Numerous Puritan paperbacks and Puritan pocketbooks have displayed to me the eternal unsearchable riches of Christ in a far deeper and more breathtaking way that no modern author could ever dream of. Whether by Thomas Watson, by Thomas Vincent or A Pastor's Sketches by Ihabod Spencer, these resources have eternally brought glory to Christ by enabling me to profess with Peter, "Though you have not seen Him...you love Him with maximum joy..." Numerous Resources for Changing Lives (mini Biblical Counseling booklets) have been vital, not only in my own life but also for the counseling of my flock to keep us on the long and narrow road that leads to life. He has shown us that indeed 'His Words are our counselors.' Also, Jim Elliff's books, Pursuing GOD and Wasted Faith have been used to challenge my own understanding and embracing of the Biblical Gospel as well as in the lives of students, many of whom thought previously that they knew what the gospel was but later confessed they did not. Jim Elliff's books continue to be used by me for one-on-one discipleship also. One other mini booklet that has been used in the lives of our students is called The Terrors of Hell by William Nichols.

Time fails me to also talk about the Answers in Genesis resources, Pastor John Piper resources, Guidance for the Seeker by William C. Nichols, Radical by David Platt, God Has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life by Ray Comfort, etc., all of which Almighty GOD has been pleased to use to snatch sinners from the fires of His wrath through the slaughtering of His Son for our everlasting enjoyment in Him. To God be all the glory! — Jeremy K.

E-mail [edkleiman@afo.net](mailto:edkleiman@afo.net). Mention what exact resource, or even subject matter, while providing an address, and I will send them to you free. Freely I received, freely I give. [www.praybold.org](http://www.praybold.org)

## CONSTRUCTION TEAMS

International Messengers Home Office in Clear Lake Iowa has a need for spring, summer or fall construction teams to pour some concrete for the entrance to the office. We are looking for two teams of 6-10 men and women to raise \$500 each to come to Clear Lake to help with this project. We'll take good care of the teams and build some discipling and encouragement into their work. This would be a great first step into the world of missions and a great help to us also.

**Call 800-243-6763**



# CATALIN—THE BOY WHO WOULDN'T TALK

By Grace Fox



Camp results in transformed lives. Catalin is a perfect example. This young Romanian man wouldn't talk when he arrived at the Joshua Project camp in July. Shy and withdrawn, he communicated through hand motions. But change came quickly. I noticed it during the first worship service as the group sang praise songs.

At first Catalin only listened, but within 20 minutes or so, a wee smile crept across his face and he began clapping in perfect rhythm. That seemed like major progress but the best was yet to come. Later that day, as Gene and I played a card game with him, he suddenly asked – in Romanian – “How are you?” To our amazement, he repeated the phrase in French, English and Spanish. Then he asked, “What is your name?” Again he spoke four languages, and his smile spread from cheek to cheek.

Catalin placed his saving faith in Jesus a couple of days later. I wanted him to have a visual reminder of his decision, so I made him a bracelet with five colored beads: black, red, white, green and gold. Each color represented a part of God's plan for salvation. When a

career IM staff member explained the bracelet's significance, Catalin nodded and pointed at the sky, put his hands together to indicate prayer and then placed one hand over his heart. Later he touched the bracelet's band, motioned as though cutting it with scissors and then shook his head to indicate that he would never do such a thing.

This little guy – I say little because he's small in stature – is 20 years old. Only God knows the pain he's endured in his lifetime. He has major problems with his spine and nearly all his upper teeth have fallen out. He's a gypsy, targeted by discrimination, living in poverty and surrounded by alcoholism and who-knows-what-else. Humanly speaking, his situation is hopeless. But that's not the case in God's eyes.

Catalin belongs to Him, and He's given him hope. I wish you could have seen him dance at the talent show on the last night of camp. Changed from shy and withdrawn to being the poster boy for joy – that's Catalin.

Camp results in transformed lives. You've gotta see it to believe it. 🌟



“I would have to say it has taught me more about myself, the kids we work with every year, God's unexpected blessings and continual faithfulness... working in unity, making sacrifices for the good of the team rather than just myself...Seeing each member as both an individual and as a member of the same body, watching God move and work in and through each of them...the joy of discipling a student as well as learning how to physically show God's love to children...Having your heart broken for what breaks the Almighty's is humbling!”  
— Kimberly, Hungary

**Short-Termers'  
Comments**





## BIRTHS

### **ABIGEL ELIZA**

born on 11-10-09  
to Bruno & Sarah Balogh

### **ABIGAIL LYNN**

born on 2-12-10  
to Jeff & Sara Penning

### **SAMUEL DAVID**

born on 3-14-10  
to David & Nicole Beger

### **ANASTASIA**

born on 3-20-10  
to Sasha & Lena Litvak

### **LILI KINCS**

born on 3-21-10  
to Peter & Judit Petrik

### **IOANA SOFIA**

born on 5-4-10  
to Dani & Andreea Luncan

### **KYLIANA JUNE**

born on 6-17-10  
to Nelton & Bethany Noriega  
(Granddaughter of  
Terry & Debby Baxter)

### **JEDIDIAH DAVID**

born on 8-4-10  
to Jonathan & Andrea Baxter  
(Grandson of  
Terry & Debby Baxter)

### **TINSLEY KAE**

born on 10-2-10  
to Chad & Amie BeMent  
(Granddaughter of  
Steve & Deborah Sharp)

## GREETINGS FROM ROL

By Cristi Zah



Another year has passed and it is time to remember the things we experienced and to remember how we have seen God working in our lives. I think that we sometimes face the danger of forgetting what God has done for us. Because of our daily routine and potential problems, we forget our personal experiences with God, how he protected us, how He provided for us and because of that we become weary and discouraged in our walk with God. That is why I think that here at the River of Life Care Home (ROL) we need to remember God's faithfulness and realize that He is able to grant us victory in the present.

The first thing that I need to remember about this year is how God was able, even in times of financial crises, to help ROL to cover a large part of its deficit with IM. It is amazing how He chooses to help us financially in troubled times precisely to learn how to rely on Him and not on the world's economic system.

I think that we always need to be grateful for the new lives we were able to help. Every once in a while I stop for a moment from my daily routine and I look at the newborn babies and at the children at ROL I feel so privileged to be involved, even as a small part, in the process of being the extension of God's love toward these babies.

I am grateful also for the privilege of being able to have two camps for the children and the youth of the church from Fibis. It was His provision that allowed my wife and me to be able to minister this way. I am grateful that we had a young lady from the village recently trust the Lord in our church.

These are only a few of the things that God has done for us or enabled us to do for Him. They are "memorial stones" of our walk with our Lord Jesus Christ—they are proof of His faithfulness and care for us. But they are also faith builders enabling us to cope with the challenges we face in the present and allowing us to see that God is in control of everything. He will not force Himself into our lives—we need to give Him control of our lives and not carry all the problems by ourselves because this is too big of a burden to carry. Also, by these "memorial stones" we realize that nothing we do for God is in vain. Sometimes we are tempted to think that, but the truth of the matter is that nothing we ever do for Him will be forgotten. That is why I count as my biggest blessings everything I was able to do for Him this year.

**You Are  
WANTED  
We Need  
"Workers for the Harvest"  
at the  
River of Life  
Care Home  
Cornesti, Romania  
Eternal  
REWARDS**

**Will you accept the challenge?**  
If interested, contact us at [office@im-usa.org](mailto:office@im-usa.org)  
or [dougandroberta@gmail.com](mailto:dougandroberta@gmail.com)



# IM CANADA GROWS

By Gene Fox, Director of International Messengers Canada

When Grace and I opened Canada's first International Messengers office three years ago it consisted of a desk, a few bookshelves, a printer and a computer in the corner of our basement. It remained there for three years and 20 days.

During this time, God has been prompting more Canadians to become involved with what He's doing in Eastern Europe. The table below shows the increase.

YEAR	Canadians involved in short-term IM ministries	Countries of service	Number of evangelistic camp ministries
2008	14	Slovakia & Poland	3
2009	19	Poland, Ukraine & Romania	4
2010	34	Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine & Romania	7

The effort involved in serving and equipping our volunteers and in coordinating the details for each trip has increased with the numbers. Last spring we realized that we would need office help if God was going to continue growing IM Canada at this rate.

So we began praying. We asked God to provide someone who would enjoy assisting us with the paperwork, practical preparations, and correspondence necessary to grow this ministry. Then we began asking for an office that would be suitable for two people to share space.

God answered. Within a few months, He brought Tracey Gebert to work with us, and the church we attend offered us an empty office. Tracey's skills and attitude are a great fit for IM, and she's always wanted to be involved with missions. The office space is ideal. We moved in on September 20.

Why do we invest so much time and effort developing teams for short-term English camp ministries? Two reasons: First, these teams are like a magnet for drawing non-believers who would never attend a "church" event. However, they'll come to camp knowing they'll have native English speakers with whom they can practice speaking English. A Slovakian pastor told us, "These evangelical English camps are the most effective outreaches we're involved with each year. That's because our people can invite their neighbors and co-workers, and they'll come."

The second reason is that God uses these ministries to change the lives of our North American volunteers. When they obey God's nudge to get involved – despite their fears – and see Him use them to draw others to Himself, their faith grows by leaps and bounds. One volunteer on our Poland team said, "I may have felt inadequate at times but I had to trust God to use what I was able to give. It's not what I can do but what God can do through me."

As we continue directing IM Canada, we desire only to grow and connect with those God sends our way and to serve them well, whether they are career or short-term missionaries. To Him be the glory, and may He cause the growth He desires. 🌱



## Short-Termers' Comments

"I have benefited from this missions experience by seeing the overwhelming financial support I received before I went and from the prayer support while I was there. I grew in my faith and saw how God put the team together and brought the campers and placed them each in the groups where they could be ministered to according to their needs." —Marilyn, Slovakia



# ROLE OF THE CHURCH MISSION COMMITTEE

- 1)** Provide intentional, passionate, “beating on the door of heaven” prayer for the missionaries and ministries of the church each week. The committee should ask for and also post weekly prayer requests in the bulletin or church e-mail for the missionaries you support. Regularly ask your missionaries for answers they have seen to the requests sent.
- 2)** Communicate with the missionaries you serve. Ask them how you could help them in their ministry. Hold them accountable to answering that question.
- 3)** Be the ministry training arm of the church. Mission committees should find a wide variety of “training grounds” locally and then call, tempt, encourage, push, and lead your people outside the church walls onto those training grounds. Plug each of your small groups into a ministry once a month. This is important even for your elementary and jr. high kids so that they don’t grow up thinking life and church are all about them. You as a Mission Committee possibly understand “ministry as a way of life” better than most and can be key in discipling your church towards its true purpose. This will give you opportunity to train all levels of your church in sharing their testimony, sharing the Gospel, and using their faith for the Kingdom.
- 4)** Find short term missions trips to send your adults into as a way of pro-actively growing future leaders. This should be a combined effort between the elder board, pastors, and missions committee. Put together a list of people who are and will be leading the church ministries in the next ten years and set a goal to send 4-6 of them each year. The elders or pastor should go to those people and challenge them to go and offer \$\_\_\_\_\_ and assistance in fund raising to help them go if they will consider it. Choose the short term ministry carefully so they get good training and debriefing, and so they are actually doing front-line ministry (evangelism and discipleship) as a main function of their trip. Construction teams should be invested in the locals during the evenings and on prayer walks in the mornings. The mission committee should then work with these folks to help the family while they are away and help them re-acclimate to the church when they return so they don’t waste what they’ve learned.
- 5)** Challenge the congregation to give sacrificially to mission crises when they occur and host “all-nighter” prayer events in those situations.
- 6)** Lead the charge 1) to encourage parents to pray their kids into missions and 2) to keep missions in front of the congregation weekly. (Video clips during the offering, missionary stories, skyping with missionaries during small groups or Sunday services, etc.)
- 7)** Look for couples with solid marriages to challenge, pray for, and send from the church. Every church has these kinds of people who are not using their faith and walk with Christ as they could. Kick them out of the nest into a short-term trip or two to see if you can change their worldview onto things that are more eternal.
- 8)** Be pro-actively involved in staff care with the sending mission organization for career missionaries going from the church. (Regular encouragement for their children, sending a team to work with them yearly, continuation of relationships/friendships pro-actively, care packages, live call to congregation regularly on Sunday AM, marriage encouragement, male accountability, etc.)
- 9)** Contact the campus ministry staff of universities that will be the next “home” for your church’s senior high school students. Give those ministries contact information for your youth so that they can pursue them when they get to campus as freshmen. The first two to three months of college are vital in finding direction and identity for young people, so be proactive about getting them into an outreach-minded campus group. This will help your young people to approach college as a mission instead of merely as a training ground for their own development.

# 2011 CAMP SCHEDULE

## DISCIPLESHIP CAMPS

### LOCATION

### HOST

### TRIP DATES

Elizavetovka (near Odessa), Ukraine	Litvak	January 1 - 11
Busanna, Uganda	Pipes	Early June**
Siberia, Russia	Huffman/Naydenov	June 9 - 22 (approx.)
Poland	Dabrowski	June 29 - July 11 (approx.)
Czchow, Poland*	Hybel	July**

## EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS (EELC)

### LOCATION

### HOST

### TRIP DATES

Wisla, Poland	Dabrowski	January 28 - February 7 (approx.)
Radom, Poland* (day camp)	Snyder/Hageman	February 4 - 21
Czchow, Poland*	Hybel	July**
Milan, Italy*	Oehler,B/B	July 1 - 15
Koblevo (near Odessa), Ukraine*	Litvak	July 13 - 24 (approx.)
Mohacs, Hungary (day camp)	Dan	July 19 - August 1 or July 26 - August 8
Odessa, Ukraine*	Huffman	July 21 - August 3
Koblevo (near Odessa), Ukraine*	Litvak	July 22 - August 2 (approx.)

## FAMILY EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS

### LOCATION

### HOST

### TRIP DATES

Poland	Nerc	Early July**
Poland	Bozydaj	July**
Poland	Shaded	July 6 - 19
Poland	Jachym	July 13 - 25
Chojnice area, Poland	Loza	July 14 -26
Cluj, Romania (family/professionals)	Luncan	July 14 - 26
Radom, Poland	Snyder/Hageman	End of July/Early August**
Poland	Dabrowski	July 20 - August 2 (approx.)
Chojnice area, Poland	Loza	July 28 - August 9
Slovakia	Thiessen	July or August**
Odessa, Ukraine	Huffman	August 4 -17

## TEENS or KIDS CAMPS

### TYPE

### LOCATION

### HOST

### TRIP DATES

HS Senior Outreach	Bircii, Romania	Nicolae/Roberts	April**
EELC Children's Day Camp	Kaposvar, Hungary	Gorman	Early July**
Father's Heart Ranch Children's Day Camp	Kosice, Slovakia	Stein	Anytime July 1 - Mid August**

\*Youth Camp

\*\*Specific dates yet to be determined



# 2011 CAMP SCHEDULE

## SPECIALTY CAMPS OR MINISTRIES

TYPE	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
Evangelistic Outreach	Iquitos, Peru	Noriega	February 18 - March 4 (approx.)
Men's Conference	Busanna, Uganda	Pipes	Mid March**
Women's Conference	Bucharest, Romania	Clark	April 4 - 13
Business Camp	Malenovice, Czech Republic	Lipus	June 15 - 28
Construction/Labor	Bircii, Romania	Nicolae/Roberts	Late June**
Evangelistic Basketball/ Street Evangelism	Odessa, Ukraine	Huffman	July 6 - 18
Professionals' Camp	Cluj, Romania	Luncan	See info about Family EELC
EELC Youth Softball	Zirc & Ujfeherto, Hungary	Petrik/Opsal	End of July/Early August**
Evangelistic Outreach	Iquitos, Peru	Noriega	July/August**
Labor/Bible Club Day Camp	Bircii, Romania	Nicolae/Roberts	August**
Medical/Women's Sewing	Busanna, Uganda	Pipes	First Half of August**
Evangelistic Outreach	Iquitos, Peru	Noriega	September**

\*Youth Camp

\*\*Specific dates yet to be determined

### Short-Termers' Comments

"The Lord called me to Poland and then He met me there. I was very stretched and uncomfortable upon arrival – He knew what it would take to empty me of myself – and then He filled me with what I needed. I know Him now, like never before."

— Marie, Poland



Many of International Messengers' missionaries are in need of increased financial support. If you would like to partner with any of them financially, please contact us at 800-243-6763 or by e-mail: [office@im-usa.org](mailto:office@im-usa.org) or online at [www.im-usa.org/donate.html](http://www.im-usa.org/donate.html)



# THE DOOR TO THE ARAB WORLD IS WIDE OPEN

By Ben & Burgi Oehler

As many of you may know, we were active in the Russian-speaking world for many, many

years. God led us through various phases of preparation, including language learning and adaptation of culture. In those days our whole family was included. Together with our children we moved to Ukraine to work with Holocaust survivors, and later to do English camps and raise a church. Many young people were disciplined. Today quite a few of them are discipling young believers on their own. Now our children have their own children, and we are free to start a new chapter in our lives.

For quite some time we have sensed that God is leading us into a new world, into another field of challenges. Again, we are entering a time of intensive preparation, studying a new language, getting to understand a totally different culture—the Arab world. We need a lot of wisdom from above to cope with the difficulties of a completely new language. We have started diving into the Egyptian language, as a first carrier into various Arabic dialects.

So far God has led us to Coptic Arabs. Some of them would call themselves Christians, others of them Evangelicals. The Lord has always blessed us when we disciplined young people, so we desire to reach out and disciple students who are eager for mentoring and spiritual growth.

Two years ago the Lord led a wonderful Arabic Evangelical pastor into our lives who used to work in Alexandria as well as in some other places in Egypt. Now he is responsible for the Evangelical Arabic church in Milan, Italy. During recent discipleship meetings in his church we made preparations for our move to lower Egypt. The pastor will build several important bridges, so that we can start ministry within a local Evangelical fellowship possibly as soon as December 2010.

We would be very grateful for prayer support that will help us step out of our comfort zone—that God will give us grace to meet all those typical challenges we will be confronted with when we move to Alexandria, the second largest city in Egypt with 4.6 million inhabitants. 🌍



Alexandria Old City seen from the Mediterranean



In front of the Arabic church in Milan



At one of the meetings at the Arabic church Milan

If you participated in a short-term trip in 2010 with IM and haven't had an opportunity to complete your camp evaluation form, please take a moment and fill out the online form now available at:  
[www.im-usa.org/eval.html](http://www.im-usa.org/eval.html)





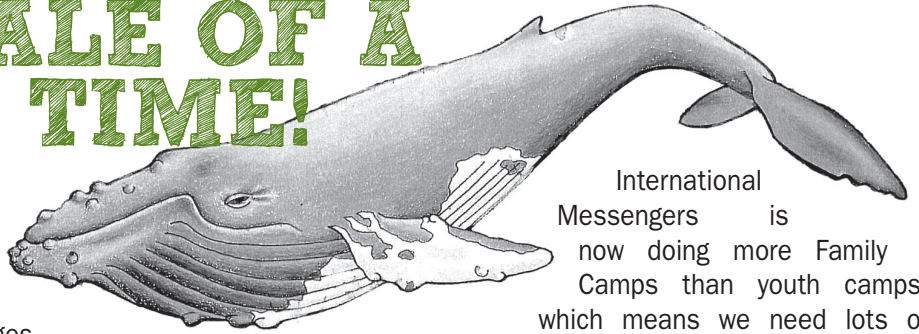
# A WHALE OF A GOOD TIME!

By Darlis Anderson

What do you get when you combine 25 beautiful, mostly brown-eyed kids, ages

4-17, six adults, two helpers, two suitcases bulging with craft ideas and supplies, indoor and outdoor games, Bible stories, science experiments, fishy snacks, gorgeous scenery and great weather? You get a Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure and a "whale of a good time!" Several of us worked hard every day to provide a top-notch program for the kids that would point them to Jesus, and assure their parents that they were well cared for and having fun. For three hours each morning the older kids participated in English Class and Bible Study, and the younger kids enjoyed a morning of activities with an ocean theme. They sang songs that taught them English, as well as about Jesus and about ocean creatures too! They listened intently to a Bible story each day, translated from English to Romanian so they didn't miss any of the details, and worked on memorizing a Bible verse each day. They enjoyed making crafts that went along with that story, and during break time enjoyed snacks like "ocean Jell-O," goldfish crackers, and one day made a "stormy snack" to coincide with the story of Jesus calming the storm. Romanian children don't have a lot of opportunities to do crafts in their schools, so they really enjoyed the challenge of projects such as beading, glitter painting, creating sea creatures with play dough, and making see-through fishbowls. English time included learning words about themselves, body parts, colors, shapes, and numbers while hearing the story of the Rainbow Fish, and learning all about the various types of whales. That day they had to go outside to get a visual picture of how long a 100' whale would be! Their bright minds picked up words so fast! They loved hands-on experiments where they learned about gravity, whale blubber, and what things float or sink. In the late afternoon each day, all 25 kids were together for 90 minutes. They first heard a "Creation Moment," which was a presentation about some fascinating creature of the sea, such as the sea horse or sea slugs. Helping 25 kids with tie-dying shirts, glitter-painting bags, or making stained-glass windows with ocean scenes was a noisy, busy task, but it went well and we were thankful when each day was done and the projects were completed!

Just for curiosity, I wore a pedometer and averaged over three miles each day just keeping up with the kids! It was a tiring but rewarding week! Hearing the appreciation from the parents, seeing how perfectly God wove together the personalities and skills of the leaders with the children who came, having the privilege of sharing Jesus' love to these precious ones, and watching their excitement over the Bible stories, crafts and games, was so sweet!



International Messengers is now doing more Family Camps than youth camps, which means we need lots of team members who are willing to work with kids.

This is a critical part of the ministry and we are so grateful for each team member who is willing to organize and carry out a program for the children during camp. We have developed curriculum and an activity file which can serve as a springboard for ideas for the children's program. Typically the national staff is able to give these children's workers a list ahead of time, indicating how many kids there will be and their ages. Would you consider being a part of this next year? Every family camp team needs two or three people who will take on this important ministry. Would you? Please contact us at 1-800-243-6763 or e-mail [mary@im-usa.org](mailto:mary@im-usa.org) and we'll be happy to send you more information.

It was a joy to be involved in the kids' program and work with such a gifted ministry team; they did a "whale of a good job!"







# PRECIOUS MOMENTS FROM ODESSA

By Sasha Litvak

## Precious moments from Odessa and Christian Light Fellowship.

This summer our family changed! Our daughter Nastya is growing and Lena and I are learning how to be parents. God is the best and real teacher for a strong marriage and family. Our church consists mostly of young people so I hope that our experience in raising Nastya will be used by God in the lives of other families who will eventually have children, too.

If someone were to ask us to share the biggest testimony or miracle we've seen this year, we would say with confidence that it was the birth of our daughter. We've also been amazed at how God has personally touched several individuals. Our ministry consists mostly of personal relationships with people: friendship, support, and so on.

Another young woman from our church, Ania Krasilova, recently made a decision to go through missionary training and to enter full-time ministry through our church. It seems that God's will for her is to serve among the girls and young women associated with our church. Right now she is helping lead a special group that studies the stories of women from the Bible. Ania (and Lesya) are encouraging them to give

their hearts to Christ so that He can shine His love into the lives of others.

Lesya (who attended missionary training in 2008) is doing ministry among orphans and kids from tough situations. There are two kids in particular who she is currently reaching out to. God is teaching us that this ministry is in not only hers—it is the job of our whole church. God is teaching us to be more sensitive to their needs and to encourage Lesya in her ministry.

Kostya (who also received missionary training in 2008) is continuing with his ministry in Uganda. Right now we are praying and thinking about an opportunity to visit Kostya, to spend some time encouraging him, and to see the ministry with our eyes through helping him.

I also continue to lead our men's Bible study every Friday. We have developed strong and open relationships. Now we can speak more honestly about sins in our lives, about our desires and dreams, and we can pray for each other better. I am very happy that God gave us such a strong and faithful team of servants with whom we can go forward and seek God's will for our church.

This summer God gave us the privilege to do two English camps. We were praying that God would touch those people who came to Christ and that they would grow in Him. Some of the young people can't come to the church, but they are building friendships with guys from

our church. When they meet with us, they are open to God's Word and want very much to be changed. We are praying for them—that some day they could be with us in the church and in our small groups.

We also started a new ministry for kids in bad situations. There are kids who have parents who are unable or unwilling to care for them and some who are orphaned and have no contact with their parents. We are building relationships with a few of these kids. Every Sunday a few guys visit them, build friendships, and share the love that these kids need so desperately.

We are very happy to share about what God is doing in our lives! 🌍



## WEDDINGS

DENNIS HUGHES



JEAN TAYLOR

married on 6-28-09



MIKE SHILLING



LACEY RASMUSSEN

married on 7-2-10





# AMAZING ANSWERS TO PRAYER

By Jill Clark

*Community Bible Study International* (CBSI) is God's answer to five years of prayer for this type of Bible study (similar to Bible Study Fellowship) to come to Romania! Just recently God put me in touch with CBSI which has been in Romania for 15 years. The Eastern European director for CBSI even lives in Bucharest! And much of the material is translated into Romanian as well as other languages!

The distinctive five step method of individual study, group sharing, concise teaching, commentary, and loving community is just what we prayed for! Praise God!

On March 3, 2010 Carmen, my Romanian prayer partner for five years, and I began a class in Galatians. I'm also using the Galatians study with the missionary women's Bible study group I meet with. It is also a great follow-up opportunity to our annual Romanian women's conference in Bucharest!

I appreciate how the study focuses on systematically studying the Word of God. Carmen and I are also growing in our teaching and leading skills as we lead the class together.

Another result of these prayers was Daniel Iosub, the Eastern European Director of CBSI, being able to attend our IM staff conference in Poland last March and share about CBSI. Daniel brought ample lessons available in many of the countries where IM missionaries in Europe minister.

God always hears our prayers!

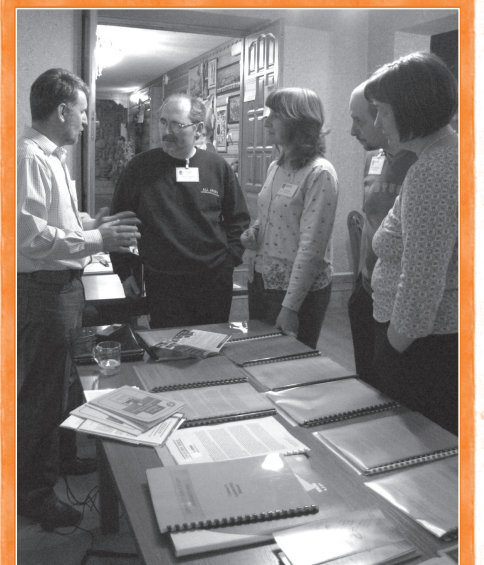
If you would like to learn more about CBSI check out <http://www.communitybiblestudy.org>.



Above: Our first Community Bible Study International class in Bucharest Romania

Left, Below Left & Middle: "2010 HOPE That Brings Life" women's conference, Bucharest Romania

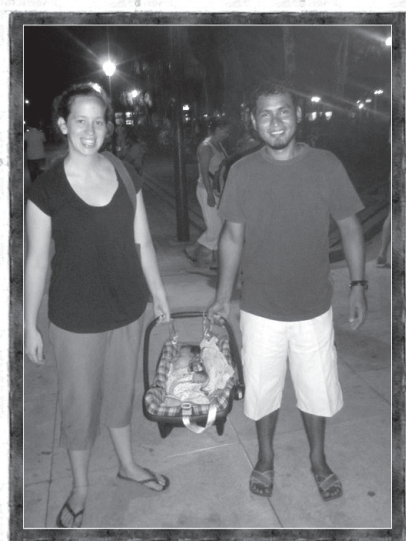
Below Right: Daniel Iosub sharing with IM staff about Community Bible Study International at staff conference Poland 2010





# I'M GOING HOME, AND SOON!

By Bethany Noriega



I am continually fascinated by what the world looks like through the eyes of a child, and their choice of vocabulary to communicate their perspective. One day while going through the routine interview about my life with a new batch of kids, I couldn't help but note one little boy

who was trying to wrap his mind around where I came from. He didn't understand terms like "the USA" or "United States," but he had to know. Finally, the seven-year-old broke it down to the simplest form he could come up with. A smile crested my mouth when I heard him ask, "Did you come here from another world?" I suppressed laughter and gratified his curiosity by giving him the most straightforward answer I could.

The simplicity and innocence of life from a child's point of view often parallel spiritual truths. In his book to persecuted believers, Peter encourages them to live holy lives *"during the time of your stay upon earth"* (1 Peter 1:17 NASB). Can you imagine the strength this gave the persecuted church to know that this isn't all there is? It has been said that this old world, at best, is just a dirty bus stop. This life is only a "layover" before we reach our final destination!

One of my life texts is 2 Timothy 4:7-8, which says, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing"* (NASB). Recently I have been thinking about the profoundness of the last phrase, *"to all who have loved his appearing."* God has also used children to teach me what it truly means to "love His appearing."

My sister Hannah spent the summer with us here in Iquitos, Peru. She fell in love with all the neighbor kids as she was regularly out in the dirty dusty streets playing with them and defining Christ-like love with her life. She captured their hearts as she gently impressed her handprint into the wet clay of their young lives, leaving an impact that will surely follow them forever.

Her return home left an enormous void in our neighborhood. I thought that after two weeks the daily inquiries on her behalf would taper off, but no, over two months later it's still a daily task to tell several kids that I don't know when she'll be back.

Recently a small crowd began to form as the questions of "señorita Hannah" gained momentum. Finally, I told them she'd be here in seven months, even though there are no dates set. In a split second the chorus of disappointed youngsters unanimously let out a heart-wrenching moan.

One day a little boy repeatedly asked when Hannah would be able to play. I explained in five different ways that she's not here, she went home to America, she'll come back, but I don't know when. No matter how I explained it, in his mind, the information I was offering was not connecting with the question at hand. Then all at once, his whole face came alive as he stated the obvious, "Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! She's on a trip!" I cracked up at the way he saw it, but not without affirming his theory. If she's on a trip, she has to come back, it's just a matter of time. "OK," he replied and headed home, content to know that she would be "home" with us soon.

Those kids "love the appearing of Hannah." In May she came out of nowhere and became so much a part of their daily lives that her absence makes them long to see her again. They now live in expectancy that she will appear again any day, like she did the first time.

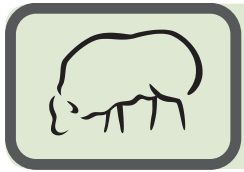
How different our lives would be if we loved the appearing of our Savior. I am convinced that the reminder that we are not of this world, coupled with the fact that our Lord will come at any time, will force us to become people of action. Why? Because we are going home and soon.



When I worked at McDonalds it didn't matter what I was doing or how gross and frustrating, the last 15 minutes of work were always sweet. There was one reminder that kept me diligent and intentional with the task at hand, I was going home and soon. I was a part of what made the Golden Arches run for eight hours a day, but when the final minute of my shift ran out, I went on to a much better place.

My dear friends, set your hand to the plow and don't look back. Be encouraged, find strength and hope to press on, for your reward is before you. Our Savior is readying Himself to return for those who are His own. Work hard and love His appearing, because you're going home, and soon! 🙏





## Feed His Flock

River of Life

The River of Life Team is a group of people whose purpose is to work together to advocate and facilitate the Lord's work at the River of Life Ministries in Romania. It is also the Team's desire to come alongside churches in the States as an encouragement and as a resource for raising awareness of the biblical worldview of missions and for providing practical applications.

As a member of the Team, I want to share with you some of the ideas that our gracious Lord has given me in order to pursue that purpose. I have grouped these ideas under the name "Feed His Flock."

➤ **Sponsorship Program:** Modeled after organizations such as World Vision, we will apply this design to River of Life by looking for individuals to sponsor a child, mom, elderly client, or staff member. The sponsor will agree to support their selectee through prayer, a monthly financial gift, and occasional correspondence.

➤ **Missions Curriculum:** The curriculum currently under construction is designed to teach the who, what, when,

where, and why of missions. Who are we to help? What are we to do? When are we to help? Where do we go to help? And, why is this important? Then, we want to teach the heart behind tithing. The scope of the curriculum, when completed, will be early childhood through adult.

➤ **Gift Catalog:** This book is filled with pages of fun ideas to creatively partner with the River of Life to bring the love of Christ to Romania.

Once completed, I will be looking for churches, home school groups, schools, etc. to visit to present these programs and materials. If you are interested, or know of someone who would be, please contact me at: [kera\\_imsponsorprogram@yahoo.com](mailto:kera_imsponsorprogram@yahoo.com) or 507-430-4953. Thank you! 🌐



By Kera Latterell

# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Doug and Roberta Moore, founders & overseers of River of Life Ministries (ROL) in Romania, are pleased to announce the birth of a new entity! On September 29, 2010, after two days of worship, prayer, and seeking our gracious Lord's wisdom, the River of Life Team was born. The seven member Team includes Doug & Roberta (Cornesti, Romania), Kera Latterell (Redwood Falls, MN), Dave & Renee Ahrends (Monticello, MN), and Tom & Marion Caldwell (Normal, IL). Mike & Carol Gesler (South Haven, MN) participated in the "delivery" process.

The Team's mission is to advocate and facilitate the Lord's work at the River of Life Ministries in Romania.



Front: Doug, Roberta, Renee; Back: Kera, Marion, Tom, Dave

By Tom & Marion Caldwell

## What is the River of Life Ministries?

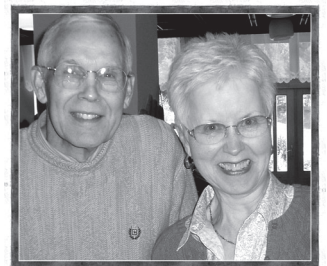
The Lord's core work at ROL is the Care Home—a

**Christian residential home** for women who want to keep their babies and children and not abort or abandon them. It is a home of love, hope, encouragement and guidance. The women who reside at the Care Home aren't there just because of an unplanned pregnancy; they have absolutely no other option of a place to live or way to survive. They come from generational cycles of abuse and dysfunction.

**ROL hosts Evangelistic Youth Camps for children, teens, and young adults** at a camp facility located on the ROL property.

**Village Ministries** are an important outreach for ROL. Clothing, food, eyeglasses, and handicapped aide equipment are distributed to needy families in several area villages. ROL is also committed to serving several village churches and their youth programs.

**ROL provides an Elder Day Care Program** one day per week. Out of this involvement, the need to provide a "care home" type setting for the elderly has become apparent. This vision includes building several small homes on ROL



*continued on next page*

continued from page 23

property where one or two elderly women are served by Care Home moms who are trained/certified to care for the elderly, and are supervised by ROL staff.

#### How will the Team pursue the mission?

The Team is available:

**To share what God is doing at the River of Life** with churches, small groups, and individuals.

**To come alongside a body of believers to assist** them in developing a comprehensive missions program from the very young to older adults. [Curriculum currently under construction].

**To provide a cross-cultural missions experience** working with International Messengers missionaries and Romanian Christians at the River of Life serving the needs of others and sharing the love of Christ.

**To fill, on a short-term basis, interim pulpit supply** for churches seeking to call a pastor or wishing to provide sabbatical for their pastor.

Can you be involved? **YES YOU CAN!** As our wonderful Lord leads you to further your investment in His Kingdom, here are some ways to partner with the River of Life.

- Become a member of the ROL Prayer Team.
- Become a financial support partner.
- Work alongside IM missionaries and ROL staff in Cornesti, Romania by coming on a short-term mission, or even as a medium-term or career missionary.
- Join the River of Life Team as we share the ROL vision and work with God's people stateside.

To receive more detailed information, ask questions, or share your thoughts, please contact a River of Life Team member or International Messengers.

Tom & Marion Caldwell: mntrol2@gmail.com  
(309-838-7623 or 309-838-0106)

Kera Latterall: kera\_imsponsorprogram@yahoo.com  
(507-430-4953)

Dave & Renee Ahrends: drahrends@im-usa.org  
(612-812-8032 or 612-554-9777)

Doug & Roberta Moore: dougandroberta@gmail.com or  
0756051132@orangemail.ro

May our Lord "birth" or energize your vision of how He wants you to glorify His name & invest in His Kingdom! 🌍



## WAITING AT THE TRACKS IS WORTH IT

By Kristen Moss

Most people can recall sitting at a train track crossing: arms down, blinking red lights, and a blaring bell telling everyone within earshot that a train will soon be passing by. In my few North American train track experiences, which happen on average twice a year, a wait almost never exceeds ten minutes, 15 tops. Anything longer would be reason enough to turn around and reroute. In Europe, trains are still a common mode of transportation, resulting in more waits at crossings—for those who live near one specific crossing here in Košice *waiting* is nothing new, and easily exceeds a dozen times a week. It's easy to see how such an erratic, potential waiting game can easily put a kink in anyone's day. The real test comes when one spends time waiting for the train that NEVER comes! Approaching the train track so regularly gets us connecting with God by either praying for the arms to be up as we're headed to the crossing, or asking God, "What am I possibly accomplishing by simply *sitting* here... again?!"

Believe it or not, God probably has *plenty* to teach us in those seemingly futile, recurring moments. We see

many examples in the Bible of people having to wait time and again as God prepared them for what lay ahead. Moses spent years in the desert, being prepared to head back to Egypt to lead the Israelites; and much of Jesus' early years are unaccounted for, as God was undoubtedly shaping him for what would come. A Christ-like character is what God is looking for to accomplish His work. He may shape it in me through that one individual at church who faithfully unloads last week's crises, or when I find myself lost after misreading the bus route for the umpteenth time. He forms it in His own way, sometimes repeating the same lesson over and over and over. But why? Because He's simply preparing us for what lies ahead. "*For I know the plans I have for you,*" declares the LORD, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.*" Jeremiah 29:11

So, the next time you find yourself watching the blinking red lights at another of life's "train crossings," remember the time spent in that moment is not spent in vain. God's purpose in those recurring times is to prepare you for what is yet to come, something far superior. 🌍

If you participated in a short-term trip in 2010 with IM and haven't had an opportunity to complete your camp evaluation form, please take a moment and fill out the online form now available at:

[www.im-usa.org/eval.html](http://www.im-usa.org/eval.html)



# GREETINGS FROM THE "STREETS" OF RADOM, POLAND!

By Bob & Vera Hageman

Although there are many aspects to the ministry in Radom, such as English Family Camps, English Workshops and English Bible Studies, we would like to focus on the part of the ministry that is dearest to our hearts - our work with the Homeless and Addicted.

Through God's prodding and direction, we, along with our co-workers Steve and Bernatka Snyder and Pastor Tytus Pikalski, have made inroads into a part of the society of Radom that is generally ignored by most.

It took many months before we started to gain respect and friendship with this group of people. We began by going out every Sunday evening to walk through the parks and bus and train stations to invite these men and women to come and have coffee, tea, and a sandwich. We would walk them to where Steve and Pastor Tytus were waiting with the food. This gave the opportunity for them to hear the Gospel.

That was three years ago and there is no longer the need to find our friends - they are waiting for us as we pull up to the park. We are serving over 70 men and women each Sunday and making over 190 sandwiches and 18 liters of coffee and tea. We also offer them some fruit.

As the ministry started to grow in numbers, we realized the need for a separate meeting place for those who were interested in hearing more about "recovery" through Jesus Christ. The OWRze Foundation rented a small facility close to the center of town. Meetings take place every Tuesday night and there are usually

25-30 men and women present. Once a month we offer hygiene packs (supplied to us by our home church in the States). Although we don't have a lot of clothing, we do try to help them keep warm by offering them gloves, scarves, hats, shoes, and socks.

We have been blessed by seeing several men go to rehabilitation and there are others who are beginning to express the desire to change their way of life. On October third there were six men from the streets of Radom in our church services. Our desire for the men coming back from rehabilitation is to have a place to live while they attempt to reorient themselves back into society. We have been praying for God to supply a building or a place for them. Recently, we have been informed that a Polish

Christian foundation is planning to start a rehabilitation center close to Radom. It is an answer to our prayers!!!!

One great new aspect of this ministry was the addition of a Celebrate Recovery team from the States. The homeless/addicted men and women they served were so grateful and so "amazed" that they would come to Poland "just" to be with them and encourage them. We are certainly praying for additional teams to come!

As the year closes out, we find ourselves becoming more and more humbled as we watch Him work in people's lives - including ours! We are so thankful that He has allowed us to be involved in His ministry in Radom! 🙏



"The preparation was key. First I had to make the decision and not worry about the funding or the details. The information and spiritual lessons really helped to prepare me. I feel so blessed to have had the time, church and family support, and financial assistance to do both camps. It was everything I could imagine and then some. I gained confidence that I can share the love of Jesus by sharing what God has done in my life. Maybe it was easier because the people I interacted with didn't know me, but I can now more easily share my faith "at home." I have always been interested in other cultures. How can I not be changed by living in a totally different world other than my own experience?" — Robin, Slovakia/Romania

"Going on a mission has broadened my perspective about the world and Christians in it. I feel more in touch with Apostle Paul and like rereading his journeys and experiences. When I teach Sunday School I talk about spreading the Good News. My heart is bigger and our God even bigger." — Jan, Poland

**Short-Termers'  
Comments**



# LIGHTING THE DARKNESS IN LUNIK IX

By Karla Thiessen

About six years ago IM created a project fund for redoing an apartment in Lunik IX, the infamous Roma ghetto in Kosice, Slovakia. It is the largest Gypsy settlement in all of Eastern Europe. That apartment

was originally to be a place to help the Roma church-plant have a rented place to meet and have services in their own language. Since then, they've used the facility almost daily. The church is established and functioning and they have about 95-100 adults in the one room "sanctuary" on Sunday mornings. But the children stay home, as there is no room for them on Sundays. There is a children's club that meets on Wednesday afternoons, as well as a teen meeting and a junior high meeting on the weekends. They have midweek service on Tuesday evenings and house groups meet on other nights. The place (a converted 2-bedroom flat) is usually busy and many of the Christians who live in Lunik IX take showers in the bathroom at this church facility, as they have no heat or hot water at their apartments. Lunik IX has running water for one hour from 7-8am and one hour in the afternoon so they can fill their bottles and cook and wash and flush their toilets, etc. The church rooms, which belong to the public school, are a huge blessing to these believers, because the heat is on and the water is not rationed.

The official count of people living in the 1/4 square mile in Lunik IX is 6,500 but in actuality there are probably closer to 8,000 inhabitants. The conditions are very bad and just getting worse. There are heaps of garbage at the bottom of the concrete block buildings from the residents just throwing their garbage out the windows. The local press reported this year that there are more rats than people living there. The pastor of the Roma church, Laco, told us recently that there are now cockroaches in the church facility and they are getting into everything. They came in through the heating ducts from the school. The church needs to fumigate, but they don't have the money or the technology. The kids take them to school in their bookbags and then they get into the bags of those who don't have them already and again everything is reinfested. He was very discouraged.

We would now like to help them repaint and recarpet the place. The Catholic Church owns the rooms next to our church's place and they are building a huge Catholic Church in the middle of the ghetto. They will eventually move out of those rooms by the school and the principal of the school thinks we may be able to rent those rooms as well. This would mean we'd have a larger room for the kids to meet in, and it would provide a way to have a Sunday school. We don't know how much we'd need to raise for fixing those other rooms yet, as we haven't been in them.

The church has been given land by the city to build their own facility on the edge of the ghetto near the soccer field. Because they got the land for free they have to do a public tender for the architectural drawings for the new church facility. They hope to raise enough money this year to pay for that phase so they can begin in earnest to go forward on their own building. They'll do most of the building themselves, but could use donations to help with the materials. The church members are trying

to put money into a fund each month to help pay for this, but almost the entire church is unemployed. Many of the tithing members who had jobs have moved away to England.

We don't want to create dependence, but we see helping them repaint the rooms they are using now as a blessing and a good investment into God's kingdom work in that very dark place. If you'd like to be a part of what God's doing through this church, please contact the IM Office about the "Gypsy Chapel." 🌍





# THE RANCH OF HOPE

## A HOPEFUL SUMMER

By Laura Stein



*"And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:5*

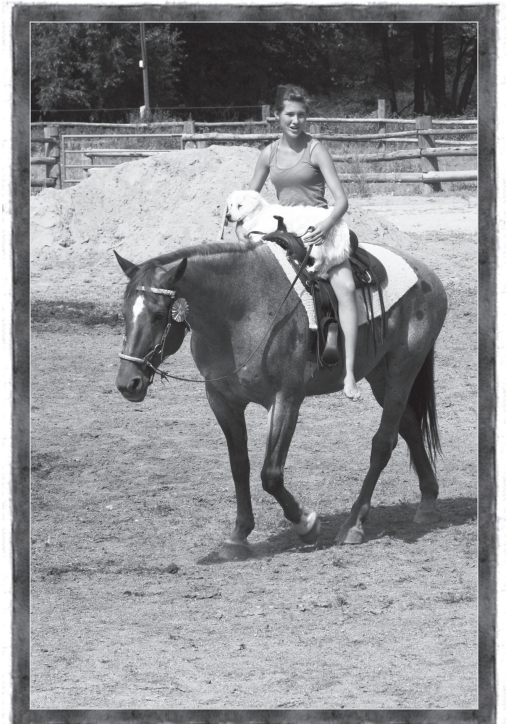
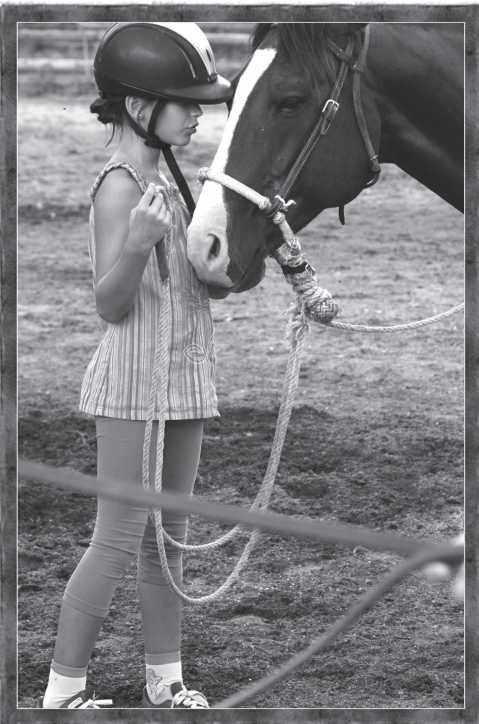
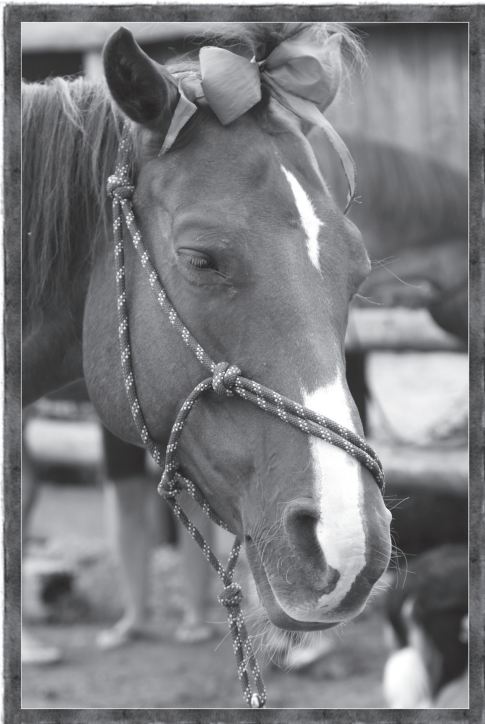
Something that is poured needs a vessel to be poured into... we see God using our Father's Heart ranch in this way - to be a place of grace where people can soak in His help and mercy. Many people where we live struggle with huge hurts from their pasts, and don't know where to find hope and peace. The ranch and its peaceful surroundings offer that vessel, into which God pours His presence.

We use the horses and God's beauty in creation as a natural bridge to teach children about God, and His love and care for them. The ranch provides opportunities for all types of creativity with the children. During our summer camps we enjoyed horseback riding and care, plus informal "frog training and rescue," training young horses, bareback gymnastics, blind-dog care, and lots of arts and crafts. Each day there were Bible times,

which corresponded to our horse lessons. We assured the children they could talk to God anytime, emphasizing this memory verse from our horse manual. *"Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you."* Jeremiah 19: 12

More and more, mothers of children and whole families come out to the ranch with their children—and stay! We are glad for the community that is being built and the encouragement and life this is for everyone. Our desire is for our ranch to be available to all who need to know the God of hope. 🐾

Don't be left out! We would welcome individuals or summer teams to help us with needed building projects. This coming spring/summer we hope to be able to complete our club room and replace the fences.



"My faith in God has been strengthened. There is still a lot I don't understand. I am more aware that He wants to be a part of my life every minute of every day, which blows my mind. There are so much more important things for Him to worry about. But I guess He's God and can take care of it all at once." — Kim, Romania

**Short-Termers'**  
**Comments**





# MOUNTAINSIDE MISSIONARY TRAINING - FALL UPDATE

By Deborah Sharp


On August 31 another class began at Mountainside Missionary Training Center (MMT). Five students were given a week of orientation and then started their first week of class. On December 17 they will graduate and prepare to leave for France, Poland, Hungary and Ukraine, never to be seen again (just kidding). We had a late arrival this year during the third week of classes. A black bear started visiting our dumpster daily. He didn't seem to want to be too involved in our classes but he liked the food we were serving (or at least what was left in the garbage).

Each week we introduce a new instructor that will help prepare them for successful ministry overseas, covering subjects such as Interpersonal Skills, Cross Cultural Ministry, Apologetics, and Spiritual Welfare. Some of our instructors are International Messengers staff members; some are former missionaries or local pastors. We have several who are experienced in an area of ministry, and are willing to travel to Libby and volunteer their time to train our students.

If you've been around IM for a while you know that things are changing in the ministry. We have been down in the number of short-term team members for summer camps over the last few years. Generally we get a good percentage of our MMT students from our short-term trips, so the drop in team numbers really affects us. Last spring we didn't have any students and the outlook for spring of 2011 is about the same.

Because of the lack of students we have sought other ways to minister at MMT. God is using our building in ways we hadn't planned. We have housed and mentored two young men who are trying to get their lives straightened out. One is trying to rebuild his marriage and find employment. The other is working on growing his relationship with Jesus Christ. Both have needed stable role models and help in finding a new direction for their lives. The extra space has also allowed us to house a couple that is home on extended furlough. They need a home

base while they raise funds for their return to the field and MMT is a good place for them to stay while they work on building their support base.

In the spring we plan to do more traveling, so if you're reading this you may get a visit from us early in 2011. We will also be doing some recruiting at Christian Colleges and Missions Conferences. So even though our Spring semester will be different than we would have planned our desire is to serve where God leads us. 



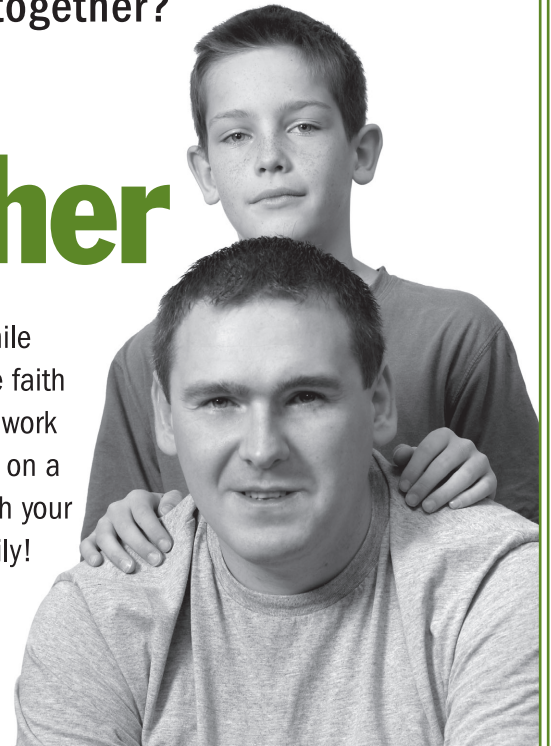
## How do you grow together?

# Go Together

Strengthen relationships while serving together, experience faith in action, and allow God to work through you to change lives on a short-term missions trip with your son, daughter or entire family!



INTERNATIONAL  
MESSENGERS



PO Box 618, Clear Lake, IA 50428 • Phone 800-243-6763  
[www.internationalmessengers.org](http://www.internationalmessengers.org)



# WE WERE OBEDIENT, GOD SAVED LIVES

By Czarek Dabrowski



The key to saving people is obedience to God. This year during a youth camp, God showed us a lot of grace. All of those on staff were very open to God's leading and obedient to Him. We spent a lot of time in prayer, which resulted in our being sensitive to hearing the voice of God. Despite the fact that sometimes it seemed strange and not in line with our plans, we did what God was expecting of us. We believe that as a result, God saved many souls and literally saved lives.

We have never been to a youth camp where so many people repented and were saved. Today we are still seeing the consequences of their decisions to follow Christ. They are taking part in individual discipleship groups and coming to church.

We believe that through God's protection, someone was prevented from committing suicide. Three days before the end of camp, several members of our staff team had a strange feeling. They felt that God was giving them a sign, that someone wanted to take his/her life. We talked about it together as a staff and decided, that God was trying to warn us and wanted us to pray against this situation. We were obedient and we spent time in prayer, setting up prayer shifts all through the night. Thanks to God, nothing happened.

During our Family Camp we also experienced God working as we obeyed Him. The team from America served God with their whole hearts. Everyone was very sensitive to how God wanted to use them in various situations during the camp. Thanks to that, we were able to see a lot of profitable sessions and individual conversations take place, and God was able to save people.

As a family, we also needed to exercise obedience in relation to my father. We had doubts as to whether we should invite him to the camp. We had a number of fears, because his life was not given over to the Lord. Despite our concerns though, we were obedient. We believe that God is a God of second chances and that Jesus died for everyone. Thanks to Ella's openness and obedience, my father accepted God's forgiveness. God's grace was great, because a week later my father died, in good standing with Him.

We want to always be obedient to God. Please pray for us, that we will always respond in obedience in the ministry that we lead.

*We want to introduce you to what we do by God's grace.*

## **CHILDREN AND TEENS MINISTRY**

During the school year we organize a Kids club on Saturdays. We have Bible lessons, singing, games, crafts, scouting activities, and we also prepare dinner for them. Most of these children come from poor families.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

We work with youth from poor families. At our meetings we have: Bible studies, singing, discussion, and scouting activities. Because many of the youth have problems with school, we do private lessons for free. During vacations from school we organize summer and winter camps.

## **OUTREACH TO PARENTS**

We organize meetings for parents and their small children. This is an opportunity to build relationships and do special workshops for parents. We'd like to help them in raising their children and we'd like to help them to strengthen their marriages.

## **FAMILY CAMPS**

This year, the Family Camp's Motto was, "Discover Life." The camp was an investment in many lives simply through providing models of healthy families. It was the third time that the local Social Services Office has sent twenty people to this camp. The workshops about family life have had a good influence on campers' spiritual growth.

## **WORKSHOPS**


For a few years we have organized workshops for social workers and teachers. We want to help them in their work with dysfunctional families. It's an opportunity to share the Gospel and to create relationships with people engaged in work with those families. We can have a spiritual influence on people who are responsible for work among families with problems.

## **SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

For eleven years we've been involved in distributing Christmas boxes. Boxes were distributed during special evangelistic events. We put lots of work into preparing that event, but it resulted in an abundance of joy. We are giving packages to children in our city, as well as children living in villages.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

A vital part of our ministry is leading people in spiritual growth. We try to discover their gifts and talents, and to create an opportunity for them to do ministry. We have two groups for leaders and three groups for new believers who would like grow in their faith. The leaders are very engaged in ministry. We are grateful that God has given us these wonderful people to serve!

We need people who will still pray for us, to support us financially, and to come and serve short-term in these exciting ministries. 



# LEARNING THROUGH CHANGE

By Chris Defever

Our family has now been living in Europe for almost eight years.

During those eight years, our family has experienced a tremendous amount of change, accompanied with either tears or laughter. We spent four years in a small town in northern Poland and grew to think of it as our home. Living cross-culturally has unique challenges, but the challenges have blossomed into a rewarding lifestyle as friendships have developed and deepened.

Three years ago my husband Dan shocked us with the announcement that he felt God was leading us in a completely different direction. He had always wanted to return for some formal Biblical education, but distance learning did not suit him well. He felt God's leading that this was the time to begin formal studies. Our family agreed (not wholeheartedly, I might add) and we began our adventure into our second culture.

We moved to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, which is the polar opposite of conservative Borne Sulnowo, Poland. Dan settled into his studies, while

I experienced some of the worst culture shock of my life. Our daughters each experienced some too—especially at the International school they attended—but everyone in the family experienced it differently. Melanie wore only black. Brittney tried to regain control in any portion of her life that she could. We thought that a move across Europe would not be that drastically different, and we quickly realized we weren't prepared for the culture shock we would experience.

Adding to the intense difference in cultures, we have moved twice within the Netherlands, had my dearest friend die of cancer, and brought Brittney to the States to settle her into college, saying goodbye. We have another move anticipated in eight months.

As I reflect, God used the overwhelming changes to bring each of us so much closer to Him. He revealed that my reaction to change is usually anger and questioning towards God. "Why?" "Why me?" "Why now?" He taught me two new responses to change that greatly help me persevere. The first is to reflect again and again on who God is, *"Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in*

*the earth."* The second is to be very intentional and to seek out others who are also experiencing change. Last year, Melanie and I labored through a Dutch class to reach out to other foreigners. We didn't really need the Dutch but we did really need the other people! I also had the opportunity to minister to a young Polish woman and a newly married couple, from two very different cultures, now living in Amsterdam. Having the opportunity to pour God's Word into these relationships has made the pain of adjustment to the change worthwhile.

As a missionary wife, I know that my life will continue to be filled with constant change that is both good and difficult. I know that God will mold and shape us with each and every change. In these remaining months in the Netherlands, we are treasuring and building the relationships we have here, while we wait on the Lord for our ministry location. As the Lord lays things on my heart, I am trying to follow completely in the little things—knowing that He has taken this time to prepare me for my future—where ever it may be. 🌍

## Short-Termers' Comments

"God is building his Church. And he's using feeble, messed-up, regular Christ-followers like you and me to accomplish this purpose. This is His plan. It has been happening since Jesus went back to heaven, and it will be happening until He returns someday (Matthew 29:18-20). I want to be one of those feeble people that God uses. I hope my vision for sharing the Gospel will continue to grow, rather than shrink, now that I'm home. There are so many people in my immediate sphere of influence who need Jesus, and most of them don't even know it.

Everything in Ephesians 6:10-18 is true. We're in a spiritual battle. We're being schemed against (v.11). It's a struggle (v. 12). God's strength is strong, and His Word is powerful (vs. 10, 17). As I listened to the Polish believers around me talk about "the spiritual realm" as if it were a real thing—real, as in they thought about it every day, they prayed about it, they were alert to their spiritual condition in light of it—I started thinking about myself, about my participation in this battle. Am I so comfortable, so oblivious to the spiritual realm around me, that Satan no longer feels the need to throw darts my way? Is that why this spiritual battle I keep reading about in Ephesians often doesn't feel so real to me? I wonder.

It is such a privilege to belong to the Family of God. Most of us have experienced this in one way or another—an immediate connection or bond with another born-again someone who, five minutes before, had been a complete stranger. I hope this kind of experience never gets old for me. If God can create a loving, close-knit group out of a hodgepodge of American and Polish people who had never met before, and unite them to serve together for the sake of the Gospel, in one week, just think of what heaven will be like!"  
— Erin, Poland



# SECOND GENERATION NOW HELPING REACH THE ROMA

By Karla Thiessen

A few years ago a small group of men started to meet weekly to translate the Bible into the heart language of the Roma (Gypsy) community here in Slovakia, where most of them speak Eastern Carpathian Romany at home. Now many of the books of the New Testament are completed. This is very exciting for all of us that work among the Roma community. With only a few manuscripts even printed for proofreading, etc, the text is not out among the Roma yet, but sometimes the pastor has taken the text and read it out loud. He's told us that even as they hear the words read to them in "their" language you can see it impacting them in a new way. Many will want a copy of the scriptures to read on their own, but the majority are such poor readers that they will probably never benefit from owning their own new Bible like they would if they could hear the word read to them.

Recently, our friend and fellow missionary, Pierre, contacted us to see if our son, Drew, who had grown up here in Slovakia, could use the SESSIONS studio equipment to make an audio recording of the Book of Mark into Romany. Marek, from the translation committee, reads it like an audio book. This means eventually the Eastern

Carpathian Romany Bible could be distributed on CDs among the Roma.

We're grateful for Drew's vision for a recording studio and also for his willingness to participate in such a needed project. It will mean hours of sitting at a computer and mastering the audio files, but we're thankful to have the sound equipment that donors have helped get for SESSIONS this past year.

The first chapter of Mark is now recorded and out for a test/trial run. SESSIONS is also producing another CD which is being recorded by a Christian group here in Kosice. We hope to see that released early in 2011. God is good, and we give him all the glory for what He's doing through Drew and through the equipment. Please pray for the continued translation and the distribution of the Romany Bible on CD in Slovakia! 🙏

*Karla and her husband, Brad, live in Kosice, Slovakia with their four sons. They have a language school ministry called Word Art, and a non-profit work, LIFE ART, that helps Roma (Gypsy) families.*



## 2010 IM SPRING STAFF CONFERENCE

Zakopane, Poland was a beautiful setting for the 2010 Staff Conference, as the snow melted off the mountains and Spring was evident everywhere. As God renews the earth in the Spring, He renewed many of us through the rest, the worship, the times in God's Word, and the fellowship with like-minded friends.

We started early this year, as a handful of people watched The Truth Project on Tuesday and Wednesday, facilitated by Tom Clark, who is using it as a big part of his ministry in Romania. The goal of the course is to help believers look at life from a Biblical perspective.

Wednesday evening through Friday, Neal and June Black along with Gene and Grace Fox led a marriage seminar that challenged couples to a deeper level of closeness in their marriage relationships. Over the course of the last year, we have sensed that Satan has been really attacking the marriages within IM, so we were very thankful for the Blacks and Foxes willingness to share their hearts. Several couples commented that the seminar alerted them to the need to re-prioritize their marriage relationship.

Neal Black also served as the keynote speaker for the weekend conference. He gave several messages related to seeing challenges as opportunities. He used the Scripture to show that through God's grace we are always equipped to face the difficult situations we encounter in life. Neal and June also ministered to many of us around the tables during meals, and through their encouragements during free times and in the evenings.

After the weekend conference, Grace Fox challenged quite a few of the single women to a more intimate walk with Christ. The ladies enjoyed a great time of laughing, praying, sharing, and being challenged from the Word.

While all of the adults were in various seminars and sessions, the children were taken through a VBS program by Stephanie Lane from Xenia Ohio, along with help from several others. The parents appreciated the great work by Stephanie and especially enjoyed the songs the kids performed for us all on Sunday morning. Rob Slouffman and Bill Gittemeier challenged the teens from God's Word and had a lot of fun with them too. There were fervent pleas for Rob and Bill to come back and encourage them again next year.

Other highlights included an update about some of our IM missionaries who live outside of Eastern Europe and an opportunity to connect with Daniel Isob who shared about Community Bible Fellowship opportunities in various countries in Eastern Europe. Regular staples of the conference were included again this year too: rich worship times, morning prayer times, encouraging men's and women's meetings, and everyone's favorite—the never-long-enough IM staff meeting!

The strength of our organization continues to be the faith of our staff and the opportunity to be together again seemed to be an encouragement to us all. 🙏



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- ☐ Please send me an application for short-term / long-term (circle one) involvement.  
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- ☐ I am an alumnus and would like to return to the following camp in 2011:  
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Please send me the necessary paperwork.
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- ☐ Please send me more information about IM's automatic donation program.
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