



International Messengers Good News

Fall 2011

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News. Romans 10:15



Darwin Anderson Can He? Could He? Would He?

This Cathedral's hit song from the mid-80's brings back memories of a light heart and joyful worship. But the title also reveals some deeper questions of our hearts that regularly need to be brought back to the plumbline of God's truth. Our hearts are hard to convince as we don't believe easily in any authority other than self. It must be in our DNA to doubt God's character and goodness no matter how He proves Himself and blesses.

In the early 90's Darlis and I were at the end of a Czech university English camp and a student asked the American team, "Why doesn't God send Jesus back to our generation to do miracles so we can believe?" One of our team members soberly answered, "Because the last time He sent Him we nailed Him to a Cross and He only needed to do that one time." This reminds me, too, of Jesus' account of Lazarus and the rich man from Luke 16. The rich man, suffering in Hades, requested that Abraham send Lazarus back from the dead to his five brothers so they could believe. Abraham replied, "If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even if

someone rises from the dead." Both of these accounts seem to paint an accurate picture of how hard it is for us to trust the loving heart of God and believe His promises to us. If He would only ..., then I would be faithful. No we wouldn't!

The Hubble telescope has given us a continually clearer understanding of the astounding universe God has put us in, and yet we doubt and question His power, His existence, and His majesty. Having a name like Darwin has given me plenty of exposure to the long lasting effects of Charles Darwin's evolutionary theory. This theory took hold of the scientific community at a time when there was no access to the tools of microbiology that we have now. Has our incredible technology to see the inner workings of the cell turned the science community wholeheartedly towards intelligent design and belief in God's creative hand? Nope. The battle may rage more intensely now than ever. Our hearts are not easily swayed away from needing to be "in charge" or "in control" of our own destiny, even as miserable as that leaves us.

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Brent Howland

Lessons on Courage

I've been inspired this year by some great stories of courage that make me want to live for Christ and expel the fears and insecurities that hold me back. The biblical story of Jonathan and his armor bearer in 1 Samuel 14 has challenged me to surrender myself to whatever outcomes God has for me. I need to take new steps of faith in Christ and let God control the results of those faith steps in whatever ways He sees fit. The dramatic courage of IM staff who see this chaotic time in Egypt as a window of opportunity for ministry rather than a time to retreat, and of those who view economic crises as a tool to bring people to Christ challenge me to re-examine where my trust is. When my trust is in Jesus and my sense of security comes from God, then I'm set free from the things that hold me back — I can act with courage because I know that His wisdom and His ways are best.

As an athlete and a coach, my courage was based on a competitive drive that I had and on a lot of things that I could control, like practice, hard work, conditioning, etc. But I'm starting to see that I'm completely bankrupt when it comes to an ability to make my ministry go well. It's hard to admit that. It feels backwards to me to let go of self-reliance and to admit my neediness. This has been a step of courage for me — to continue to take steps forward in preaching, in ministering to missionaries, in reaching out to the

lost, even though I know that I simply don't have the wisdom or ability or character to make those things turn out the way I hope they will. Biblical phrases like, *"My grace is sufficient for you for My power is made perfect in weakness,"* and *"with God all things are possible,"* help me face the situations with a Christ-focused confidence.

I've also learned that acts of courage are often more mundane than the things I read in missionary biographies. In my context, courage means humbly working to resolve a conflict instead of holding on to my prideful "I was wronged!" mentality. It means being open about my personal struggles and trusting that spiritual victory comes from telling the truth instead of through appearing to have it all together. Courage means picking up the phone even when I should have called weeks ago.

Lastly, I've learned from several IM missionaries that courage also means praying when things seem hopeless. In the last year, we've seen God resurrect dead relationships and revive burned-out spirits and even give us opportunities for sharing the Gospel in places where the doors seemed very firmly shut. So why not have courage? If God can do all those things that seem impossible to me, then why fear, why hesitate, why hold back from serving Him in a radical way? ●

Can He?...continued from page 1

It is not surprising then, that we are reading debates and challenges within the believing community as to how a loving God could send humans to an eternity in Hell. That's really not so far away from our own questions of how a truly good God could allow us and our loved ones to endure such suffering. Can He? Could He? Would He? What would this God allow in my life to accomplish His purposes? What will I have to suffer to enter His Kingdom? Why me? If He allows this, what will these remaining years bring?

It's time that we go back to Jesus' instructions on how to pray. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." Can we discipline our minds and will to give God the room in our own daily lives to be God, by working out His sovereign and loving will for us and the lost around us? He doesn't need our permission but, as part of living by faith to please Him, it is right for us to pray, "You GO AHEAD, loving LORD. You do what You need to do to accomplish Your purposes. I trust Your heart. Thank you for who You are. Get it done!"

Let's keep our hearts and minds trained in faithfulness to this incredible God. He spoke our universe — which currently is thought to measure 15 billion light years in radius — into existence from NOTHING! Then even more miraculously, He created us in His image to walk with Him and planned from the start to send His beloved Son to die in our place while we were rebelling against Him. What an awe-inspiring, unfathomable, compassionate God Who would and could do such things. He was and continues to be "in charge" to bring about the completion of His Kingdom work in this present age. You Can God! I know You Could, God. And if You Would, I will love You and trust You. ●

Alex & Beth Oehler

Northern Reflections

We live in Northern Canada, a region legendary for adventure, giant landscapes and wild animals. Our region is also legendary for inter-cultural conflict. Huge heartache has resulted through the colonial-style residential schooling of aboriginal children which forced disassociation with family, heart language and nomadic lifestyle. Some believe that 2011 is post-colonial. However, when we look into our own hearts, we see the ability to view self as superior is still alive-and-well. What would a non-colonial version of inter-cultural interaction look like? Would it make a difference if we...

...rethought our role as learner vs. teacher?

...responded to needs defined by the community?

...were more dependent on that community?

...viewed the field as home?

We are challenged daily by these questions, Alex in post-residential school language revitalization and Beth as regional nutritionist. We have seen our respect for others grow in proportion to our understanding of their values. We continue to seek the best ways to live out the calling of Christ in this setting.

Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt wrote in **"The Hidden Christ"**, a collection of letters written to his mentee/son-in-law, a missionary in China, between 1898 - 1914, **"Today's missionaries to China make the grave mistake of acting like professors instructing students, while at the same time churches and Christian societies carry on like industrialists, measuring everything in terms of 'success.' We must do things differently and meet everyone on the same level, without criticism. Our task is to radiate divine love, teach by example, and respect all as fellow**



human beings. This will demand time and much patient prayer, but the Savior, as the Risen One, will open the doors."

First generation Quakers at Balby, York, wrote in the late 17th century, **"We do not want you to copy or imitate us. We want to be like a ship that has crossed the ocean, leaving a wake of foam, which soon fades away. We want you to follow the Spirit, which we have sought to follow, but which must be sought anew in every generation."**

We pray that God will use our lives as He desires around the circumpolar north and anywhere He chooses. We would love to hear from you! ●

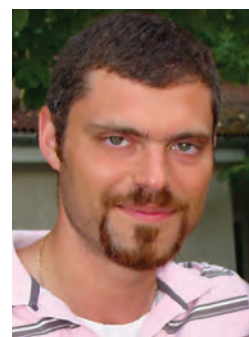
Sasha Litvak

Ministry in Odessa, Ukraine



Hello dear brothers and sisters! It is a joy for me to share what God has been doing recently at Light Christian Fellowship Church here in Odessa, Ukraine. We have been doing Evangelistic English Camps for youth for several years — they have been a great tool to reach young people for Christ. Countless people have heard the Good News of God's love for them and of Christ's sacrifice for them. This summer, God brought six into His family and into our/His church through the youth English camps.

God is good and He is working in a mighty way in our days. It is awesome to see how He is reaching out to the lost world by using His people.



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Anna Hunsucker

Thoughts from the Train

The train click clacks down the line, carrying me across the country in not necessarily the most efficient way, but certainly in one of the most thought-provoking. Here, rocking back and forth, listening to the steady sounds of the wheels on the rails, I have time a plenty. There is time to gaze out the window at all that rolls by: the fertility of spring displayed in brilliant purples, yellows and greens; the former collective farms and factories, most now abandoned; the industrial ugliness of city planning; the dark, rich soil that lies largely unused. The train stops in the middle of nowhere. Someone gets off, disappears into the woods and we roll on. Vast, open spaces are outside my window with occasional paths intersecting them, leading to unseen people in an unseen place. Fields of grechka covered in tiny, yellow flowers sparkle in the sunshine as far as the eye can see.

We roll through village after village and I, a foreigner living in this foreign country, ponder again lives lived so differently from my own. Jutted dirt roads, a cow, chickens, geese, a couple of pigs, goats. Row after row of potatoes, some almost up to the train tracks – an extremely important food staple in subsistence living. Life is simple here. In American terms the large majority of these people would be in extreme poverty. But I no longer know what I think in weighing this in my mind. As I meet more and more

Ukrainians and am exposed to more and more of this life, I'm becoming more aware of the fact that I'm from another "world" and sometimes, what seems like another lifetime.

Recently I re-watched "Fiddler on the Roof," for the first time in about fifteen years. Set in the early 1900's in Ukraine during the reign of the Tzar, the story tells of a Ukrainian Jewish family. I was stunned to realize that the depiction of village life one hundred years ago differs very little from what I see today. Many people cook the same way, bathe the same way, wash clothes the same way, survive the same way, etc.

My reverie is broken and my land frozen in time fades from view, replaced by the concrete ugliness of apartments on the edge of a town. I'm reminded of the scarred and terrible history of this country: a fascinating but dark past of foreign invaders and very little freedom. Having survived the atrocities of Stalin, in particular, this country is now struggling to find its footing in a world that charged ahead in so many areas while it remained mired in the oppression of Communism. With the infighting of the government and bankruptcy everywhere, I have no grand visions for Ukraine. But I'm certain of one thing: just as they have for over one thousand years, this land and this people will go on; with a need for hope and a need for the One who can give them hope. As the fields meld one into the other and the villages disappear from sight, I listen to the sound of the train carrying me across this strange, beautiful land. ●

Odessa...continued from page 3

Recently, we had a chance to go to the sea to have a baptism for these six women. It was a huge celebration for our church as we got to hear them confess to both the visible and invisible world about their faith in our Savior Jesus Christ. I believe it was a joyous celebration in heaven too. Please pray with us — like Jesus prayed for his disciples — that we would take good care of those whom He has entrusted to us.

We are planning two Evangelistic English Camps for this summer. Please pray with us that God would provide enough short-term missionaries and for the fruitful ministry of this camp and that God would be praised through it. We will also be doing a winter discipleship camp in January. The camp will be about making prayer a more practical and regular part of our lives. Please pray with us for this very precious ministry too, that God would provide the people and preparations necessary.

Thank you very much for your prayers and that you are part of this ministry in Odessa Ukraine. ●

If you participated in a short-term trip in 2011 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/index.php/resources/eval

Kristi Kindler Simply Following Him



July 4, 2002 - my first encounter with IM. I remember it clearly...

I was frustrated that day. I was certain God was leading me to organize a team from my church to be part of an overseas missions trip, yet EVERYTHING I tried to plan fell through. As a last resort, I pulled an old missions magazine from my files and started flipping pages. My eyes landed on an ad for International Messengers. Unexplainably, I was drawn to it. This missions organization seemed to focus on ministry in Eastern Europe – the area of the world that had captured my heart years before. Could God be leading me to serve with IM? I sent a short e-mail asking for more information.

A few months later my church committed to sending our first team to Hungary (with me as the leader) to serve at an English-softball camp. I felt inadequate, incapable, and uncertain. The week before departure day was filled with trials – poison ivy, an eye injury, floods, power outages, cellulitis, and more! Yet God in His faithfulness took me to Hungary the summer of 2003... and I have returned every year since then!

I have seen that one English-softball camp expand; now there are two camps in two different towns. I have watched kids grow up, get married,

and choose to follow Christ. I have shared joy and sorrow with the Hungarian believers. I have related my testimony to countless young people and witnessed some of



is big enough to change the world even through someone like me.

When I look back through the years, it's amazing to me how one small step of seeking God's will has led me on an incredible journey of serving Him. That's the lesson He continues to teach me – to simply follow Him in this moment, one step at a time.

them making their own decisions to trust Jesus. I have heard God speak to my heart, reassuring me that He's always in control and that He

The lifelong adventure of trusting God starts with a single step of obedience. Will you take that step? ●





Darwin Anderson

Developing an Elder's Heart in Your Church Leadership

How do you put into a man's heart the understanding of humility and love as evangelistic necessities? How do you open a man's eyes to the truth that his salvation, local church, health, job, resources, marriage, children are all gifts from God that are to be invested for His purposes? How do you give a man the willingness to value obedience more than comfort, relationship with God more than reputation, faith more than safety, prayer more than sweat, and the Gospel more than life? This is the heart of an elder and the necessary heart for making disciples in this culture.

Change and the corresponding need to adapt seem to be the norm for nearly everyone in this generation. But there are parts of life, especially relating to forming the heart of a man to follow hard after Christ, that never change. Jesus' methods for making disciples seem more relevant now than ever. He took His men into ministry as He taught them truth. He went outside the Temple walls to model a life centered around the Kingdom of

God. Gone are the days that developing a biblical elder's maturity could happen from exceptional pulpit ministry or study of the Word. The competing influences of the world and the flesh are just too effectively marketed to us. To deepen the flock for ministry, its leaders must themselves be convinced that growth comes through doing the will of God, sharing their faith, discipling others, serving the hurting, and taking the Gospel to other countries. And these are the green pastures that will compete well with all the temptations and distractions that the world has to offer.

We believe proactively involving current and future leadership in front-line cross-cultural ministry is one of just a few remaining effective means to build a heart of eldership for the local body. A church's ability to make disciples of the Lord Jesus looks to be directly tied to this ability to develop leaders who are solid in the Word and committed to worship outside the church walls.

Would you give us the opportunity to be a part of discipling your current and future church leadership? There are new definitions and the shocking contrasts of a Kingdom-centered lifestyle that can only be caught in steps of faith on mission with the Lord of the harvest. A short-term missionary who has walked with Jesus for 30 years said, "This week of prayer, serving the lost, and pursuing them for the sake of the Gospel has been the most significant week of my life." Another said, "I think I have a new paradigm for my life. I'm thinking in new ways about the church, the purpose of my life and job, and the Gospel. I don't quite know what to do with it." Send us your church's leaders and see if the time of training, going, and trusting God outside their normal existence won't bring them home with a new found love for Jesus and living for the King's purposes. Despite the rapid culture change we're seeing, Jesus' method of making true followers surely hasn't changed through the ages. ●

Staff Care & Barnabas International

International Messengers is committed to finding ways to serve and care for our missionary staff.

"What is staff care?" you say? As we attempt to serve our staff in every way possible, we desire to bring encouragement, enrichment, education, feedback, comfort, and relationship to them. Our leadership team spends considerable time visiting our staff, corresponding regularly through phone calls, Skype, or e-mail, praying regularly for them, conducting annual staff conferences

for their refreshment and renewal, arranging debriefing meetings when needed, and looking for ways to bring joy and strength to them. We're thankful that God has brought several people recently to help us on a part-time basis to care for our staff. However, our staff numbers and locations have expanded way beyond our European beginnings which has made it more difficult to care for our staff as much as we'd like.

We're thankful for a new relationship with Barnabas International which is

an organization of nearly 90 people who serve over 150 mission agencies around the globe. Their purpose is to help organizations like International Messengers to better care for their missionaries. Their staff minister from a pastoral perspective as they "come alongside" and listen, debrief, strategize, exhort, and encourage. We're learning from them, and are very thankful for this partnership. We count it a privilege to have their help as we seek to care for our staff. Check out www.barnabas.org if you'd like more information. ●

Bronislav Lipus

Oh my money! When is the best time to invest?



These days, that's the most important question for people who have money and are worried about losing it. When and where should I invest my money? How much interest will I gain? My name is Bronislav Lipus, and together with my wife Lora and children we have been conducting evangelistic English camps for business people in the Czech Republic for more than ten years. Our campers are mostly business people, working adults and students. We can say that over the years of our ministry among these people we have developed many relationships with those belonging to "the prosperous segment" of our community. We have learned a lot about investing in securities — Sorry, I meant to say "Security" — the spiritual eternal security people can find in Christ Jesus. Our desire is not to invest money in some kind of mutual funds but invest quality time in people's lives by sharing the Gospel with them.

Over the last few months the Lord has blessed our investment activities, and our home Bible study group has grown from 5 people to 16 people. Our "clients" are business people, doctors and teachers. Wow! We just don't understand why they keep coming, and we know of a few more who would like to join this fall. We meet every Friday and have a wonderful time studying and discussing the "big eternal insurance policy" called the Bible. This summer we finished a course entitled *Christianity Explored* based on the Gospel of Mark. This course contains two DVDs which supplement each lesson with a short motivational story about Jesus and His mission on Earth. I am writing this article to share with you how much God blesses us all through this home Bible Study. We can see how the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of the people and in our lives as well.

Dear brothers and sisters, dear friends, now is definitely the best time to enter the Kingdom's market, run by the King of Kings, Jesus Christ our Savior. Our desire to invest more is growing as we are sure that our investments will bring eternal reward in the form of more saved souls, more mature Christians, more seekers who find what they need, more growth in our personal walk of faith, more joy and peace, and more of His presence in our daily life. The Kingdom's market is definitely a growth market, so why shouldn't we invest more of our lives in it? It's not the market itself, it's the omnipresent market force, the Holy Spirit, who gives growth if we submit our lives to Him. Your nearest investment point may be right next door, or somewhere abroad at an Evangelistic English Camp. One more thing! We think the heading of this article should be changed to "Oh my Lord! **Now** is the time for me to invest". ●

"My life has literally changed through the mission trips with International Messengers. I have realized that God uses so many lessons learned in my daily struggles when I go. I don't always feel ready, but it is God that uses these weak vessels to pour out His love and make known the Gospel. I always come back overwhelmed at how God moves in these camps. It has given my life purpose in God and great joy!" Greg - Poland

"God allowed me to strengthen old friendships, forge new ones, and share through those relationship what He has done and continues to do in my life. He gave me one of the two opportunities I had prayed for; to challenge a long-time friend/camper about his continued "rejection" of the Gospel. I was able to share clearly God's love for him, and the love God has given me for him. He is pleasantly surprised that his hardness and rejection has not driven me away from our friendship or my care for him and desire that he would put his trust in Christ." Dan - Hungary



Laura Stein

Living Your Faith

During our first year of missionary work in Slovakia, an acquaintance asked me, "So, what do you do all day, just walk up to people and start talking with them about God?"

I explained that being on the "mission field" doesn't mean everyone is standing in line waiting to hear about God. Just as back home, relationships and trust with people have to be built. We do this by interacting in the workplace, with our neighbors, and with those in our community. The difference is that here we have to create our "workplace" - something valid we can give to the society in which we live. We have done this by creating the Father's Heart organization, allowing us to serve children in state-run children's homes. In recent years we added the motorcycle ministry and the Father's Heart ranch. Through these last two avenues, we have enjoyed new relationships with people we wouldn't have otherwise come into contact with.

Now this is "where the rubber meets the road." Our new friends observe our actions and want to know about our beliefs — they notice we don't work on Sundays, that we respect each other in the way we communicate, that we are honest in financial matters, etc. For example, once when Bevan went to a secular motorcycle event, he made some

friends there who were shocked to find out he was a preacher. They didn't know preachers could be bikers. When they invited Bevan to the strip-tease show he declined, giving him an opportunity to demonstrate his convictions in a way that earned their trust and respect. They asked him to stay with their bikes and guard their things.

Missionary life is living with a deliberate intention of winning others to Christ, by showing your faith through your lifestyle. We believe God chose us to be planted here in Slovakia, where we could

know and love people who wouldn't ordinarily see His light and love: children with disabilities, abandoned children, young people searching for their way, and those battered by the ways of the world. So, while we don't see a line of people at our door waiting to hear the good news, we use every opportunity to go out to them.

"They (the righteous) shall be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him." Psalm 92:15 ●

*"For a long time
I have loved horses.
I am happy I have
the opportunity to
learn to ride and
spend time with the
horses.*

*When I am with the
horses I have a lot of
joy and satisfaction.
I also learn patience
and responsibility at
the ranch.*

*For me horses are
the most beautiful
animals on the earth.
Laura, thank you
very much, Ivanka"*



Bevan Stein

Fifteen Years & Counting



The Father's Heart in Slovakia works with churches of all denominations to reach the lost for Christ through creative forms of relational evangelism which minister to the whole person, body, mind and soul. We provide programs in state orphanages, summer camps, weekend discipleship training, open-air evangelistic campaigns, equine assisted ministry and even motorcycle evangelism, as means of reaching the lost with the Gospel.

This summer we held six week-long camps at our small acreage ranch. Nearly 100% of those who come to these camps are unchurched. They have some exposure to Christianity through the culture but have never made a decision for Christ. The kids come because of the horses and the fun, but they are touched by our spiritual instruction and personal attention. Some of our camps focus especially on disabled children who especially benefit from the horse riding experience.

Our greatest opportunity to reach the most people comes through the motorcycles. We can travel to where the kids are all over Slovakia when

it is infeasible for them to come to us. We can draw large crowds of kids as well as adults to listen to our testimonies, watch our drama skits, and compete with us in break-dancing. The grand finale is a ride on one of our bikes and pictures for their album to brag to their friends. In just a few summer weekends we minister to over 2,000 orphan kids.

We don't think it is enough that people should only have the gospel preached to them in their own language so they can make a decision. It is not even enough that they should believe and be saved. This is only the beginning. Until we teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded us, including making disciples also themselves, we cannot say that we have succeeded. Jesus didn't command us to just go preach. He didn't say just make converts. He said to make disciples. You can't do this unless you commit your whole life to minister to their whole life. It's costly. It requires total commitment. It's relational. It's time-consuming. And it takes living out your faith before them, which means you have to be radically saved first yourself. You can't just say, "Do as I

say and not as I do."

World evangelism begins at home with your family and your friends. It continues to your neighbors and strangers and includes even your enemies! He is no foreign missionary who is not first a soul-winner at home, because no matter where you are, there you should be a witness. Missionaries are just those who have left their "nets" and "tax-collecting" and followed Jesus to the ends of the earth.

Our organization, The Father's Heart, as reflected in its name, seeks to share the love of God through Jesus Christ with those who might never otherwise have the opportunity to know that God's heart is broken for the broken, compassionate towards the downtrodden, and resistant to the proud. Until all become disciples and the great commission is completed, we invite your prayers and partnership. ●

"It is pretty frightening to try to go in for a week and affect people's lives for eternity. I felt like the Holy Spirit was able to use me. I was able to make friends with one girl in particular who desperately needed a friend. I hope that I will be able to continue to show Christ's love to her (we are already Facebook friends)." Anna - Poland

"From my missions week I realized God's power and how important it is to trust in Him. I saw what faith can do and watched as God won over people's hearts. I marveled when someone asked me a question about God. Also when empty hearts not singing in the back of the room the first day, turned into dancing, laughter, singing and filled with joy the last day. I saw God's beautiful love and mercy all over again, drowning others and myself. I saw how I haven't been spending time with God and how important that is. I also realized how God puts things on my heart and that He does speak to me. I just have been too deaf to hear Him. I saw the power of prayer. It was a good week."

Joanna (age 14) - Poland



Andreea Luncan

Seeking People

"Don't know if I made any sense but I had to say it," Octavia whispered, her face awash with emotion and joy. "More sense than most," I thought, while I smiled at her with shiny eyes, too full of emotion myself to respond out loud. What Octavia said was the answer to our prayers, hopes, and dreams for the camp. "I've been searching for God for one year but couldn't find my way to Him, so God sent you from so far and brought me to camp to show me that Jesus is the way."

The very last to join our group, Octavia signed up for camp at 10:00 p.m. the night before it started when her sister asked Octavia to be her infant's babysitter for the week. Unknown to us, the Lord was working to give Octavia herself an eternal hope and a never-ending future of joy. Though we call Octavia and other open-hearted people like her "seekers," her story strongly shows that the Lord is seeking people, He is the One who is calling them to Himself and helping them find the Way.

"I don't just come for English and fun. I'm waiting for a revelation" Andreea told me back in June when she signed up for her first-ever English camp. That is how this single mom of

two expressed her soul's yearning while wrapping up her painfully honest story which brought to my mind the Samaritan woman at the well. By the time Andreea S. came to camp, we'd all been praying for her to find what, or rather, Who she was looking for. However, this vulnerable woman held her shield high for the first couple of days and wouldn't

let people help with the kids or get closer to her soul. Then, on the third Bible reading lesson, she was so overwhelmed that she just stood and left the group.

Nancy, her Bible reading teacher, sought

her out and in the course of one tear-filled conversation, Andreea prayed to receive Jesus.

Marieta came to camp at the invitation of a Christian couple from our church. She has an alcoholic husband and a beloved foster child she yearns to make her own. Crippled by the fear of losing her daughter to the system and her husband to disease, this precious woman fights a never-able-to-win battle for control. The testimonies and

Scriptures she heard at camp gave her hope and an eternal perspective and though she hasn't made a commitment yet, she called right after camp to let us know, "From now on, I'm going to come to church regularly to learn more about God's plan for me."

Calin and Laura and Oana and Vali are two couples I met while teaching English with DeClar. They are functional, respectable people who are doing their best to raise their kids well so there's no obvious misery and tragedy in their lives...except the fact they're on a beeline to hell unless the Seeker finds them. These four camp enthusiasts are among the 25 people yearning to be found, who want to be enrolled in DeClar's weekly Bible study groups.

It's honoring and humbling to be part of God's glorious seeking and finding adventure, not just in good times but in hard times, too. Will you seek His heart to see if you can be part of His ministry here by praying, giving, or coming? We are so thankful you are our partners in a journey too exciting and too difficult to venture on alone. ●



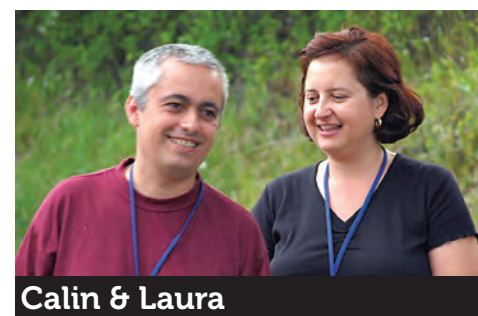
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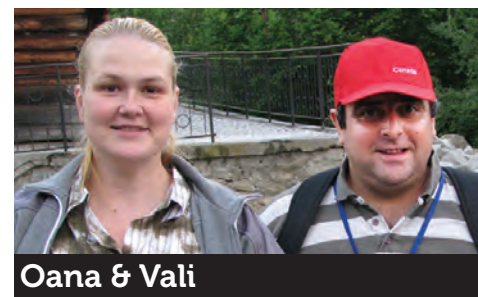
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Andreea S.



Calin & Laura



Oana & Vali

Ben & Jeanne Beckner

Français Sans Frontières' Outreach

French Camps Bearing Fruit in Albania



Hermes came to our first outreach French camp in Albania Summer 2010: from the human standpoint, a most unlikely candidate to receive the Gospel. Poor, unkempt, pale, timid, soft spoken, but with surprisingly good French language skills, he absorbed not only the language classes, but also the Christian testimony that went on behind the scenes.

At the end of the week-long language program offered by our indigenous French organization, "French without Borders," and after we had already left the country, we discovered that Hermes had given his life to Christ and was beginning to attend the local evangelical church in his city. Fast forward to this July: what a radical transformation we see in this one life! What a joy to greet Hermes as a brother in the faith and to see him lead his

fellow students, not only in the context of the French language classroom, but also in his clear, unafraid, and bold witness in the local youth group. Hermes is a top student in his last year of high school, preparing himself, as the Lord leads, to become a doctor in his impoverished and needy country. He, and others like him, are what make our outreach French camps worth all the time, effort, preparation, and expense.



Hermes with Jeanne

As we go to teach French in the "backwater countries" of the former European eastern bloc countries, as well as to parts of north Africa, the Lord builds the bridges between the Christian French teachers and the students. The love of the students for French language, literature, art and music, is transposed into conversations about basic existential questions dealing with the meaning of life and death, God, and eternity. The result is curiosity, an awakened spirit, a desire to search, and finally a life-changing encounter with Christ. Hermes is just one example of several over the past years, and we long to see many more join the family of God as we

persevere in this ministry of teaching, training in short term missions, and seeking to save those who are still lost.

Français Sans Frontières (FSF) is an indigenous French nonprofit which Ben and Jeanne founded in 2006 following several fruitful French outreach events in Russia and Ukraine. Since then FSF — which seeks to envision, equip and mobilize French churches for cross-cultural and world mission — has sponsored over 20 short-term missions initiatives, training and sending over 200 French believers on missions to Russia and Ukraine; Croatia, Bosnia, Albania and Macedonia in the Balkans; Lebanon and North Africa. FSF also helped launch another French nonprofit which specializes in using humanitarian missions as a bridge to cross-cultural evangelism as well as discipleship training and mobilization for French believers. FSF is preparing to launch an online cross-cultural missions training course in 2012. ●



FSF Summer team to Albania



French camp in Ukraine



Ben & Burgi Oehler

Life and Ministry in Egypt After the Revolution

What makes life so unique in this part of the world? And why is it so unique right now? Maybe it's the burning sun and the sticky yellow dust that covers everything within a few hours? Or is it the unusual view of very tall buildings on a narrow street that is packed with people, honking cars, and donkeys pulling heavy loads? You can look at the situation with different eyes.

There are lots of interesting things that catch your eyes, like ovens with a huge burning flame right in front of a bakery. A man puts flat dough into the blazing fire, and out comes a highly puffed up bread that looks like an air pillow. It is very dry, and you crack it into pieces which you dip into a green veggie sauce or you eat it with a tasty tahina mix.

Your attention might also be drawn to men sitting on plastic chairs in front of a vendor's place or a coffee shop, and you get the impression that the street belongs to males only. You will also see women wrapped in clothing in the summer heat, but they hardly ever sit in front of a shop together with the men, and you would surely not find them sitting in a street cafe. They carry their shopping loads home, leading one child or more behind them, talking on the mobile phone which is stuck in between the ear and the tightly wrapped veil.

These are all things you see on the surface of a society, things that might be very

unusual for a person raised in a Western culture. When you look a little deeper you see that the society is very religious here. The month of August, for example, is the month of Ramadan, and a majority of people fast until the sun goes down. This includes not drinking anything, which causes several people to become quite aggressive during the day. It gets better when they can indulge in delicious food after sunset. The celebration goes on until four in the morning when the sun comes up, and eating is prohibited again.

We also find people who believe in God like we do, who love Jesus Christ as their Savior. These are mostly "Coptic" people. Of course, not all are disciples of Jesus, but some really are, and we have met quite a few of those,



immense. And despite all hopes, it got worse after the January 25th revolution.

We invite people to prayer meetings in our house on Sundays. This usually begins with a big meal, to be more culturally sensitive. Eating together

means so much here. When you finally invite a person to your home, or you are invited to a private place it means that you will not fight with those who invited you, there will never be war between you. In a society full of hatred this means a lot.

It is not easy to preach out of the Word when you don't know the language yet, and our translator has only a limited knowledge of English. It will take some time until we will be able to speak fluent Arabic. We pray that this day will come soon...Burgi has started private lessons. From other experiences we know how to start learning a completely new language. If you help us pray for heavenly success, God will grant this to us!



Ben teaches English to young adults to build a bridge for further discipling. There are young people who come to our house often, and we have close re-

lationships already. These young people also help us in a lot of practical things. Since the society is pretty male-oriented it is not as difficult to reach men as it can be in other countries. Ben uses the chance to sit with neighbors, house owners, shop owners and other men in front of the houses to build relationships. That seems rather effective. It is not quite so easy to get acquainted with the women. You wait until you are invited to a home, or you yourself have to invite a lady for

continued on page 13

Simona Nelson

A Heart to Serve



I am but a servant of God and He surely has given me a heart to serve here at River of Life (ROL). I have known Doug and Roberta Moore for some time and they are truly God's instruments here at ROL. I came here last summer and I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I started to understand why I was needed at ROL slowly, just like a child taking his or her first steps. I gradually got to know the children by doing activities with them outside or walking with them in the village. As I started to know the children better the mothers then were also appreciative that I took care of the children so they wouldn't get hurt.

Most of these children have a lot of emotional problems. I know I can't meet all their needs, but the Lord has shown me that I can comfort

them in many ways. *"The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want, he comforts me in the stillness of darkness."*

As I helped with the children more and more the mothers became better acquainted with me and were willing to share some of their stories of their lives. Some stories that I heard made me cry. The Lord intervened in their lives so that they can know Him better while they are cared for in a Christian home. With God's mercy I hope that some mothers will get to know Him with their full heart and not half-heartedly.

The Lord wants us all to love Him with a tender heart. I am blessed to be part of the staff of ROL. He has given me a love for this ministry that I never could have imagined. ●

Egypt...continued from page 12

a meal. So that takes a little longer until you build a friendship, but it works fine too. Burgi has started a regular women's meeting. We are confident that it'll soon grow into something very precious.



For February 2012 we are planning a first discipleship camp for young believers. For the summer we are preparing a first English youth camp at the Mediterranean Sea not far from Alexandria. Of course, we are still learning how to do things without leading anyone into danger. It seems that most young people are open to hear more about a practical life with God. The revolution opened doors that were kept closed and were fiercely controlled for more than forty years. We believe that this is a God-given chance for two completely different cultures to come together in order to do something awesome for the Lord. ●



WEDDINGS

AMADEUSZ SHADED



MONIKA GAWARECKA
married on 8-6-10

BENCE JÓFÖLDI



ABBY OPSAL
married on 6-4-11

ZHENYA BOZHATARNIK



LIDIA EVGRAFOVA
married on 6-18-11

BRAD CARLSON



AMY WILLIAMS
married on 9-17-11



Gene Fox

Changed Lives: From Resistance to Openness

I've spent four summers ministering with short-term teams at IM's Evangelical English Language Camps. Each year the campers arrive with varying degrees of spiritual interest and understanding. Some come resistant to anything "religious." Most pay close attention to what they hear and see at the camp. Their curiosity is obvious — we see it in their eyes and hear it in their questions.

In most cases, religious upbringing has taught our campers that God and the Bible are too complicated for them. They're taught to leave relationship with God and reading of the Bible to the religious professionals. Imagine their surprise when, through reading the Bible at camp, they discover that they can understand it themselves! They're even more surprised to learn what it actually says — that God loves them personally, wants to communicate with them personally, and desires a personal response from them.

Marzena* attended camp with her young daughter this year. She's a modern-day Samaritan woman, having had numerous men in her life. Many still cause problems for her. "It's complicated," she says. Her life is further complicated by her history

of fistfights with her 20-something daughter.

Prior to camp, a local believer named Anna befriended Marzena. She had once asked permission to pray for her. Marzena replied, "NO, I don't want it. I don't need it." When Anna invited her to attend camp, she accepted but with reservations. Her resistance to "religion" was evident in the questions she asked during Bible reading time:

- "The Bible doesn't really say Jesus is the only way to God, does it?"
- "Surely God wouldn't forgive someone who has been exceedingly evil all his life but asks forgiveness just before he dies, would He?"

Marzena attended parenting work-

relationship with her eldest could improve. As the week's end approached, she asked the workshop leaders and Anna to pray with her! In fact, she prayed, too: "God I need your help, please help me."

Marzena arrived resistant to God and His word, but her heart softened. She left camp with hope, thankful that there is another way to do life. She's still uncomfortable with some of the things the Bible says is true, but she's open to considering it. She returned home with lots to think about and strong bonds with Anna and other local believers who attended the camp. Her new friends remain there and will encourage her in her spiritual journey.

Life change happens at camp. Sometimes people place their saving faith in Christ while at camp. Other times, campers take spiritual baby steps beginning when their resistance turns to a willingness to consider what they've heard and seen. We praise God for both responses! And we trust that God will continue the good work He's begun in Marzena's life.

Would you join us next summer? The need is real. Without English-speaking

believers going short-term, these camps don't happen and lives remain unchanged. ●

* Name and minor details have been changed for privacy.



shops at camp because she recognizes that mistakes were made while parenting her first child. Throughout the week, she became determined to "do things differently" with her younger daughter. She also found hope that her

MUM is the Word



Mobilizing Uganda for Missions (MUM) expresses the new vision and focus God has given me for ministry in Uganda. It replaces "Uganda Project," which I used to identify our ministry and to establish accountability for the past eight years.

The purpose of MUM is To glorify God by coming alongside the local church in Uganda to renew, train, and mobilize believers for active involvement in reaching the world for Christ. Mobilizing Uganda for Mission consists of three ministries that strive to fulfill this purpose statement.

The first is the **African Coalition of Purity/Uganda (ACPU)**, which strives to mobilize and equip men for a life of sexual purity by challenging them to make a commitment to become pure through exposing them to the problems of impurity and to the cost of living impure in God's sight. Through Scripture, prayer, and small

group accountability meetings, we hope to achieve purity and freedom from impure thoughts and actions.

The **Joyful Learning Center** is a central location for churches in the Busanna area to meet. We have made material available for discipleship, pastoral training, and personal spiritual growth. The Center is used for community outreach through a library, women's Bible study, sewing ministry, orphan care partnerships with local churches, and health education and treatment partnerships with available medical staff (nationals and "short-termers"). Some area youth ministries also use the location for youth meetings.

The third ministry of MUM is the **River Nile Missionary Training Center (RNMTC)**. Starting in January 2012, six or more missionary interns will be arriving at the Joyful Learning Center. They will be embarking on a ten month missionary training program. The training will consist of three months of classroom work, and partial ministry experience. After the three month training,

they will be sent to locations within and outside of Uganda. Currently, applications are being given out; we will start the review process in October.

We have three of us who comprise the initial staff of MUM, Pastor Moses, Pastor James, and myself. The primary ministry focus for Pastor Moses is leading the Purity ministry. Pastor James is the primary leader of the day-to-day ministries at the resource center. I head up the mission training and discipleship ministries. Deb Brandon is not in Uganda year-round, but her contributions during the past three summers (and counting...) have produced the foundation of the women's ministry in the Busanna area churches. She has invested her time in training women from area churches who will become key leaders to head up the women's ministry within MUM.

Please pray for us, and ask the Lord how you can come alongside to partner with us in "Mobilizing Uganda for Missions." ●



Men's Small Group ↑

Women's Language and Bible Study Group →



MUM Staff: Mary & Pastor James, John, Pastor Moses & Betty



2012 CAMP SCHEDULE

DISCIPLESHIP CAMPS	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Odessa, Ukraine*	Litvak/Winkler	January 1 - 12
	Karpacz, Poland*	Dabrowski	June 28 - July 10
	Jinja, Uganda	Pipes	Early June**

EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS (EELC)	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Radom, Poland (H.S. outreach/day camp)	Snyder/Hageman	January 5 - 23
	Southern Sudan	Pipes	Mid or End of March**
	Mohacs, Hungary	Dan	2nd Half of July**
	Czchow, Poland*	Hybel	July**
	Kherson, Ukraine*	Litvak/Winkler	July 14 - 24
	Kherson, Ukraine*	Litvak/Winkler	July 23 - August 3
	Odessa, Ukraine*	Naydenov/Huffman	Late July**

FAMILY EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Jastrzebia Gora, Poland	Jachym	July 4 - 16
	Mazury Lakes, Poland	Shaded	July 11 - 23
	Wegierska Gorka, Poland	Snyder/Hageman	July 12 - 24
	Glucholazy, Poland	Genesis Church-Poznan	July 18 - 30
	Karpacz, Poland	Dabrowski	July 18 - 31
	Poland	Pscoala	July 19 - 30
	Cluj, Romania	Luncan/Vitelar	July 12 - 23
	Slovakia	Thiessen/Berger	July or August**
	Odessa, Ukraine	Naydenov/Huffman	Early August**

TEENS or KIDS CAMPS	TYPE	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Winter Youth Camp	Wisla, Poland	Dabrowski	February**
	Father's Heart Ranch Kids' Camp	Kosice, Slovakia	Stein	June 27 - July 9 (or July 6) approx.

SPECIALTY CAMPS OR MINISTRIES	TYPE	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Faming Workshops	Bircii, Romania	Nicolae/Roberts	Mid to Late February**
	Women's Conference	Bucharest/ Bircii, Romania	Clark	March 8 - 16
	EELC/Softball Day Camp*	Zirc & Ujfeherto, Hungary	Petrik	Summer 2012**

*Youth Camp

**Specific dates yet to be determined

2012 CAMP SCHEDULE

SPECIALTY CAMPS OR MINISTRIES	TYPE	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign	Krakow, Warsaw, and Wroclaw, Poland	Jaje	June**
	Evangelistic Soccer	Odessa, Ukraine	Torres	June 24 - July 5 approx.
	EELC/Softball	Zirc & Ujfeherto,		
	Medical	Jinja, Uganda	Pipes	Mid July**
	Construction	Kosice, Slovakia	Stein	July or August (flexible)
	Construction/Labor VBS Ministry	Bircii, Romania	Nicolae/Roberts	August 10 - 25 approx.

*Youth Camp

**Specific dates yet to be determined

For the most up-to-date camp schedule visit our website: www.im-usa.org/index.php/camps-schedule

Am I Like Nicole Beger Moses?

As I read through the third and fourth chapters of Exodus today I was struck by a few thoughts. We see Moses is visited by God in the form of a burning bush; not your everyday occurrence. And yet as Moses speaks with God we see him object to what the Lord would have him do four different times. Each time Moses says "But Lord," God patiently teaches him, gives him direction and lovingly provides a solution. I admit that I have said, "But Lord" quite a few times lately. What might you be saying, "But Lord" about?

In Exodus 4:13 we see Moses is without excuse. He has no more "buts" to offer up and simply asks, "Oh, my Lord please send someone else." Not until this time do we see the Lord angered. I am a mother of two little people and trust me, on some days my anger may be kindled long before the fourth time

I have asked one of them to do something. Oh how we serve a patient and loving Lord.

I know as I write this there is something the Lord has asked of me and I keep saying, "But Lord." I say, "But Lord we are already sent, we have gone out into the nations, leaving family and home." My heart screams out, "But Lord I am already doing all that I can, I am tired." I could tell you the many "buts" I have told the Lord, although they are probably the same ones you use as well. Yet He has been patient and kind, much more so than any earthly parent may be. And now I find myself saying, "Oh, my Lord please send someone else." Aren't we all a lot like Moses?

Conversely I was also struck by the faith of Moses when the Lord instructed him to catch the serpent



made from his staff, and Moses did it! What!? I have never liked snakes of any kind. I cannot imagine seeing that snake, and reaching out to grab its tail. Doesn't something like that seem counterintuitive? Yet the Lord commanded it ...and Moses obeyed.

I often ask my children to listen and obey, I think I need to take a little of my own advice. What about you? What is the Lord telling you to do today? Might we see you on our side of the ocean next summer? Is overseas missions the serpent from which you run? ●



Terry & Debby Baxter

Global Compassion Network

For the past few years we have sensed God leading us into a transition in our lives. God has broken our hearts for the orphans, widows, victims from major natural disasters, and Third World pastors who have little or no access to formal Bible training. The needs are great and the task is huge. Our work in India, Vietnam, Peru, Haiti, and limited involvement in following up natural disasters here in the United States has pressed us beyond measure and added new direction to our vision. The need for food for starving people and shelter for the homeless has driven us to our knees seeking a strong humanitarian emphasis in our approach to ministry.

Early this year, I was invited to a meeting at Sukup Manufacturing in Sheffield, Iowa. Sukup is a leading manufacturer of grain handling supplies such as dryers and grain bins. The meeting turned out to be very providential. They were working toward a goal of turning an 18' grain bin into a compassionate dwelling for emergency shelters that could become long-term compassionate dwellings to follow up disasters like the earthquake in Haiti. The initial meeting resulted in a long-term relationship with Sukup manufacturing. We are now working together to help them refine these units and prepare for a major humanitarian endeavor in warm climates around the world.

As the project continued to develop, a vision was born to build entire "Villages of Hope" with this building system. Each village will include numerous housing units with the 18' structure and also

utilize larger 48' structures for churches, community centers, clinics, and schools. As interest spread across the Midwest, it became clear that we needed to form a global compassion network with a more humanitarian purpose statement to bring together mission groups, civic organizations, humanitarian groups, and Third World governments to tackle these issues. We also needed to seek both private and corporate funding for these projects and some of that would take us outside of a strictly evangelical camp.

Initially we sought to form this under International Messengers, but it soon became evident that it required a separate entity with a more humanitarian mission statement. One board member wisely commented, "It is like trying to force a square peg into a round hole." We are so thankful to Darwin and Darlis Anderson, the International Messengers Board, and so many other people who have prayed and encouraged us in this unfolding endeavor.

After 16 wonderful years with International Messengers, we will be stepping down at the end of 2011 to form a new humanitarian and disaster relief organization called "Global Compassion Network." We will be actively promoting International Messengers short-term evangelistic camps, missionary training, and career mission opportunities in the future and continue teaching at the Training Center in Libby, MT. IM will always be our family and we will be networking closely in the future. God bless you all and we invite you to keep us in your prayers. ●



BIRTHS

ESTHER NADZIEJA

born on 11-12-10
to Adrian & Elizabeth Biskup

AVA MARIE

born on 1-26-11
to Nathan & Cassie Simpson
(Granddaughter of
Charlie & Lori Stevens)

ELIJAH

born on 6-21-11
to Sasha & Lena Litvak

BETTY VIRGINIA

born on 4-17-11
to Ben & Mary Stoner

FILIP SEBASTIAN

born on 4-28-11
to Claudiu & Jenn Soare

NATALIA

born on 4-14-11
to Cristi & Delia Zah

BERGEN LEIF

born on 10-4-11
to Alex & Beth Oehler

Doug & Roberta Moore

"Opportunity" is knocking!



Have you ever considered that our lives are an "opportunity" that God has given us?

Our specific, limited time period, our brief season of life on this earth, was given to us so that we can respond to God in a proactive and well thought out way — in faith, love, and obedience to His Word, joining Him in His work in this world.

We use the idiom, "a short window of opportunity" because of its brief nature. There have been times in our ministry when we missed "opportunities" to join the Lord in His work.

We had an opportunity to collaborate with a school system near our village in Romania to teach the Bible in grades kindergarten through high school. We were already stretched so thin and were in need of so much help that we couldn't do it. Now, the contact we had in the administration is no longer there and the laws have changed regarding teaching the Bible in the school, and our "window of opportunity" is closed.

Another missed opportunity happened a few years ago. We saw a need for a medical van to go out into the villages and minister to people who were hurting, not only helping

them medically, but giving them encouragement and hope spiritually by praying with them and sharing God's truth. Everyone in Romania saw the need for this ministry. But we could neither get the funding nor the people to run it, even though there was much interest in it. Another missed opportunity.

I regret those times in my life when I didn't respond in obedience to God's clear leading. But I have no regrets at all for the times I did respond in obedience to those opportunities God opened up for me, to join Him in His work.

Just recently we received three new moms into our Care Home in Romania.

Two are pregnant and one has a newborn baby. Two of the moms were raised in an orphanage. One has some physical handicaps and needs help caring for her baby, while the other is mentally challenged. The third woman is an immigrant to Romania who came from another country to work as a nanny for a man who works in a high government position who drugged and raped her while

she was in his home, and she became pregnant. We now have 8 moms and 12 children plus 2 more babies who will be born by the end of this year living in the Care Home.

We are short staffed and facing financial cutbacks that threaten the very existence of the ministry. But the

question is not whether or not this work is God's will. His Word tells us of His promises for widows and orphans, and His love and compassion for the hurting and needy. This ministry originated in the heart of God and He has clearly been in this work from the beginning, and is still working, still drawing needy, hurting women and children into the Home. The question is not whether or not God is still working...but whether or not we will take the "opportunity" He has given us and join Him in His work!

In Revelation 3:20-23 Jesus says to the church of Laodicea, *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

We only have this lifetime, this brief season, this gift of time that God has given us, to respond to the "opportunity" He has given us to align ourselves, our desires, our beliefs, our priorities, our time, and our resources, with Jesus' and to join Him in His work in this world.

Jesus is knocking, how are you responding? ●

Doug and Roberta Moore, International Messengers missionaries, are the founders and overseers of River of Life ministries and Care Home in Cornesti, Romania.

The question is not whether or not God is working...but whether or not we will take the opportunity He has given us and join Him in His work! ”



Ed Kleiman

No Presentation of the Gospel?

Last year I returned from a Christmas Eve service shaken to my core—Why? There was no presentation of the Gospel! The birth of Christ was talked about—but no presentation of the Gospel—even though there were clearly many nonbelievers in attendance. How could this be? And how can it be that I also pass up opportunities to share the Good News? Have I lost my first love?

I found myself in need of soul-searching, confessing, and fleeing once again into the loving arms of the One who is always faithful: my beloved Lord Jesus – even after dishonoring Him in all the ways I do. Especially after dishonoring Him in all the ways I do. I returned to Octavius Winslow's book, *The Precious Things of God*. Men like Winslow understood 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. I desperately needed "heart-work," and Winslow, like the Puritans before him, proved to be a physician of the soul. He wrote:

There are peculiar circumstances in the believer's experience when Christ becomes especially precious to the soul. For example, in the deeper plowings of the heart's hidden sinfulness, when the Holy Spirit reveals more of the inborn corruption of our nature, and gives a more spiritual perception of sin's exceeding sinfulness, oh, how precious does the finished work of Christ then

become! How precious is the blood that cleanses from all sin! If God is leading you through this stage of Christian experience, beloved, do not be alarmed; it is to build up His dear Son upon the wreck and ruin of your own merit, strength, and sufficiency. He will have us love His Son with a love like His own, a love of divine, supreme, inexpressible affection; and this can only be felt in the region of our own nothingness!

In circumstances of spiritual relapse, how precious does Christ become, as the Restorer of His saints, as the Shepherd that goes in quest of His stray sheep, and brings it back to the fold with rejoicing! How unspeakably dear is the Savior to the wandering-yet-restored heart! Our backslidings are perpetual and aggravated, our affections fickle, our faith fluctuating, our love declining, our zeal diminishing, our walk often feeble and unsteady; but Jesus does not withdraw His eye from His own work in the soul, and never for a moment loses sight of His straying sheep. Ah, there are few aspects of the work of Jesus more precious in the experience of the saints of God than His divine and gracious restorings. "He restoreth my soul" is a declaration of David that finds its response in every believer. Precious, then, is that Savior who breaks the heart, checks its waywardness, restores its wanderings, heals its backslidings, rekindles its love.

In the hour of adversity, of trial, of sorrow, oh, how precious is Christ in the experience of the believer! It would seem, beloved, as though

we had never really known Him until then. Certainly, we never knew from experience that there was so much that was human, tender, and compassionate in His heart until sorrow touched our own. We had no concept what a fount of sympathy was there.

I only give utterance to the experience of many a timid believer, many an afflicted Christian, when I say that, looking back upon all the way the Lord our God has led us, we can thank Him for the swelling surge, can bless Him for the wintry blast, can praise Him for the falling blow that veiled the sky, draped the landscape, and smote the idol, since that was the suitable occasion of making the Savior better known to you, and of endearing Him unutterably to your heart!

Finally, from Charles Spurgeon on 1 Peter 2:7, "*Unto you therefore who believe He is precious:*" Every Christian here is either a missionary or an imposter. You either try to spread abroad the kingdom of Christ – or else you do not love Him at all. It cannot be that there is a high appreciation of Jesus and a totally silent tongue. The man who says, "I believe in Jesus," but does not think enough of Jesus, ever to tell another about Him by mouth, or pen, or tract - is an imposter.

So as we face a desperate and dying world, may we say with the Apostle Paul; "*I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*" (Romans 1:15). Because we know; "*Unto you therefore who believe He is precious*" (1 Peter 2:7). www.praybold.org ●

Julie Hybel

Cześć! Jak się masz?



There are many differences between Polish and American cultures. One of the most obvious can be found when you greet a Polish woman with “Czesc, jak sie masz?” (Hi, how are you?) In America we answer “Fine, and you?” However, in Poland the answer will often be long and include many details of health problems, hurts and complaints about the government. Which answer is better? Well, it depends on how much time you have.

Have you ever truly thought about those words we so often ask — how are you? If a majority of people were to answer in the Polish way, we would find that we are completely surrounded by hurting people. A not-so-surprising but maybe uncomfortable fact is that God has completely equipped us as believers to help them. Yes, you and I are able to help almost any person with any problem. It doesn't mean that we can solve every problem, but we

can help through listening, advising, finding another who can help, offering to serve in some way, giving...the list goes on and on. And above all, we can commit to pray.

As we open ourselves up and become more available to people, we will notice that those huge mistakes we've made in our past and those dark and horrible times of pain we've experienced in our lives will actually be used for good. God will bring people into our path who are experiencing similar problems. We will be able to comfort people because we've been there, we understand, we've been comforted by the Master Comforter. And it is He who promises to give us everything we need to help others.

Recently here in Krakow, I've begun counseling a girl with bulimia, helping a Brazilian girl who is extremely homesick, advising a friend who is experiencing marital problems, and

spending time speaking words of hope to a woman dealing with depression. I've been there, I understand, and with God equipping me, I am able to help. God is turning some of the most difficult times in my life into something I'm very thankful for.

If you have experienced any pain in your life, there is a guarantee that God has already surrounded you with people who need your help. There is nothing that can compare to watching God set a person free, bring hope to a person who has lost hope, and use you to spread His love to the people around you. It's not easy and takes a sacrifice of our time and full attention, but part of our calling includes asking people “How are you?” ●

Paula Roberts

God is Big, Isn't He?



It was like all those prayers were joining a dance. Those prayers had started more than two years ago. Working in the small village of Bircii, Romania, Heather, Pavel, Ron and I sensed God was asking us to take a leap. Up to this point, our work had mainly focused on teaching English, running a computer lab, and focusing on the youth group from church. We had plenty to do, but ministry space was limited. We also battled cultural and physical restrictions. The area we worked from was small and situated behind Heather and Pavel's fence. Culturally, walking through any

family's gate was reserved for close relatives and friends.

What else could we do? We needed a neutral place from which to minister. There were no buildings to rent, no public parks. Kids had the option of playing in the streets or standing in front of the market. Oh, yes, they could also hang by the bars.

We didn't really want to buy land and develop a ministry center, but God kept pressing. So, we prayed. Some of you prayed, too. You sent money and

encouragement, and a land purchase was made.

Then the opportunity to buy an adjacent piece of land appeared. (God is big, isn't He?) This piece had lots of trees. It was the perfect spot for boys on adventure and little girl giggles. But, how could we manage the cost? We prayed. So did some of you. Another land purchase was made.

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Virginia Edwards Want God to Bless You Real "GOOD"?

If you want to be blessed beyond anything you've ever dreamed, come to River of Life Care Home. River of Life (ROL) in Cornesti, Romania, is currently home to 8 moms and their 12 children, who range in age from 3 months to 17 years (there are also two babies yet to be born). You will need a willing spirit and the desire to be used of God.

Stan and I first came to ROL four years ago for a monthlong visit and have been drawn back again and again for longer periods of time.

We are both in our 70s and have no "special qualifications" to offer, but the Lord has seen fit to use us to minister to the moms and children at the Care Home.

The women come to the Care Home because they are expecting a child and some come with other children as well. The women and children have all suffered some degree of abuse. They have been homeless, hungry and without the necessities of life, and without a means to support themselves and their children. None has a home or family who will take care of them.

Most importantly, they learn about the love of God through the Care Home ministry. ”

ROL is a haven for them where they receive much more than just the necessities of life. In addition to food, clothing, and shelter, they receive medical care, assistance in obtaining birth certificates, identification cards for them and their children, help obtaining other legal documents, psychological help to deal with their emotional problems, training in the care of their children, and the opportunity to learn a trade. Most importantly, they learn about the love of God through the Care Home ministry.

One mom who came to the Care Home four years ago with two children and expecting another, has overcome many of the issues that burdened her and this fall will begin learning a trade. Her children, who were of school age, didn't know their numbers, letters, colors or their full name when they came to the home.

While these children work to catch up in their education, the difference in them is truly the work of God. They are happy, outgoing, well-behaved girls and a joy to be around. Above all, they have

accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Another mom comes from a background where there were no sanitary facilities and her young son had never used a toilet. They came to the Care Home frightened, withdrawn and silent. However, children are adaptable and a few months later they are outspoken and they have learned to play with the other children — they smile and get into mischief like children everywhere.

We have made many friends among the moms, the children and the workers. We have met a number of the villagers and learned about the Romanian culture. I would encourage you to pray about signing up for a short-term mission trip to ROL and to pray that the Lord will speak to your heart about returning for a longer period of time. Flexibility is a must and a sense of humor helps. We have learned that there is definitely a place for folks who have raised their own children and would like to contribute to the lives of needy children and women. ●



Kris & Danielle Jaje

Blowing the Whistle on Modern Day Slavery



**I am not for sale. You are not for sale.
No one should be for sale.**

These words seem like obvious truths to most of us. But in the world today there are 27 million people who have been bought and sold (according to various official sources). They've been sold by family, by friends, by criminals and gangs. They are held by force, fraud, or coercion, some in physical chains and others in mental chains. The exploitation of these men, women, and children knows no bounds. From east to west, in the poorest

and richest of nations, slaves are in our communities as domestic workers, as women in brothels, as laborers, and even in our supermarkets and malls as the harvesters

and makers of some of the products we buy. When we look at the situation, it can seem overwhelming because we don't know how to help or where to start.

This past summer, we had the opportunity to attend an excellent series of

education and training courses with the anti-human trafficking organization Not For Sale. It was there that we were inspired to create an awareness campaign for the European Soccer Cup 2012, which is being held in Ukraine and Poland in June. It is common for the sexual exploitation of women to increase when large sporting events

such as this are happening, and through our campaign we want to offer you the opportunity to come alongside our work in Poland to help

bring awareness about this issue, pray for those being held in slavery, and see God move as He sets captives free.

Our dream is to have one or two teams, filled with men and women who want to learn to do right, seek justice, defend the oppressed,

take up the cause of the fatherless, and plead the case of the widow (Isaiah 1:17). We are seeking

Christians who believe that all humans are created in the image of God, who believe that no one should be forced into sexual exploitation, who desire to learn more about human trafficking, and who want to bring awareness and action to their communities when

they return home.

If you are interested in joining us this June in Poland as part of our campaign, or if you're simply interested in learning more about this issue and how you can help end modern day slavery, please contact us at krisanddanielle@gmail.com or the International Messengers office for more details.

You have the opportunity to be a trumpet sounder, a whistleblower, a modern day abolitionist - part of the generation who stands up and says, **"NO ONE should be for sale!"** ●



We are in need of vans for our missionaries to use while they are home on furlough. Often their schedules require 7-10,000 miles as they travel to see family, friends and churches. Our missionaries are extremely grateful when we can help by providing them with a family-worthy, dependable van. If you know of someone or an organization that is interested in donating a van, would you let them know of our need?



Any questions about van donations should be directed by e-mail to office@im-usa.org or call 800-243-6763.



Kim Huffman

The Blessing of Discipleship

Blessed to be a blessing! This is who we are. God has chosen us and adopted us! He forgives us and loves us! Why does He do all this for us? So we can be comfortable? So we can have an "easy" life? No, we are incredibly blessed so we can be a blessing.

What does it look like to be a blessing? There are thousands of ways, but here is one example. All around me in Odessa, Ukraine, are young women, believers, who have no one to teach them what it means to live for Christ. One such young lady is "Sasha." (Not her real name.) She is the first in her family to become a believer. She attends church and hears sermons each week, and though that inspires her, she doesn't know how to really apply what she hears. So Sasha watches other believers in church to see how they live, hoping to find answers. Since many of her fellow believers don't know what it means to live for Christ, she ends up more confused. They are looking for answers too!

She needs someone to commit to spend time with her each week, someone to give her personal attention, someone to teach her biblical truth, and someone to show her how to live it. What Sasha needs is discipleship. I began spending time with Sasha and became her "spiritual parent" or mentor. It doesn't mean I have the gift of teaching or the gift of knowledge. It

simply means I'm available and ready to serve her by talking about personal things and my walk with God.

Sasha comes to my home every week. Over a cup of tea, we talk about how her week is going with her classes and her mom, her friends and her enemies. We talk about what we've read in the Bible and what we are learning. We talk about our joys and celebrate them. We talk about our failures and how to handle them. We talk about how to serve other people in love. We find truth in God's Word to give hope and encouragement and direction for the coming week. We pray for each other.



her faith. She actively serves in her church. She is living for Christ!

This is discipleship. It is not easy. It requires faith, commitment, transparency, time and energy. But it is more than worth it! In fact, I've found as I've discipled Sasha to "be a blessing," I'm the one who has been blessed!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . ." Matthew 28:19 ●

God is Big...continued from page 21

This past spring, the days warmed and more answers to prayer swirled. As we cleared land and tore down a building, youth and young adults seemed to magically appear. They worked long and they worked hard.

Tim and Jim, from the States, burst into Bircii for two weeks in July. They brought sweat power, big funding from their teeny church, and more prayer. We watched and worked as a pavilion took shape.

Two weeks later, another team came. Ed, Irene, Jan and Bradley added more muscle power, and their prayer teams worked from the States contacting the Highest Power. We finished the first half of the fence, smoothed out uneven ground, and built a storage unit. Crafts, which were worked on in Iowa for months in advance, were finalized and we meshed details together for the Bible Club.

Then finally, our VBS-type Bible Club began. We didn't know what to expect, but we prayed. Some of you prayed, too.

The kids poured in. The first day we had 44 children, and by Friday 72 children filled the benches. We fed them with bread, jam and tea. Then we gave them eternal food woven together with crafts, games and love.

In the midst of the younger kids, our youth group shone. These youth, whom Heather and Pavel have worked with for 4-1/2 years, jumped in. Some were up front, and some were in the back, but all seemed to sparkle with Christ.

When club wasn't going, the ministry land continued to hop. In one corner adult men played soccer. In the other, young girls threw Frisbees. On the right, the youth group played volleyball, and through the trees came the sound of those giggles.

We like the look of this prayer dance. You would, too. Keep praying. ●

Stenia Shaded That We May Be Worthy Representatives of Our Lord



Sometimes when we travel we find surprises. On our last trip to the States, we had an interesting situation. Some of you know that our son, Luke, is a pilot, and we have flight benefits allowing us to fly standby for less money. Often we are able to fly first-class on international flights. We see this as God's gift for us – He continues to bless us through our children.

On our last trip from Amsterdam to Atlanta, we were sitting in first-class waiting for departure when a smiling older American man stopped to greet us as well as all the other passengers in first-class. I said to Moner, "We need to learn from him." Moner asked if I knew who he was. I didn't. Moner recognized him

as former President Jimmy Carter! Moner said, "If I were President, I would do the same."

I was impressed. President Carter knew who he was and who he represented. He was eager in reaching out to others. In a similar way, we as Christians have an identity in Christ. We need to remember this so our actions can have great influence. It has motivated us to keep this in mind as we meet people wherever we go, that we may be worthy representatives of our Lord.

On May 23, I was invited to show my paintings at a "Faith and Art" exhibition at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. It reminded me that it was not about me and art, but an opportunity to represent Christ. I like to explain the spiritual meaning of my art to people who see the paintings. Criticism used to easily intimidate me, but now because of my confidence in who I am in Him, the criticism of others does not discourage me.

The next week we visited Moner's parents and other family members in Dallas and Colorado. Moner's parents are in Dallas during the turmoil in

Syria, but anxious to return to the ministry there, although 93 years old.

We thank God for the heritage of our families, most of whom are active in reaching others for Christ (Moner's family especially reaching out to Arabs). But we identify with the Apostle Paul's attitude about his former confidence in the flesh before he met Christ. He had much of which to be proud, but he now considered them rubbish. His passion was to know Christ and make Him known, pressing toward the goal for which Christ called him. Those who are born into a Muslim family are automatically Muslims, but this is not true of Christians. To become a true Christian, we must make that personal decision. John 1:12-13 says *"To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."*

I am privileged to be a child of the King of Kings. I will keep this in mind as I prepare for a "Faith and Art" conference in Warsaw October 15. While I am there, I hope to gather artists who want to use their gift for God's glory. By the grace of God we are His representatives. Pray that we will be found faithful. ●



Threefold Cord



Karla Thiessen

Just Past the 3rd Billboard...

When I met Maria she had five children, and was often crossing the same railroad track I was when walking her son home from school. I never saw her drunk, or smoking, and she seemed to be very consistent about getting her oldest son to school. After all the years we've been

working with the Roma community here in Kosice, Slovakia, her determination gave me the desire to get to know her.

Her husband was in jail at the time, and she was renting one room. It was heated by wood put in the bottom of a small one-burner iron cook stove. She left the door open which filled the room with smoke. Each child was dirty, and they all shared one couch for sleeping, but she didn't

complain. In fact, she seemed thankful to be on her own with the children.

I helped her a few times by taking shoes, clothes, a loaf of bread, blankets, and even shoeboxes filled with gifts at Christmastime. But then I stopped seeing her. I figured she'd moved, and just kept praying I'd see her again.

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Tom Clark

The Truth Project: Changing Lives in Romania

I was first introduced to "The Truth Project" (TTP) by one of our supporters while on home assignment four years ago. The Truth Project is a 13-lesson DVD series produced by Focus on the Family teaching biblical worldview. It began to have an immediate impact on my life. I began to evaluate situations, relationships and things in my life by first asking myself the question, "What is true?" and, "What does God's Word say?"

This past year I had the opportunity to show *The Truth Project* (TTP) to a small group of English-speaking Romanians here in Bucharest, Romania. Two of the young men in the study (in their late 20's) have been struggling with their work situations.

Dan is a software engineer. He had a job but was not getting paid or only getting half pay. That is not uncommon

in Romania. Owners commonly do this to employees. They make the employee wait until a project is completed and he is paid before he pays his employees. Dan hadn't been paid for two months and was frustrated. He shared this just as we were going to watch lesson 11 of TTP. Lesson 11 is on labor and that we were "created to create." This helped Dan in his job search. He began to look for a job that would enable him to use the talents and skills that God had given him. We were praying for him as a group. In less than two weeks he had seven interviews and was offered a new job. And then within the first two months of that new job, one of the companies he had applied to called and wanted to hire him. This was an even better opportunity for him to use his creative skills. He is enjoying the challenges of this new job and is learning a lot. He is attempting to be the employee that God is calling him to be. We praise God that even in these

hard times God cannot only provide a new job, but even two new jobs.

David was working as a salesman of children's clothes. Within a month of watching lesson 11 he was awarded employee of the month at his company. He was asked to begin training as a manager trainee. While he has had a setback in that pursuit (due to a managerial change in his department) he is still laboring at working as God would want him to and trusting in Him for the future. Our group continues to pray for him and encourage him.

For the past year I have been in charge of this translation project. Currently we have nine of the lessons translated and six of the lessons subtitled. I hope to have the project completed sometime early next year.

For more information contact me at Tom@tjcmmission.org. ●

Darlis Anderson

2011 Staff Conference



Our annual International Messengers Staff Conference was held in the Hotel Javorny, tucked up on a hillside by Drienica, Slovakia, on April 1-3, 2011. This hotel is in a mountain recreation area called Drienica-Lysa, in the Čergov Mountains, but the snow was already gone and the ski resorts were quiet. There was nothing quiet around or in the hotel, however, because it was filled with our annual IM celebration! We had a record attendance of 173 this year at our conference - 128 adults, 17 teens, 28 children, and a dog! At any one time there were sweet conversations, big hugs, intense prayer times, treats and good coffee, rich times of singing worship songs together, and solid teaching times in God's Word. We had more ministry partner guests join us this year than usual, and it was a pleasure to get to know them, care for them, and serve them. God's hand of blessing and protection was obvious and we thank Him!

We were challenged by Ed Kleiman's love and passion for Scripture and prayer. His messages were entitled Devote Yourselves to Prayer!, Suffering for God's Glory and our Good, and Doing God's Work, God's Way – Pray! He also led a Concert of Prayer Saturday evening which was a quality time together. Steve Smith, pastor of the Albert City, Iowa, Evangelical Free Church, also shared powerfully from the Scriptures and his life. His messages were entitled "Practicing the Presence of God at all Times," "Sharing the Gospel Come Hail or High Water," and "Teach us to Pray." He also led us in a communion service on Sunday morning which was a great time of reflection. Thanks, men, for all your work in putting together these

messages that ministered to our hearts! Many folks came to care for our staff by providing wonderful music/worship times in a variety of styles, great children and teen ministry programs, nutritional advice, homeschooling and international schooling advice, haircuts (where they could give their wishes to their stylist in English – what a treat!), one-on-one counseling sessions, and information on serving orphans and vulnerable people. Brian Thompson, director for Europe of The God's Story Project and an instructor with Simply the Story, was our special guest and gave two presentations on how to evangelize and disciple by accurate, engaging storytelling. This method works great in a culture where people are either illiterate or preferred oral learners. His demonstrations were intriguing and there was considerable interest because many of our staff deal with this demographic in their ministries.

Saturday morning's women's meeting, "Be Better, Not Bitter", was a great mixture of conversation, laughter, learning, and prayer. Darlis had surveyed the concerns of the women for this time and together with Deborah Sharp, they put together a panel that addressed various questions about discouragement, spiritual depression, lack of contentment, and practical methods to deal with those issues. The men were captivated hearing Moner

Shaded share during the Sunday men's meeting about his perspective on the ongoing uprising in North Africa and the Middle East. Moner's rich heritage in Syria and his Arabic language skills gave them a whole new look at the cry for bread and freedom from this region of the world. He also gave them some thoughts on prophecy and how it may be being fulfilled before their eyes.

Our very special thanks go to our IM staff in Slovakia, Brad and Karla Thiessen, their boys, and co-workers Annette Berger Anna Klemm, for all the hard work, long hours, sacrifice of family time, and stress that they took on to host the conference in such a well-organized, gracious way. We know it's a huge job and we're so thankful! We praise Him for all He did through our time together, for the rest, healing, relationship restoration, ministry refocus, and encouragement that happened during those 72 hours. Thank you, God! ●





Heather Nicolae

Invest in People

As I drive through the shoe-string villages of southern Romania my heart aches for the multitudes of lost people. There are few evangelical churches in this area of the country and most people who call themselves Orthodox truly believe that they are fine for eternity if they cross themselves when they pass by a church and have icons in their home.

Let's be honest. There are very few of us who are called to be evangelists to the masses. We see the numbers of lost people in our world and feel overwhelmed and quite frankly believe the lie that we can't do anything about it. Unfortunately, the sad reality is that the majority of people on this planet will die without knowing Christ. However, we have to look at what Jesus did. He knew

the most effective ministry would be to a few who would "yield a crop a hundred times more than was sown" (Luke 8:8). He concentrated on the twelve disciples.

In the past few years Jesus has given me a passion to invest in those that He has put around me and to share the gospel with them. It is very time-consuming and every day I must make choices about priorities in my life. My house is no longer as clean as it used to be and I am OK with that now. The garden and yard don't look as great they used to and I am OK with that now. But my kids are happier and are doing better in school and like having "fun mom" much more often than "serious mom." Adolescents and teenagers are in our home all the time. Kids and youth stop by for help with their homework, when they need first aid, when they are hungry but don't have the courage to say it, and even just to talk or play a game of chess or

ping-pong with my husband Pavel. We do a lot of English tutoring in our ministry and this has provided many opportunities to get to know youth as well as some of their parents.

Another way of investing in the youth is through working with them. Pavel hires the boys to work alongside him in farming and other projects. Many conversations about life, values and spiritual issues take place during a 12-hour workday and they learn a work ethic too.

Reaching the lost is not a hopeless task. Together with our Lord it is victory one-by-one. God is working in the hearts of people around us and He is waiting for each one of us to be courageous enough to intentionally invest in people and share our relationship with Christ. Whatever is our sphere of influence there is a need for the love of Christ to reach out and make disciples for the Kingdom. ●



Finally, this fall, I was waiting for my son in the store near our home, and I saw her from afar. She was pushing a baby carriage and had three kids in tow. They came right up to where I was, and then she noticed me. I greeted her and she seemed very happy to see me again. I asked where they're living, and told her I'd like to come visit her. She explained they'd built a shack near the edge of the forest when her husband had been out of jail and then told me how to get there:

"Go to...(a development) and drive along the main road until the third billboard on the left. At that point, go into the bushes and you'll see our place."

She shared it was better for them there, as no one bothered them. I asked if they'd lived through the winter there yet, and she said yes, but this year would be harder to get wood, as she has a small baby again.

Please pray for us as we share Jesus with Maria, and others. We're thankful for the opportunity to live here in Slovakia, and work among the Roma, most of whom are very needy. We know if Maria knew Jesus her life would be hopeful. Our Life Art Project distributes food, clothing, and wood, and is teaching sewing at a home for battered women, and woodworking for men who want to be employable. ●

Naomi Hale Hugs from God



God is evident everywhere, and it brings me great joy to be consciously aware of His presence. There are unique moments or situations though, that are so obviously orchestrated by God, that it feels almost as if He is reaching out with a real hug.

I experienced one of those times this past summer while my family and I were on a summer home assignment. To tell the story well though, I have to back up about 11 years...at that time I had laser surgery to correct my eyesight and I had been pleased with the results up until about one year ago, when one of my eyes started to deteriorate. It was something I could live with, but I certainly missed the freedom of sight without limits.

While back in the States this summer we were planning about a one-month stay in the city where I had originally had the laser surgery done. I called the office and the kind receptionist assured me that I could come in for an appointment with the doctor, but the next available date would be the following month. My heart sank, as I knew we wouldn't be in the area that long and I told her as much. She responded that occasionally people cancel their appointments, and if that were to happen, she would give me a call. I felt an unusual peace and told her that

I would pray about such an opportunity — if God had the laser surgery in mind for me, it would work out. I hung up the phone and not even 15 minutes had passed before the receptionist called back. Her first words were, "Wow! Prayer really works! Someone just called to cancel and you now have an appointment for next week."

After consulting with the doctor the following week, he was very hopeful that an "enhancement" surgery on my bad eye could indeed fix it, but there was a problem. He was all booked up and didn't know of any openings in the near future. He said, "The best time for you to have this surgery would be tomorrow! Because you still need to have time to come in for a post-op," although we both knew that would be impossible because of his schedule.

But with God all things are possible! I walked to the reception desk from the doctor's office and she looked up at me and said, "How would you like to come in for surgery tomorrow? We just had a cancellation!" I was stunned and amazed, what an incredible God we serve!

Another issue regarding the surgery was the cost. An expense like that certainly wasn't in our budget. We spent the

evening before the surgery with friends whom we hadn't seen in over 18 years. I shared with them how excited I was about the way God had arranged everything so wonderfully for me to be able to have eye surgery the next day.

The next morning, as I was preparing to go to the clinic, we got an unexpected phone call from our friend we had visited the previous night. He said that God had laid on their hearts the desire to bless us in some way and they wanted to send a check to cover the whole procedure! So, I went in for the surgery and now I can see better out of my previous bad eye than I can out of the one I thought was so good.

The whole experience left me with the feeling of being hugged by God — He so perfectly worked this out in my life just because — I didn't really need it — but He gave it to me anyway. Just like we as parents love to surprise our children with gifts they don't have to have, but certainly want. What a joy it is to serve such a loving, heavenly Father! ●



Mark Huffman

Are You a Dog or a Cat?

Have you heard the difference between dog theology and cat theology? A dog says: "You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me. You must be God." A cat says: "You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me. I must be God."



What is YOUR theology?

None of us would pray this clearly: "You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me, I must be God." But when we look at our behavior, we can see into our hearts and what our theology really is. Am I the focus or is God the focus? I am afraid many of us and our churches have cat theology.

This is very true of the church in Ukraine where I live. There are many churches in Ukraine that have been blessed by God, yet their focus is themselves. I know this is true of the church in America too.

How has the church been acting? Let's look at some interesting numbers. According to JoshuaProject.net, there are about 16,696 different people groups or nations. (Don't confuse nations, people groups or ethnic groups, with countries.)

About 9,950 (58.7%) of the nations are reached with the Gospel. About 6,889 (41.3%) of them are NOT reached. This is about 41% of the population of the world (about 2.8 billion people) with no viable Gospel witness! In 2,000 years we have only reached about 59% of the world with the Gospel. Coca-Cola and McDonalds have probably done better.

The American church spends more than 95% of its money on itself and less than 5% goes to missions. Judging by their behavior, what is the church's theology? Cat theology, I must be God!

I don't have statistics on the churches where I live, but things are probably even more cat-like here in Ukraine.

What are we doing about it? This is what International Messenger's Seaside Missionary Training Center (SMTC) is all about. We are helping the Eastern European church send missionaries. SMTC is a small, simple institute in Odessa, Ukraine, that is training and preparing missionaries from all around Eastern Europe. Since 2003 we have trained over 40 missionaries and church leaders and we have helped the Eastern European church send over 20 full-time missionaries.

Woof, woof? Or Meow, meow? What is YOUR theology? Really?

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

We need your help! If you would like more information or would like to help the Seaside Missionary Training Center in Odessa, Ukraine, please write to Mark Huffman, mhuffman.usa@gmail.com. ●



AMAZING BLESSINGS

God's providences
in the midst of
Bella's cancer.

- God helped our children find the cancer, even before the doctor found the tumor.
- Most children are diagnosed with stage four cancer. Bella is only in stage three, not four.
- It is an aggressive cancer and God so graciously had her diagnosed plus her first round of treatment within a week!
- We were able to start our journey from Poland to here in just a little over a week. God sent people to fulfill all of our responsibilities.
- Many precious believers sent money to pay completely for us to get here.
- Our children's friends in Hawaii have put us up in their homes. What a testimony to the body of Christ!
- We had not even seen little Bella since she was born, now we have the extreme privilege to spend time with her. What a precious gift!
- Many people have encouraged us daily with emails and notes.

Jan McKinnon Journey of Faith



In the Bible, Hebrews 11 is called the chapter of faith. It talks about the godly men and women who walked before us and describes their journey of faith. They didn't always understand where God wanted them to go but trusted Him, by faith. Hebrews 11:13 and 39 both say, in their lifetime they didn't "receive the promise," yet by faith trusted God.

As I walk on my faith journey it isn't always clear what the journey will look like and I find there is fear of the unknown! Why do I always want to feel settled and safe? Can I have an eternal perspective no matter what journey Jesus chooses for me?

Another question I have had to ask about my faith journey is what will it cost? Today, I am in Hawaii! One would think that is a great place to be, and in some ways it is very nice here. But the reason we're here is because our precious 18-month-old granddaughter, Isabella Pollard, has cancer.

Cancer is such an ugly word! We are in the middle of this battle and I wonder, "Do I have the stuff that God has taught me in my past to trust Him through this and come out the other end stronger, more dependent and victorious? Will I be a testimony of Jesus? How can I encourage my precious children, Isabella's parents, to know God is in control and will carry them also?"

We have seen several amazing blessings along the way. The main one is that Bella is faring well; she has no emotional pain that is usually attached to a cancer diagnosis. It was her parents and grandparents who cried when she lost her hair and when little bruises showed up all over her legs and arms. We are the ones who cry when she sees little children but must walk away so she doesn't catch something. We are trusting God will heal her.

What will the end look like? Is this purposeful suffering? On this journey with Bella, God has used people to make His comfort known to me. They have walked before me on this cancer journey and really understand the pain. They have listened. They have prayed. They have sent God's Word in e-mails or notes to keep my perspective directed upward because the "horizontal" realities do not seem bearable.

Hebrews 12 goes on to talk about that cloud of

witnesses and running the race. That is the challenge in my life and I would like to challenge you also to live by faith. On my faith journey I have learned so much about my precious, wonderful, merciful, Savior. In the end I want to be able to tell my faith journey in a way that gives hope, rooted in the reality of God's presence and love. ●





Terry Mayberry Stateside for a Time

There comes a time in most American missionaries' lives of service when they have to return to the States for a time. God's work takes place all over the world, even in America. So I believe the key is to look to God for ministry, not to our own desire to be in one country or another. God is working all around us and if we are open to His leading He will use us wherever we happen to be.

We have been in the States since March of 2010 and God has seen to all of our needs and has opened doors for ministry here in Libby, Montana. He has given us just as many opportunities to serve here as we had when we were serving with the River of Life in Romania. God has directed us in serving as children's workers and small group leaders at a church here. I (Terry) have had the privilege of delivering the Sunday message to the elderly at the care center and we continue to serve as the host couple at the Mountainside Missionary Training Center. We also volunteer at the Pregnancy Care Center in Libby as Director and as a Bible study leader. God has certainly blessed us with ministry work here and it keeps us very busy.

So what is your part in helping your missionaries when they are stateside; how can you help them continue their service even when they are off the "field?"



Ministry at the Pregnancy Care Center

Keep them in your prayers. They need your prayers to get them through the various trials of "home assignment."

Continue the financial support you have given. It is often more expensive to be in the States than at their foreign ministry and bills

will keep coming in regardless of where they are.

Encourage them. They may feel out of place and have a longing to be back in the work they have been doing overseas and it can be discouraging for them to be stateside. Let them know they are appreciated and that you value the work they are doing whether it is in a foreign land or in the States.



Ministry in Romania

It is a privilege for us as missionaries to serve wherever God puts us and it is a blessing to partner with those of you who see the value and sig-

nificance of the work He does though all of us as a team. ●

"I learned the joy of telling someone about my Lord Jesus and the importance of opening their heart to him. I persisted and kept asking the questions and listening and then leading them in prayer to accept His gift of salvation."

Martha - Poland

"It is still hard to put into words what I took away from Romania. I feel as though I gained a whole new family. My life is forever changed. I came home with more of a servant's heart...it just feels right and good when my thoughts are on others instead of myself. My struggle will be blocking out the trappings and temptations we have here in the US because they can quickly distract me from where my thoughts should be, which is on those who don't know Him and who don't have hope."

Julie - Romania

Laura Rechkemmer

Is it Real or is it Virtual?



Let me start by saying, "It's real." A definition of virtual: *Existing in essence or effect though not in actual fact.* A definition of real: *Being or occurring in fact, true, and actual; not imaginary.*

In today's society, the majority of information we receive is through the computer. We get information about politics, world and national news, disasters, wars, and other situations. We get news about family and friends through Facebook and e-mail...and even information about people we haven't heard from in years.

Whenever we want to know something, we type the topic into Google and within minutes we are experts. The point is that information doesn't come from people who are physically present and we don't experience things ourselves, but we experience it through the computer.

We have gone from people experiencing real things in real time to people experiencing things virtually. People hunt and people play Duck Hunt. People go to the bowling alley and people bowl at home with the Wii. People go to war where death is real and people play war video games and no one dies.

As we have entered this virtual world, I believe there has been a disconnect and the line between virtual and reality has been blurred. What we experience through video games, computers, and TV shows is

virtual (existing in essence or effect though not in actuality). I think we forget that some of what we see on TV and on the internet is reality. People die in war-ravaged countries, there are millions of orphans, and disasters happen. People on the news, in videos, and on the internet are not actors in sitcoms or characters in books. A lot of information is absorbed and treated as virtual information. The computer is turned off, therefore the situation is turned off.

This boy is real. He exists and so does his situation. I experienced seeing his reality. Andre is twelve and living in Ukraine without parents. He lives in an institution and his caretakers are abusive. He is smaller than most kids, so they abuse him. In this real photo, there are several bruises on his face. In just a few years he will leave the orphanage. He won't have a home, food, or anyone to care for him. This is real!

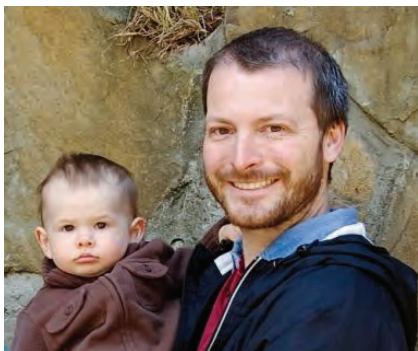
I have pondered why we watch the world and people struggle. People are in desperate situations, disasters occur, wars ravage nations, there are millions of orphans who roam, sex trafficking is happening, and all are thirsty for the

love of Christ. We have a front row seat to this because of internet and TV.

I have concluded that it is all virtual; it must only exist in essence, but not in fact. If it were real and not imaginary our response would be different. Wouldn't it? If people were suffering, living in desperation, searching for help, and dying of thirst for the love of Christ wouldn't we do something? Wouldn't we pour out all of our resources of time, money, and talent to help just one person move out of this state of desperation? So it must just be virtual; it must only exist in essence, but not in fact.

Back to my original statement, "It's real" — the question is what will your response be to those in need? ●





David Beger

Biblical Education Wherever You Are

Often people in ministry feel that there are no available options to further education or gain wanted training. Many people I have talked with want more biblical education, but see little opportunity to do so while serving overseas. This should not be! For each person the need is slightly different. Sometimes the missionary's duties have changed and the person suddenly feels less than adequate to deal with the new responsibilities. Sometimes it is simply someone who wants the biblical education without the high costs of seminary. We often connect people with options that fit their specific needs and help them to obtain those options.

One Tool to Help

We recently implemented a tool to help those interested in a higher level of biblical education. Currently, we have a video-driven distance learning curriculum which is equivalent to the first year of a

Master of Divinity program. This is for non-accredited personal learning only, but this gives us a new option of higher biblical education at an affordable cost. For now, the curriculum is only in English, but we began translating it into Polish this summer.

Understanding the Pitfalls

Distance learning definitely has its good points, but be aware of the pitfalls as well. This is not a discipleship program. People engaged in this form of biblical learning should also be active in a church and putting into practice what they learn. This distance learning curriculum is only one of many tools available to meet a specific need. And if even one person wants training, we should have the tools to put into their hands.

Polish Interest

We are in the process of translating this first year of seminary into Polish. This is a daunting and expensive task. If you are interested in becoming part of this project, please contact me: thebegers@yahoo.com

Sign Up Now

If you are interested in furthering your biblical education without leaving your ministry, sign up today! If our distance learning curriculum is not a good fit for you, we may have something else that is. ●



"God has shown me the importance of honesty, kindness and hospitality through this experience that I should use in all my encounters with others. He has taught me how my behavior and actions affect others' perception of all Christians and Jesus."

Connor (age 16) - Czech Republic

"From the beginning with IM and camps, I have grown in my desire and need to share the Good News. It has led to my involvement and leadership of the Evangelism Committee in our church. It was a stimulus for beginning the Alpha Course in the church - a program similar to camps in that it provides a forum for talking about God and Christ that is low key, easy for sharing, and good for developing relationships."

Pat - Poland

Karla Thiessen

Reaching Refugees through Friendship



Their baby killed, the jailed young couple awaited probable death. God's plan had them released. Knowing the enemy could return, family money helped smuggle them out of the country. The truck driver told them to get out on a dark country road. Thinking they were finally in Germany, they walked to the police station in the nearest village to claim asylum. No one there spoke German. They were in Slovakia, but weren't sure even where that was. Without passports, it took months for the authorities to listen to their story and decide it was believable.

This couple, now our friends, have had two children born in Košice. I teach English to their son in grade two. Asked where he's from, he answers either Slovakia or The Congo. His family speaks three languages fluently. They walk or take the bus.

They often wish God had planted them somewhere French is spoken. But after applying for asylum, no move is allowed within Europe. So, they're learning Slovak. The Slovak government has helped with that.

That's where Word Art comes in. Our language school outreach opened in 1991. My husband teaches English. Slovaks who won't visit church will take English lessons. The English courses are accredited by the Slovak Ministry of Education.

When we started to have requests to teach Slovak to foreigners we hired teachers and had courses in Slovak accredited. The couple above was in Word Art's first class of refugees learning Slovak.

This year we have a new group of refugees from Somalia, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Cuba, and Iran, all places difficult to get to with the Gospel. We get to hear each student's story and pray for them. Many are Muslims we feel God's planted in Košice so we can share with them about Jesus. Some spend time with us outside of class. This year four of the men took the woodworking course offered through our non-profit organization, Life Art. Friendship evangelism takes time.

This year we've also had Libyan students at Word Art. They're

studying English with Brad because he's a native speaker. We never, in our wildest dreams, imagined that the former communist Czechoslovakia would afford us this opportunity to reach the world. Thankfully speaking truth, we see real needs. Each refugee has a horrendous story, and each one is here without their friends or family.

Please pray God will touch lives and draw people to Himself as we share about Jesus, who knows their names and stories. We're thankful God's not called us to do this work alone. Please consider partnering with us by praying for this work. If you would like to know more about Life Art or Word Art, please contact IM at office@im-usa.org. ●





Monika Shaded

An Instrument in the Hands of God

"...But we have this treasure in clay jars to show that its extraordinary power comes from God and not from us..." II Corinthians 4:7

I wanted to share a testimony of what God did recently during the art exhibit of my paintings in Pila, Poland. I was able to tell the invited guests (mostly unbelievers) about my creations and where the name for the art exhibit came from. I read a passage from Job 36:16, *"He is wooing you from the jaws of distress to a spacious place free from restriction, to the comfort of your table laden with choice food."* The reaction of the people truly surprised me. After the initial opening, I talked with a few people about God, who He is to them. They told me how important God is to them, and they appreciated what I had said. On the way back to Poznan we shared the gospel with Marlena, a woman my friend and I met at my art exhibit. We saw that she is a seeker – she had many questions and wanted to learn more about God. I called her and we will be meeting together to study the Bible.

For me it was an incredible experience – that we can be an instrument in the hands of God and He can use us to be a blessing to others, but also touch ourselves. God is not seeking perfect people, but those who are obedient to His will and attentive to His voice.



Also an important discovery for me was that God desires to use us in the gifts and talents that He gave us. He wants to touch other people through them. For a long time I had wrong thinking, that if I want to follow God, I need to reject painting and do things

that I do not like. Because what I did gave me joy, I thought that it was far from living a godly Christian life. I discovered that God desires us to be joyful and use the things that He gave us. When we are in His will, He will use these gifts for His purposes. I would like to encourage everyone:

standing in that place will not feel burdensome, but there is joy in knowing God and being in His great plan.

I learned that God can use art to speak to someone. I saw that the company of paintings and music (during the art exhibit there was a piano in the background) creates an atmosphere in which you can talk about deeper subjects. This creates an atmosphere to talk about God. Artists, I encourage you to have art exhibits and speak out!

Thank God for the privilege that I could work together with Him and I give Him glory for this work! ●

"God has really blessed me with another opportunity to serve with His church in Odessa. Not only did I get to share God's awesome good news with many who have never heard it, but I also learned some important things about ministry. I learned that if ministry is about giving myself for others on behalf of Christ, I must continually refresh and renew myself in Christ and His Word. I did not do this in Odessa and subsequently burned out my spirit. I must take care of my physical needs to ensure I can give my best for God. I did not get enough rest during this time of ministry, so by the end I was barely awake enough to function, let alone minister. These lessons will no doubt be useful as the Lord continues to use me."

Eric - Ukraine

Bob Hageman

Ministry in Radom, Poland



Greetings from Radom, Poland. We welcomed Ryan Eberhart back to our IM Ministry Team in January after he had finished training at IM's Mountainside Missionary Training Center. We have greatly enjoyed working with him. His enthusiasm for ministry is very encouraging for us.

Other encouragements for this year were three people from the camp ministry and two men from the homeless ministry who publicly declared their faith in Jesus by being baptized.

Our camp ministry this year included a Winter Youth Workshop in February, a Mini-English Workshop in July and our IM Summer Family Camp in August.

Our year-round ministries are Saturday English Reading/Bible Studies, Sunday Night Homeless Street Ministry, Tuesday Night Recovery Meeting for the Homeless and Addicted, and our Daily Street Ministry.

We invite you to join us this coming year by serving on a ministry team.

The Homeless Street and Recovery Ministry continues to grow. How many homeless there might really be is overwhelming. God continues to reveal the need for serving



this segment of society, especially after attending a funeral and seeing hopelessness on our street friends' faces.

While doing the Daily Street Ministry two years ago, we were convicted of the need to add first-aid help to the food, water, and friendship that we gave them and it has become a very important part of our ministry. Our hearts are broken when we see some of the wounds - not only the physical wounds, but also the wounds that can only be healed by knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord. It is these times that continue to reinforce why we are here and what God has called us to do, to share the love of Jesus.

We continue to pray for a Recovery Team from the States to minister with us in the year 2012, on the streets and also at the Sunday and Tuesday night meetings. The Recovery Team that came last year had a huge impact on this ministry and was also a great encouragement to us.

We take this opportunity to thank so many of you for your continued support - prayer, encouragement, financial, items for the street ministry, and so many "little things" that add so much. ●

The Radom, Poland Team:



**Bob & Vera Hageman,
Bernatka & Steve Snyder,
and Ryan Eberhart**

"Working with IM in Romania allowed me to meet some wonderful people of a land that has been foreign to me. Using Scripture as curriculum to teach English is a great method for sharing the Gospel. I am very evangelistic at heart and the work of this ministry truly resonated in my soul. I look forward to doing this again." Larry - Romania

"God really blessed me during this trip. I came into the trip not too happy about being there but left full of joy. The people there were wonderful and so easy to minister to. I made many new friends. It was super cool to see the people grow in Christ and to see seeds planted, grow, and a few even blossomed. I would recommend going on a trip like this. It was life changing."

Rachel (age 16) - Poland

Donation Information

If you would like the opportunity to give to our ministry, or if you have been blessed by the ministries of International Messengers and would like to participate in helping us to minister to others, you can use any of these options: Donation by check or EFT to IM is the most beneficial as 100% of your donation is received by us and there are no extra processing fees taken from your donation. Checks can be made payable to International Messengers and mailed to us at PO Box 618, Clear Lake, IA 50428. Using EFT your donation is automatically deducted from your bank account each month at no charge to you. To set up Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), contact our office.

If you would like to make donations online using a credit card, you can donate through JustGive or Network For Good. Both of these organizations are non-profit and all receipting is processed through them. Please note that these organizations keep a portion of the donation to cover the fees associated with processing credit cards, therefore IM does not receive 100% of your donation. To donate online go to www.im-usa.org and click on the **Donate** button. ●

"This was a life-changing experience for us. We would like to encourage couples, families and teens to have a great experience by participating in a short-term mission trip. It will stretch your faith and provide blessings you can't experience any other way. 'I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35b'"

Ed & Irene - Romania



God accomplished much through the willingness and heart of our staff and short-termers in 2011. We sent a total of 253 short-term workers and conducted 56 outreaches, as follows in the list at right:

2011 Short-Term Ministries Report

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2 Basketball/English Day Camps | 3 Men's Ministries |
| 3 Discipleship Camps | 1 Professional English Camp (Business) |
| 4 Encouragement Trips | 1 Soccer Camp |
| 2 English Day Camps | 2 Softball/English Camps |
| 3 English Language Camps | 1 Teachers' Workshop |
| 11 Family English Camps | 2 VBS/AWANA Ministries |
| 1 Horse Camp for Disabled Children | 2 Village and Care Home Ministries |
| 1 H.S. Senior Tutoring | 1 Women's Conference |
| 1 IM Staff Conference | 1 Women's Quilting Retreat |
| 1 International Med Students Retreat | 1 Women's Sewing Ministry |
| 8 Internships | 2 Youth with HIV/AIDS Camps |
| 1 Marriage Quest | |
| 1 Medical Ministry Trip | |

The average age of our short-termers in 2011 was 39.3 years old, and 68% of our short-termers were alumni. Our oldest short-termer was 78 and our youngest was 1-year old. We sent 10 pastors.

We give God all the glory for another blessed year!

Career Ministry Summary

in the various ministries listed below. There are 69 adults (19 full-time, 14 part-time, 18 regional representatives, 18 board members, plus many volunteers!) working with IM in North America to assist them in whatever ways they can.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ❖ Adult evangelism through Bible study and discipleship | ❖ Ministry to the homeless/addicts |
| ❖ Children/orphanage ministry | ❖ Missionary Training Centers |
| ❖ Church renewal ministry | ❖ Outreach to businessmen |
| ❖ Cooking class outreach | ❖ Planting and pastoring churches |
| ❖ Evangelism through English teaching | ❖ Post-orphanage outreach |
| ❖ Jail ministry | ❖ Roma ministry through adult education |
| ❖ Marriage and parenting outreach | ❖ Therapy using dogs and horses |
| ❖ Medical ministry | ❖ Translation of discipleship material |
| ❖ Men's accountability ministry | ❖ University student outreach |
| ❖ Ministry to children with AIDS | ❖ Women and children at risk ministry |
| ❖ Ministry to the Elderly | ❖ Youth Ministry |



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office@im-canada.ca

*Discipling the local church through training and sending – Calling the local church to **Ministry as a Way of Life***



Please cut along the dotted lines and mail to IM at the address below.

- ☐ I/we would like more information about IM's ministries planned in 2012.
- ☐ Please send me an application for short-term / long-term (circle one) involvement.
Please specify: _____
- ☐ I am an alumnus and would like to return to the following camp in 2012:

- ☐ Please send me the necessary paperwork.
- ☐ Please contact us about a construction team our church would like to send to Libby/Clear Lake.
- ☐ Please send me more information about IM's automatic donation program.
- ☐ I would like to financially support _____ \$_____ per month / quarter / year
- ☐ I am interested in receiving my receipts by e-mail.
- ☐ Please contact us about a vehicle we might have ready to donate to the mission.
- ☐ Please do not send me this annual International Messengers newsletter (continue to send individual missionary prayer letters).
- ☐ Please remove me from all newsletter and prayer letter lists.



PO Box 618
Clear Lake, IA 50428-0618
In Canada
151-32500 South Fraser Way
Suite #512
Abbotsford, BC V2T 4W1
CANADA

Comments: _____

Name: _____ Member # _____ Phone: (____) _____
(appears to the right of your name in address block)

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

CONSTRUCTION TEAMS NEEDED

International Messengers Home Office in Clear Lake Iowa has a need for spring, summer or fall construction teams to paint the building and 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.

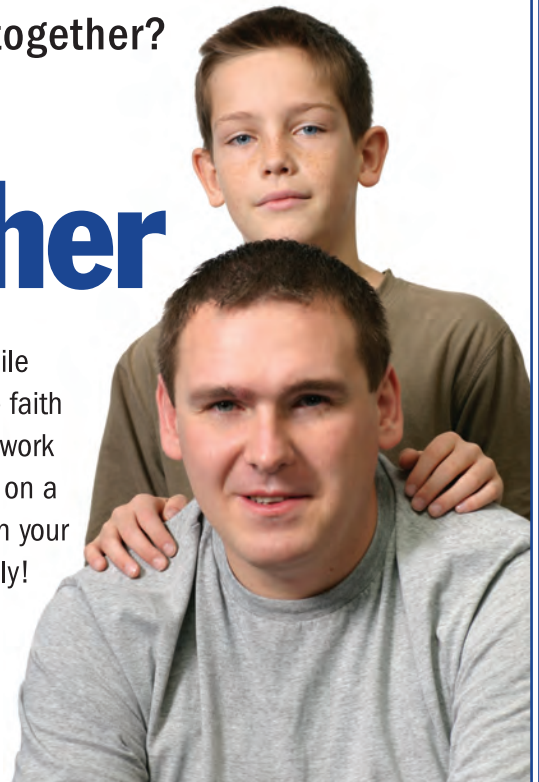
Call 800-243-6763



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!



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**HOW
MAY
WE
SERVE
YOU?**

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.

**Darwin Anderson,
President:**

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

**Brent Howland,
Vice President:**

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

Darlis Anderson:

Women's Ministry/Banquet Speaker

**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

Other:

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