



# *International Messengers* **Good News**

Fall 2014

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



## **OUR BACKDROP TO PERSEVERE**

Darwin Anderson

In Acts 1:3, after His resurrection, Jesus spent time talking to His disciples about the Kingdom. He knew them and what was coming so He used those days to teach them more about God's Kingdom. Our day to day gets shocking at times, the global scene can make us cower, and then there are the constant distractions of our flesh. We are exhorted to stay alert, to stand firm, and that a prize of eternal life awaits us if we endure to the end. But how? I think the Lord Jesus would say "Give yourself to what I created you for, THE KINGDOM." We must gain a basic understanding of the Kingdom of God to have courage, to have hope, to follow well, and to persevere.

We understand from Scripture that the Kingdom arrived on earth in Jesus Christ. It is the Gospel. We must be sure to live from the Gospel

daily, to rest in the grace that God has given us as His children. Our position as *right in His sight* was accomplished at the Cross and is meant to be our launch point to love Him, to love others, and from which to pursue righteousness in our lives.

The Kingdom is also what God wants to accomplish in us to make us into the image of His Son. He wants us to be mirrors of His heart

and character to a doubting audience around us. But what about what He has allowed to happen to me, what He has seemingly brought into my path? How do I follow if I don't trust? Isaiah 53 tells us that the beating, the whipping, the crushing, the stripping and the shame-filled hanging of Jesus on a cross was



actually in my place. Because of His great mercy and love God was pleased to put all of this on His only Son. What more could He have done to prove

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*Our Backdrop ...continued from page 1*

His character and love? The Gospel affirms our love and trust of God so we can grow through difficult stuff.

God's Kingdom is also His will to use us to love the lost, bring them the Gospel and make them disciples right in the middle of an active rebellion against Him. This work of God through us gets our eyes off of ourselves and gives meaning to the mundane as well as the fearful parts of our lives. He is passionate about the lost. I was boarding a plane recently, not thinking about much as I waited in the jetway. The LORD reminded me that He knew each of the seven men ahead of me and that He knew them from before the world began and had knit them together in their mother's womb. I was struck with how intimately He knows each person on this planet. No wonder He chases us for reconciliation and for more relationship, more trust. No wonder He takes no joy in the death of the wicked or in bringing affliction to men in this life. No wonder He records our tears and grieves when His loved ones die. He is not willing that any would perish but that all would come to repentance. This is the sovereign, loving God who thinks of us thousands of times each day and commands us out to the needs of the lost and the church around us.

And finally the Kingdom is yet to come. God has prepared a place for us to serve Him, to see Him clearly and worship Him, and to live eternally without our sin. This reality is meant to purify our lives and help us endure to the end. We live with the understanding that our days here have consequence for eternity and we will be judged by our Lord.

It is this understanding of the King and His Kingdom that helps us stay ready to serve expensively and to find the cost to be well worth the sacrifice. This agenda of His is meant to overlay ours to bring us life too. My willingness to GO and to endure in GOING is worthy worship. These truths are the backdrop of our perseverance in Him. Matthew 6:33 reminds us, *"And He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for Him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern."* ●

*Darwin & Darlis Anderson live in Clear Lake, Iowa. Darwin serves as President of IM.*

# OFF-SCRIPT



Brent Howland

Have you ever had a really excellent plan that simply didn't work? That describes our trip to Romania. We prepared thoroughly for the ministry, but at every turn God had something else in mind. He also corrected a lot of my wrong ideas about how I would be used by Him; His main point seemed to be that He was in charge and I was supposed to follow.

Isaiah 55:9 fits perfectly to describe the camp and the lessons God was teaching me: *For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so **my ways are higher than your ways** and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*

**My Plan:** Lead an Evangelistic Family English Camp. We would share Christ with unbelievers who came from life-stages similar to our own.

**God's Plan:** Instead of families, God brought about ten young women from a shelter for victims of sex-trafficking.

**My thought:** "I can't connect with these women!! I'm old (compared to them). I'm a man. I've never been victimized. I don't know their language. There's no common ground. This won't work!"

**God's Response:** "Just be faithful. I can make this work." God knit our hearts together with these ladies as we taught English, shared our faith-stories, read the Bible, ate together, and played games. A highlight was the talent night when the affirmation was so strong and encouraging that it brought several of the ladies to tears.

**My Wisdom:** "Since it's raining, we better change our plans for the outdoor 'Gospel Night' activities."

**God's Wisdom:** *Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell... Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain...* (James 5:17-18). When we opened our eyes after praying, the rain was done—a miracle from the Lord!

The Lord seems to really love taking me off my script as a way of graciously teaching me to trust Him more, even when His ideas seem terribly foreign to me. And I'm learning to believe it's truly good that **His ways are far above—and far better than—mine.** ●

*Brent & Tammy Howland live in Mason City, Iowa, with their two boys. Brent is the Vice President of International Messengers.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I learned that God's strength is what we need for successful ministry. When I was depleted of my own strength, God supplied. It was remarkable as I experienced His sustaining energy, when I knew I didn't have anything left. I also learned it's not about me or my comfort, or my way of doing things. Obedience to the leadership was top priority -- without complaint or offering suggestions. I learned to put myself aside and be OK with that." Ellen - Poland





# GOD OPENS DOORS

Czarek Dabrowski

Through our many years of ministry we have learned one very important lesson. God opens doors, provides opportunities, and builds bridges to enable us to preach the Gospel.

Over the years God has helped us reach out to many people in our city including students, social workers, teachers, and others. We particularly appreciate the cooperation of the Centre for Social Assistance. They are willing to provide children and families for our camps. They also use a variety of meetings, lectures, and workshops that we offer them.



Christian scouting is also a really interesting way to touch the lives of children and youth. There are always more people who want to be involved, and it works a lot like discipleship.

God is always faithful, especially for Family Camps. Every year, new people come to camp who want to know God and study His Word. This year, a family was sent to camp by Social Assistance—a mother of three, with many problems. We saw how God helped her and her children. She has a 12-year-old son named Dominik. From the beginning, I was concerned about Dominik. One night I started to talk to him and learned more about his situation. At home, Dominik was allowed to stay up and watch horror movies until 2:00 a.m., thus, he had trouble sleeping at night. I offered to pray for him. He replied that he did not believe in God, but I could try. “It certainly cannot hurt,” he said. While I prayed for Dominik to be able to sleep peacefully, I thought, “God, now you have to work, so that faith will be born in the

heart of this young boy.” The next morning before breakfast he told me he slept until 8:00 a.m.! He said, “I believe in God now, because He answered prayer.” Since that conversation with Dominik, God has put love and compassion in my heart for him. We talked and prayed together a few more times, and he asked Jesus to help him.

Our prayers are heard by our Heavenly Father. In fact, He is waiting for them! Please pray for...

- Dominik, his mother, Anna, and his sisters to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- God to use our family in the ministry of reaching new souls for His kingdom.
- The Royal Rangers Scouting ministry. As we develop this ministry, may children and young people grow in the knowledge of the power of the Risen Christ.
- Our financial support. ●

*Czarek, Ewa, and their children live and serve in Gorzow, Poland.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

“I have been challenged to invest more of my time and resources into serving others outside the sphere of my normal daily life.” Michael – Poland





## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I have seen the beauty of men and women coming from various walks of life and places and working as a team with common goals and plans. I have seen the eagerness with which our inexperienced teaching was received, and I have grown to appreciate the Slovak love for life and for knowledge."

Linda – Slovakia

"Serving a national church's outreach efforts was a privilege. It is amazing that God would preserve my life so I could have this opportunity. The new friends, fellow team members and national believers and seekers are my reward. I am so grateful that technology makes continuing and deepening these friendships inexpensive. I look forward to catching the wave of what God is doing in this part of the world."

Verna – Poland

# LESSONS LEARNED

Kay F. Dunn

Jessica and I had fifteen children in our class at the Family Camp in Romania. All the children were bright and beautiful, but the boys were mostly very naughty, and some of the girls, too. One little boy, Eddie, seemed to really enjoy having me chase him, to try to keep him from being places he should not be and from getting into things he should not be getting into.

One day almost all the children were out of control. After class our team leader asked me how it went and I burst into tears. I told him, "It was awful!"

Later that day as I pondered what went wrong in class, God very plainly told me, "You were not plugged in. You were not fully engaged. You did not love the children with all your heart. They noticed." Even now as I think about my failure, my sin, I am crying. I asked God to forgive me, and, of course, He did.

The next morning I woke up refreshed and fully charged. One of the first things I did in class, on an impulse from the Holy Spirit, was grab Eddie and give him a kiss on the cheek. He rubbed it off. So, I grabbed him again and gave him another kiss and rubbed it in so he couldn't rub it off! Amazingly, even though we did not exchange a single word, we understood each other. From then on in, Eddie was a different boy. He



*In front of a Lebanese restaurant in Timisoara, Romania*

smiled and had fun doing the right things.

God taught me some important lessons from this experience. He forgives and He is faithful. He wants to fill me with His love, so it spills out onto others. His love changes peoples' lives. I am to never be lacking in zeal, and I am to keep serving Him with spiritual fervor. All of this is for His glory! ●

*Kay is a short-termer from Iowa. She has been to several IM English Camps and also served at the 2014 IM Staff Conference.*



# THE DANGER OF PRAYER

Kimberly Treadway

Lately, I'm learning that prayer is probably the most dangerous activity I can engage in. Dangerous, that is, to my comfort zone. I've been convicted about how easy it is to talk well, and how very hard it is to live well. When I pray, I want to be honest before the Lord. Of course, He already knows me, whether I'm honest or not, but when I'm honest *before Him*, especially about the things I'm most afraid of and least comfortable with, that's when I really have to face reality. And the danger is that if I open myself up to God, if I come before Him with His own concerns as mine, if I lay aside my will, if I let myself dream with Him, He's liable to take me seriously. Lately, I've felt the penetrating question— do you

*really* want to be changed? Do you *really* want to be used? Do you understand—and accept—what that will mean? I know He wants to take me to a new level in my walk with Him and usefulness to Him, and in theory, I'm enthusiastic about it. However, there's a lot of theory in my life, and not enough obedience. I really think that



prayer will turn my theories into experiences, if I dare to ask for it. We say it, and hear it all the time: "Prayer changes things."

Prayer also changes people. If I pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done," I'd better be prepared for that to start in my own heart. ●

*Kimberly completed her internship in Ukraine and is currently seeking God's direction for her future.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"My time in Ukraine taught me the importance of being available for ministry. When I was tired, emotionally exhausted, hot, or feeling 'empty' are the times that God chose to put people in my life that wanted to 'talk.' Being available during these times led to great opportunities for me to share one-on-one about Jesus and see lives changed."

Jessica - Ukraine



**REDEEM**  
**THE SUMMER**  
INTERNSHIPS

re•deem /ri'dēm/

verb


**Definition of REDEEM**

1. To exchange

**EXCHANGE** your boring, lifeless summer for an **ADVENTURE** full of life. Let God **REDEEM** your summer by serving Him at the very edge of His **KINGDOM!**

For more details, check out Redeem the Summer Internships by visiting [www.im-usa.org/redeem](http://www.im-usa.org/redeem)





# TWO-WAY PRAYER



LeRoy Schwartz

Time was running out. The ticket was already paid for, and it wasn't cheap. I had already promised to help with an upcoming camp for teens in Alexandria, Egypt, but we were having trouble finding someone to help my wife, Ania, while I was away. I planned to spend two weeks in Egypt, which is too long for Ania to be alone with two little ladies (our twins) who demand a lot of help and attention. It was an impossible situation, with all potential helpers getting checked off one by one, yet God gave us faith to trust and wait.

Another camp, in Cyprus, was well underway, and things were going great, even though not exactly what we had expected. Instead of the original Russian young people we planned for, we had refugees; instead of teens, we had families. Our leader, Ben, pulled me aside one day during camp and said, "LeRoy, it would not be good, or possible, for you to leave Ania for two weeks without help. We need to find

someone or you will have to stay home." "Yes, I know," I replied, wondering just what God was doing. The problem loomed bigger, overshadowing the enjoyment of camp.

Jack and Sarah Piquette, who had come to help with the Cyprus camp, encouraged us to look for help among the refugees we were serving. We had been

thinking the same, so we took their advice and approached a family we mutually had peace about.

"George," I asked, "would you consider allowing your daughter, Martha, to help my wife while I am in Egypt for two weeks?" George immediately agreed, and Martha expressed eagerness to help. We were overwhelmed with God's abundant provision, and Ania expressed that Martha's help was better than we could have expected from our families.

After I returned from Egypt, we continued developing the relationship with George and his family. They explained to us that Martha had been praying, asking God to send someone who she could help with children! We are very humbled as this relationship with George and his family has resulted in a VBS for refugee children, with Martha taking a key leadership role! ●

*LeRoy, Ania, and their two girls are living in Cyprus where they are serving the refugee community.*



Ania and Martha



George and LeRoy





# A GLIMPSE OF MY FUTURE

Leisel Magg

I'm still looking back and reflecting on the two camps I served at this past summer. I continue to thank God for the many ways He worked in and through me.

During the first camp at Forest Garden (Erdokertes, Hungary), we were able to build on the foundation laid at last year's camp. I had a sweet class and three translators for the week. The translators were all under the age of 20 which was a challenge, but a good one. Before the trip, while shopping for translator gifts, I felt led to bring extra gifts. So I was able to give one of my translators, who was doubtful about God's goodness, a book filled with truths about God's goodness and faithfulness.

The second camp in Zircs, Hungary, was filled with many blessings, as well as difficulties. The team was large. It felt like we were bringing an army for the Lord! This provided many opportunities to die to self and serve in love. It felt like God was growing me, sometimes painfully, but I know it was preparation

for when I go to the field long-term. Some blessings came from having a good friend as a translator, and I was also able to have several encouraging conversations with teammates. We had a BBQ night where I was able to meet a couple of English teachers from the local schools. This, along with being back in Zirc, helped to solidify that this is where I'm supposed to be when I return to Hungary for my internship.

There are many ministry opportunities in Zirc. The English teachers invited me to come into their classrooms to teach conversation lessons. A parent of two of the campers wants her daughters to be tutored more in English. The national missionaries asked me to host an English club,

and there are 8-10 girls who I want to meet with to disciple and encourage in their walk with Christ. God is good, all the time! ●

*Leisel is attending Mountainside Ministry Training Center and will be serving her internship in Hungary.*



## WHAT WOULD ACHIEVING THIS DO FOR YOU?

Jill Clark

"What are the key points in understanding the situation?"

"What action steps would move you not just a few steps ahead but put you on a different level all together?"

"What do you want to remember from today's conversation?"

What is the context of the previous three questions?

- a) A conversation in the elevator.
- b) A Skype visit with a preschool grandchild.
- c) Questions asked at the visa office.
- d) Part of a coaching conversation.

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# IM MINISTRY IN ASIA

Gene Fox



Most of IM ministry happens in Eastern Europe, but we also have staff in France, Cyprus, Egypt, Peru, Uganda, and Asia.

In September, Grace and I had the privilege of representing IM on a missionary care trip through Asia. Here are some highlights:

**Nepal:** We visited IM missionary Dr. Holly Tapley. She ministers in a Kathmandu church that's comprised mostly of people with significant physical challenges. The pastor is a paraplegic—he's a living example of how God transforms our deepest pain into meaningful ministry. He wants to host a renewal retreat for 40 rural pastors next year. Lord willing, we'll partner with them to make this happen.

**Thailand:** We spent several days with Anya Krasilova in Bangkok and saw her ministry to prostituted and trafficked women firsthand. Anya is from Odessa, Ukraine, serving with a ministry called NightLight. Their dream is to host a three-day family camp for rescued prostituted women and their children. We're trusting God to provide a team of 10-12 volunteers (men and women) so we can do that camp plus a five-day VBS program next April.

**Restricted Country:** We spent three days with the Michelson\* family. Their 10-year-old son

fell from their apartment's sixth floor balcony to the concrete below in mid-July. He miraculously survived despite multiple broken bones and internal injuries. He was discharged from the hospital the day prior to our arrival. This timing enabled us to spend hours getting to know the entire family, learn more about their ministry, and meet this precious child for whom thousands

of people worldwide prayed. While in that country, we had a divine appointment with a young woman at a famous tourist site. Our conversation turned to Jesus within minutes of meeting. As she looked around to make sure no one was listening, she said, "I believe in something; I think I'm half-Christian. But I'm afraid." She's obviously seeking Truth. Grace has already e-mailed with her since our return.

While we were overseas, an IM intern began ministry in the Philippines. It's exciting to watch IM expand, and we're delighted to be part of it—especially since we began our missionary career in Nepal in the 1980s. Contact us at: [office@im-canada.ca](mailto:office@im-canada.ca) for details about the Bangkok 2015 trip. ●

*\*names are changed for privacy purposes*



*Dr. Holly Tapley with pastor and wife of Kathmandu church*



*Anya Krasilova at work at NightLight, Bangkok*

*Gene & Grace are the Directors of IM Canada. They live in Abbotsford, British Columbia.*





# WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Ben & Burgi Oehler

wanted to have some fellowship with a group of strangers from the US, and our local team.

This special time opened our minds to the idea of ministry among refugees. Since then, God has opened more and more doors for us to build relationships with people who live in a refugee camp. When we think of the future, we can easily imagine that one day the island of Cyprus will be flooded with asylum seekers.

The Egyptian summer camp was very refreshing with many young, energetic students who came to learn about the great possibility of starting a living relationship with Jesus. Almost all of the campers have a Coptic background. Egyptians hardly ever seem to sleep during the night (nor during the day either!), so there were lots of opportunities for endless night talks—mainly led by our chief Egyptian co-worker—with new decisions for

Christ literally every morning. We have never before had such a situation. It was very inspiring.

Some of those students will join the work in Alexandria, Egypt. At the beginning of October we started the new Desertsides Training Center for “field workers.” It is very exciting to begin this program in the country that has always been “the head” of the Arab world. At the same time, there is an underlying trembling thought of what is going to happen in the future. How long will it be possible to support such a school? And, what will become of all those beloved and precious young brothers and sisters? God alone knows—we just try to carry on the work for as long as we are called. ●

*Ben & Burgi live in Cyprus and are involved in ministry in both Cyprus and Egypt.*

Despite all the political insecurity we had a great and busy spring and summer: a discipleship camp and a leadership conference in Egypt, one English summer camp in South Cyprus, and another one in Borg-el-Arab, Egypt. All camps were filled with campers from Mid-East countries. The city of Larnaca in Cyprus is a pool for many refugees from war-stricken places, like Iraq and Syria, but also from Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and many African countries.

Originally, we had planned to do a Russian youth camp, but no Russians wanted to come! It became very clear to us that God had a completely different plan. He wanted to start something with refugees! In the New Testament, Jesus shared a story that says, “go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame” (Luke 14:21), and we knew Jesus was saying this to us. There were no crippled or lame, but there were those who have been traumatized and marginalized in society. Many came—parents with children, singles, all who





# 80 YEARS OLD AND FULL OF SAP

Jack Sanders



Ten years ago, I challenged our small rural church to get involved in short-term missions. Eight people accepted the challenge and went to Ukraine for a summer English Camp. I never felt called to participate. New Salem Baptist Church in Neosho, Missouri, has sent mission teams every year since, to various places, but mostly to Ukraine. Little did I know that after I retired and turned 80, Barbara and I would answer the call to go to Ukraine for one year.

We received Mark and Kim Huffman's prayer letter in May with the request for a couple to come and lead the EWay English Classes. Barbara and I prayed about it and then Skyped with Mark about the details. Everything began to fall into place. So, on September 2nd, 2014 we flew from our comfortable home in Neosho to Odessa, Ukraine. We had no apartment and received no financial help, but we trusted the Lord would provide. We had been reminded that there were countless reasons for us to not go, but our answer was always, "God called

us, and God does not make mistakes."

On September 3rd, Mark and Kim Huffman met us at the airport. Classes started a week later with a good-sized enrollment. Our students are from several countries; most of them are unsaved and have different religious backgrounds. There are about 60 students in the four classes. The staff of Living Hope Church in Odessa has been extremely helpful. We do not speak Russian and are not accustomed to walking. I sometimes have to pause, and thank God for His call to this elderly couple trying to serve God in the twilight years of our lives. Interested in joining us? E-mail me: jksanders34@hotmail.com.

The verse of scripture that sealed the answer to our call is Psalm 92:14: "They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green." ●

*Jack is a retired pastor, and his wife Barbara, a retired school teacher, from Neosho, Missouri. Jack was a pastor for 56 years, 31 of them at New Salem Baptist.*

.....  
*What Would Achieving...continued from page 8*

The correct answer is "d." But, what is *Life Coaching*? "Coaching is an ongoing intentional conversation that empowers a person or group to fully live out God's calling."

I thank God for the opportunity these last three years to be coached and now to be trained to coach others. I believe it is multiplying my effectiveness in ministry and I am excited about how God will continue to use life coaching.

As a life coach I "facilitate discovery in individuals to live the kind of life God created them to have."

One coaching client gave me permission to share her reflection on our coaching experience together.

*"In the beginning I thought that the coaching would help me accomplish a certain objective, but in*

*the end the benefits were beyond my expectations... **The most beneficial part of the coaching was a more focused relationship with God.***

*God used the coaching experience to **transform me, to become a new improved person, more aware that God works at my character each day and the process of growing never stops, because I chose to follow Christ and obey God.***

*I have more clarity than before, I am more aware of the gifts God gave me and I am more willing to use them as an inseparable part of the Body of Christ."*

**Praise God for Life Coaching.** ●

*Jill and her husband Tom live in Bucharest, Romania. Jill serves as a Life Coach and also facilitates several Bible studies.*



## BIRTHS

### **EMANUELA**

born on 11-27-13  
to Vio & Margareta  
Rete

### **MARGARITA**

born on 4-5-14  
to Slavik & Alyona  
Puzanov

### **SARA**

born on 6-24-14  
to Bence & Abby  
Jófoldi

### **DAMARIS**

born on 7-22-14  
to Florin & Avery  
Soare

### **NATAN**

born on 8-12-14  
to Vitaly & Marta  
Filanov

### **LUKA**

born on 10-24-14  
to Kostya & Isabella  
Tustanovskiy



# HERE AM I, SEND ME

Hannah Baxter

I am studying Spanish at Rio Grande Bible Institute Language School, so I can go back to Peru as a full-time missionary. It hasn't been easy. I find myself saying, "God, did you pick the right person? Are you sure you don't want someone smarter?" I am just a small-town country girl, nothing special by any means. All I told God was, "Here am I, send me," and He did.

On a Friday night recently, I went to a missions club meeting. The topic of the night was Iquitos, Peru. When they started the slideshow my mind went a million miles-an-hour over my past 18 months of living there while I served my internship. Images began flooding my mind—people's faces, children's smiles, life-changing stories of working in the jungle and in the church, and the joy of building lasting relationships. In Peru, I saw firsthand God's work to bring glory to His name. Then I realized, God is willing to use any of us for His glory! Yes, I am nothing amazing. In fact, I am an evil and wicked person, when it's just Hannah. But God loved me so much He gave His only Son to die. My sin is what kept Jesus on the cross. His blood covered my sin and cleansed me from the inside out. That story is worth going through the sleepless nights and tear-filled days of saying, "God, help! I am so weak on my own. Learning Spanish is hard." But I know that one day I will sit down at a campfire in Peru and be able to share the Gospel with those beautiful people and speak in their own language. This will make it all worthwhile. ●

*Hannah is living and studying in Rio Grande, Texas. When she has completed language school, she plans to return to Peru to continue with the work she was part of during her internship.*

*The kids ministry group in Peru*







# HIKING

**Come with us!**

*You will be sorry,  
but you will enjoy it!*



Zhenya Bozhetharnik

Do you know how to hike? I mean a serious week long hike in the mountains? No?! Have you ever been on a hiking trip? No?! But I really want to do something to spend time with some unbelievers!

This was the kind of conversation I had about five years ago with Mark Huffman concerning hiking trips as another opportunity for ministry in Odessa, Ukraine. I do not know how we came to this idea, but we were filled with desire... and zero experience. Mark was the only one who had been hiking before, but in the USA, which is a very different experience than in Ukraine. What to do? Pray and act. So we did.

God led us to a church that let us rent some equipment and they included two guides as a free bonus. By the way, it was their first time guiding a group in the mountains. You get what you pay for! It was a crazy, but wonderful, God-filled trip. Every year since then, we take unbelievers hiking in the mountains in the spring as part of Living Hope Church's outreach ministry. This year a motto for our trips was born: "Come with us! You will be sorry, but you will enjoy it!" Keep in mind, most of the people who go with us are

from the city and have little experience in nature. God can even use cold rainy weather, steep trails, and poor equipment. I will never forget the sight, of Mark Huffman one morning, using his only T-shirt to mop up the water in his tent. But, even through all these challenges, we saw how to grow new leaders among believers. We saw how the breath-taking views of the mountains can open the hearts of unbelievers to deep conversations about the Gospel. It is not about weather, unusual food, or challenging conditions anymore—it's all about the Gospel. Next year we are planning two hiking trips (in April and June). Friends from the other side of the ocean, come with us! You will be sorry, but you will enjoy it! ●

*Zhenya and his wife Lidia live in Odessa, Ukraine, with their young son, Matthew.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I learned that just because I am a wife and mother, that is not an excuse to not serve God when He is calling. My children are not to be used as a reason for not serving God. He gave me my children, I've dedicated them to Him and my actions will teach them more than my words. Matthew 10:37 says, 'Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.' I want to be worthy of God." Lyndi – Ukraine





# DO I REALLY BELIEVE THAT GOD IS GOOD?

Ann Zupke

Can I encourage you to plumb the depths of this fundamental question with me: “Is God good?” Do I trust Him with ME; ALL of me: the bad, the broken, the defiled? Life can be terribly cruel and I am affected by the painful past in many ways. My early experiences shape my beliefs and presuppositions, many of them distortions and lies. In the hidden recesses of my heart, do I feel cheated by life? Dare I ask, “Do I feel God has cheated me?” Isn’t He the One who sees and knows all? Then why didn’t He protect me? Why did He allow me to be cheated? I didn’t deserve it! I was innocent, young, scared, taken advantage of, lied to, coerced, beaten, bullied, wasted, abandoned, betrayed, used up, trashed, and neglected. Where was God anyway? Do I dare ask such a question? Will He answer?

Would you consider sincerely asking Jesus these questions about your painful past? “Jesus, did you see what happened to me? Where were You when...? Can I trust You?” You will be surprised at His answer. My adult friend, Shelby, timidly dared to ask these questions. Immediately, in his

heart, Shelby was transported back to his childhood, lying broken in a hospital bed. Jesus was there, standing at the foot of the bed, tenderly rubbing his little feet. A warm sensation flowed through him as Shelby personally and intimately experienced the God who sees, the God who cares. In that moment, a seed of faith swelled and has since rapidly bloomed, through prayer and forgiveness, into much freedom from sin, and overflowing sympathy, joy, and trust. He is so grateful he took the risk and asked hard, probing questions. Don’t be afraid to ask! Jesus is a “gentle-man” and He is knocking, waiting, and mighty to save. You are the one who must open the door to let Him in. “COME to me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I WILL give you rest. Take MY yoke upon you and LEARN from me, for I am meek and lowly of heart and you WILL FIND REST for your soul.” ●

*Ann Zupke is the wife of Stephen Zupke, mother of ten children, and has a role of caring for IM staff members.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

“I often have conversations with people in which we are both wondering, “How do we start gospel conversations with people?” An English camp is a great opportunity for this for me, as it starts the gospel conversation so naturally, building on a desire that many people have to learn English. This missions trip, and others like it, is a gift from God for me, as I so easily allow my world to become “small” and self-focused. Physically going and serving is something God uses to help me grow in adopting His heart for the world.”

Sara – Cyprus

“I was able to write out my testimony for the first time, and I had to give my testimony for the first time. This hard task helped me forgive myself a little bit, grow in my faith in Christ and know that I’m not alone in my struggles.”

Seth – Poland

# SERVING WOMEN

## in the red-light area of Bangkok, Thailand

Anna Krasilova



Nana is one of the world's best-known red-light districts. In the middle of the bustling area with bars, brothels, promiscuous-looking women, international sex-tourists, loud music, alcohol, steaming street food, and bright lights there is a

and psychological and spiritual restoration, and also into a company which employs about 45 women in a bakery, in a coffee shop, and in jewelry and textiles production. The coffee shop was opened to reach out to sex-tourists with the perspective to bring men out of sex addiction. The organization has programs to commercially assist sexually exploited individuals in Los Angeles, Branson, and Atlanta, USA. Also, in 2013 due to the increase in intervention cases with African, Central Asian,

The red-light area is filled with various nationalities and, therefore, different behaviors and “selling” techniques. But wherever I go, I see the same women who laugh, cry, argue, envy, help, and hug. Despite outward appearance or heritage, they are driven by the same push factors, haunted by the same fears and traumas, and hungry for the same things – love, faith, security, appreciation, and peace.

I enjoy working with Thai women in textiles production and participate in weekly outreaches to Russian-speaking women in the red-light area. NightLight always appreciates anyone who is willing to distribute the products we produce in the USA and Canada. See more on our web-site [www.nightlightinternational.com](http://www.nightlightinternational.com). ●

*Anna is living in Thailand where she serves women who are caught in sex trafficking.*



group of people who organized a ministry specifically for this area.

NightLight International is compelled by love and faith to reach out to, rescue, and restore those who were negatively impacted by sex-trafficking and commercial sex exploitation.

NightLight began in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2005 as an alternative employment program for women who desired to leave prostitution. NightLight Bangkok grew into a foundation that offers women vocational training, social and medical assistance,

and South American women, in NightLight opened a Transition House for victims of international sex-trafficking and was able to send 24 women and 2 children back to their home countries that year.

When I first came to Bangkok I did not have any idea how much the Russian language is needed to work with trafficked women from post-Soviet countries. Many of them are tangled in a web of obligations by their traffickers and families and are handicapped by socially unjust situations.





# FEELINGS, NOTHING MORE THAN FEELINGS

Kim Huffman

I'm noticing a trend in the younger generation. A thrill of joy and exhilaration, a rapid heartbeat and tingly sensation, or at the very least, warm and fuzzy feelings—the young women I disciple crave such things in their life, including their daily walk with God. One young woman expected that she would wake up at 6:00 a.m. with these sorts of feelings for God that would cause her to jump out of bed to spend time with Him. And this, after staying up until 2:00 a.m.! OK, I admit it would be wonderful if this was so, but it's not reality. These young women think that if they feel warm and fuzzy about something, then it's real. But if

they don't feel it, it's not real. Challenging this wrong thinking is one of many goals of discipling.

Imagine my joy when one young woman said in answer to my question, "No, I didn't read my Bible this week. I just didn't feel like it. You know, Satan knows just how to tempt me, and I gave in to the temptation this week." This gal understands the spiritual battle of our daily walk with God!

Over and over, God's Word tells me to: *"put on, take up, remember, discipline myself, be self-controlled, clothe myself, consider, be diligent..."* in things that pertain to spiritual disciplines. I've yet to find "feel this" as a command in God's Word.

I'm the first to admit good feelings are wonderful. I also admit I don't always have good feelings, especially at 6:00 a.m. I have learned to practice remembering the Gospel daily. I remember verses like Colossians 1:23, *"...continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel that you heard..."* The result is something much more than feelings. It is satisfaction and joy. ●

*Kim and Mark live in Odessa, Ukraine. They are serving as church planters at the Living Hope Church in Odessa.*



# AFRICAN COALITION FOR PURITY

Pastor Moses Odongo

Men changing before our eyes—this is sometimes what we witness here in Uganda as men participate in the purity ministry. It is almost like a light goes on when we have the opportunity to challenge men concerning their attitudes toward their sexual thinking and behavior.

The African Coalition for Purity came to Uganda four years ago after John Pipes, the director of Mobilizing Uganda for Missions (MUM), spent time with the leadership of the National

Coalition for Purity (NCFP) in Minneapolis, MN. The NCFP board gave their approval for us to use their material and to make changes appropriate for the Ugandan culture. Now after four years we have material that is well-designed for Uganda. We have presented the ministry in conference settings, churches, small groups, and seminaries. It has become so effective as a discipleship tool that MUM adopted a policy that all men who participate

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# MOTHERHOOD

## A Ministry of Eternal Value



Lisa Nagel

It was a year ago when my husband and I became parents. I became a mother! I spent most of my pregnancy wondering what it would be like. I mean, how do you prepare to be a mother?! I was used to being pretty independent (being single for 39 years) and now this little person was going to depend on me for EVERYTHING. I wondered if I would be able to handle it.

On a Monday last October, the time came to stop wondering. There I sat in a hospital bed, holding this little angel who looked up at me with big blue eyes. In that moment, I remember saying to her, “I’m your mommy,” but I had no clue how to be a mommy.

Looking back over this past year I’ve learned many things:

- It is HARD work being a mom!
- I cannot do this without God... or without my amazing husband!
- Just because I have a needy baby doesn’t mean that I neglect my husband!
- There is never enough time in each day!
- There is never a night when I get “enough” sleep!
- Babies grow up fast and I don’t want to miss a single moment!
- I NEED God... I know I said that already, but it’s REALLY true!

There have been days when I’ve found myself saying, “I don’t have time for ministry anymore!” But then I catch myself and realize that my new role is an amazing ministry of eternal value. Mind you, I’m not always aware of that when I feel buried under the task of washing bottles, changing diapers, and trying to figure out what to fix for dinner. I vacillate between the mundane daily tasks that go along with being a mom, and the eternal value of trying to raise a child who will be a light for Christ in a dark world. I don’t have it all figured out, and I probably never will. However, I journey on hoping I can be an encouragement to other moms out there who are also trying to figure it out! ●

*Lisa, Mark, and their daughter Isabel live in Colorado. Lisa serves as part of IM’s staff care team.*

### *African Coalition ...continued from page 16*

in the mission training program or the church planting course must first go through the purity training. Most of the men who have finished the purity course have such life-changing attitudes and behavior adjustments that if they go through another ministry program they are more likely to finish the program. For example, this class of church planting students started with 25 students and after five months only three have dropped out. All 25 of these men first went through the purity training. Thank you for standing with us. ●

*Moses and Betty Odongo and their five children live in Kampala, Uganda, and desire to call pastors and lay leaders back to biblical standards for following Jesus in their marriages and ministries. Moses is the director of The African Coalition for Purity.*



# FROM SHANTY DWELLER TO HOME OWNER

Karla Thiessen

Pište and Maria Balogh\* have three children. They live in a shack in an “osada” (ghetto) on the edge of a village in Eastern Slovakia. They’re now legally married and have been following Jesus for four years. Before that, Pište (Stephen) drank heavily, but now enjoys time with his wife and kids. The children are going to school and their neighbors know something’s drastically changed in their lives since they started “going to church.” However, Pište knows, as their children get older, it will be difficult for all five of them to sleep in one room for much longer. The grind of hauling water and looking for firewood are huge tasks. They struggle just to make it through each day and each winter. But, they’re learning to trust God for their provision.

Eastern Slovakia has more than 420,000 people without a legal place to live. The project, *From Shanty Dweller to Home Owner*, will help Christian families build their own homes by providing them with a microloan and needed support.

We are raising funds that will initially help ten families. They begin by saving monthly for a year toward purchasing their own plot of land.

Their microloan (about \$10,000 each) buys the building materials. We’ll provide an on-site building construction consultant and help them negotiate permits and hooking up the utilities. Each home will have legal water, electricity, and septic. Once the house passes the final inspection,

the added value of their labor then allows the owner to get a nine-year mortgage. The mortgage is then used to repay their microloan to the fund, allowing an additional ten families to build the following year. Once a legal homeowner, the owner will then qualify for a government allowance that will cover the mortgage payment and something toward the electric bill. Feel free to

inquire for more information. Please pray God will lead and guide this project, and that God will get all the glory. ●

*\*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.*

*Karla, Brad, and family have lived in Kosice, Slovakia since 1991. Their work includes Word Art (language school), Life Art (a ministry to teach life skills to the Roma), discipleship and mentoring, summer family camp, and other outreach opportunities.*



*We partnered with a project building homes in Rankovce this past year.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

“A wonderful, faith-stretching experience. There is no greater blessing than helping someone discover the story of God’s love in the Bible as they read it for themselves.” Peter – Poland

# 2015 SHORT-TERM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS (EELC)	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Poznan, Poland (college students)	Shaded A/M	July 2 – 14
	Czchow, Poland (H.S./college)	Hybel	Early July**
	Odessa, Ukraine (H.S./college)	Huffman/Naydenov	July 16 - 29
	Near Odessa, Ukraine (H.S./college)	Litvak/Winkler	Mid July**
	Alexandria, Egypt (young adults)	Oehler B/Fayez	2nd half of July**
	Poznan, Poland (college students)	Shaded A/M	July 30 – August 11
	Alexandria, Egypt (young adults)	Oehler B/Fayez	1st half of August**
	Mohacs, Hungary (day camp)	Dan/Vago	Camp status unavailable

FAMILY EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Slovakia	Thiessen	1st half of July **
	Larnaca, Cyprus	Oehler/Schwartz	1st half of July**
	Bran, Romania	Clark	July 1 – 13
	Cluj, Romania	Luncan/Vitelar	Camp status unavailable
	Odessa, Ukraine	Huffman/Naydenov	July 2 – 15
	Kiczycze, Poland	Pszczola	July 2 – 13
	Krutyn, Poland	Jachym/Lockrem	July 8 – 20
	Mazury Lakes, Poland	Shaded M/S	July 8 – 21
	Poronin, Poland	Snyder/Hageman	July 15 – 27
	Slesin, Poland	Genesis Church	July 15 – 27
	Kiczycze, Poland	Pszczola	July 16 – 27
	Near Karpacz, Poland	Dabrowski	July 21 – August 4

SPECIALTY CAMP	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
Construction (“Emanuel” Children’s Foster Home)	Cornesti, Romania	Moore *URGENT NEED!*	Anytime from Nov ’14 – spring ’15
Youth Discipleship (H.S./college)	Odessa, Ukraine	Winkler/Litvak	January 1 – 13
H.S. Outreach/English Day Camp	Radom, Poland	Snyder	January 8 – 26
Discipleship Camp (young adults)	Alexandria, Egypt	Oehler/Fayez	1st half of February**
Discipleship Camp	Kiczycze, Poland	Pszczola	February 8 – 17
Youth Discipleship (H.S.)	near Karpacz, Poland	Dabrowski	February 12 – 25
Construction work @ Ministry Center	Bircii, Romania	Nicolae/Roberts	During March – June
Business English Day Camp (teens and adults)	Czech Republic	Lipus	May 12 - 27
Construction @ ROL Care Home (Bathroom wing needs rebuilt)	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	During May - September
Painting/maintenance/ upkeep @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Minister to moms, kids, elderly @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Camp Construction (plus option for orphan camp that follows)	Odessa, Ukraine	Rechkemmer/Puzanov	June 1 - 12
Evangelistic Camping Ministry (to orphan girls and boys, ages 6 - 17)	Odessa, Ukraine	Rechkemmer/Puzanov	Short-term opps available at 5 camps taking place during June 15-Aug 9
Evangelistic Hiking	Carpathian Mountains	Huffman/Bozhetarnik/Dotsen	June 11 – 22
Summer Children’s Program @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	During June 20 – Sept. 13
Kid’s Camp for Fibis Church youth	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Camp dates flexible (week of June 21st, 28th, or July 5)
Kid’s Day Outreach	Corabia, Romania	Droll	June 26 – July 6
Joshua Project	Moldova Noua	McKnight/Udrea	July 6 - 16
Youth Discipleship Day Camp (H.S./college)	Krakow, Poland	Hybel	Mid July**
EELC/Softball Day Camps (primary–H.S.)	Erdokertes/Zirc, Hungary	Petrik/Jofoeldi	August**

\*\*Specific dates yet to be determined

For the most up-to-date camp schedule visit our  
website: [www.im-usa.org/camps-schedule](http://www.im-usa.org/camps-schedule)





# ON MISSION FOR JESUS

Kent McKinnon

**The Bible clearly teaches this BIG IDEA: “I (all believers) am a missionary on mission for Jesus.”**  
Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Acts 1:8.

Colossians 4:3-6 (NIV) shows us **“SIX HOW TOS”** to be a daily missionary and share our faith.  
*“<sup>3</sup>And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup>Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup>Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

**Application: 90 Day Test!** Each morning before you get out of bed, pray that God will open doors of opportunity for you to connect with a lost person.

## **Four Steps for Successful Witnessing: P.E.A.S.**

- 1) **Pray** – Before you get up, ask God to open doors of opportunity to connect with lost people.
- 2) **Expect** – Look for and expect God to answer your prayers and bring lost people into your life.
- 3) **Ask** – Spiritual Transitional Question
  - a) Are you interested in spiritual things? OR
  - b) Where are you at on your spiritual journey? Listen to the lost person answer the question and ask them to tell you how they got to this position. Do not refute their answer, just listen, then share your spiritual story, how you trusted in Jesus.
- 4) **Story** – “Can I share my spiritual story/journey with you?”  
(Personal Salvation Testimony/ Keep it less than three minutes).
  - 1 Minute What problems or troubles were you having in your life before you became a Christian?
  - 1 Minute Share the Gospel: *The bad news*—God is holy and people are sinful so can’t go to Heaven. *The good news*—God/Jesus became a human and died on the cross for our sins. *Receiving news*—Invite Jesus into your life to forgive your sins.
  - 1 Minute Share about how Jesus has changed your life, be specific. Include how you have assurance that you know for sure you are going to Heaven.

Finally, one last charge, challenge, or thought—God has commanded us to be missionaries who daily witness. Witnessing is not optional, partial (witnessing) obedience is disobedience.

A missionary needs *total obedience*. John 14:15: *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”*

Please prayerfully practice **P.E.A.S.** for 90 days, then e-mail and tell me about your successes and failures.

E-mail: kent.jan.mckinnon@gmail.com. ●

*Kent and his wife Jan live in Minnesota. Kent teaches with T-Net International. Jan serves as an encourager to IM’s women and is involved with women’s ministry in the local church.*

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## **SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:**

“For me, it is difficult to put the entire experience into words. Missions is very emotional for me. I put 100%+ into the work and really try do love the people I am around. It teaches me about myself and what Christ wants from me. I have become a more forgiving and compassionate person.”

Nadine – Poland

# GOD'S GREATER JOY

*"You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound." Psalm 4:7*

Kent Wagner



Psalm 4:7 speaks of two harvests. One brings joy, the other, greater joy.

A few years ago, on one of our trips to Romania, I read Psalm 4 for my morning devotions. As I meditated on verse 7, I thought, "What a great encouragement for our Romanian friends. God's joy is greater than any pleasure the world can provide!" And what an encouragement to my heart as well! When serving Christ seems more like pain than pleasure, the promise of God's greater joy encourages me to stay at it and not quit.

God's greater joy will always be the "harvest" of our sowing for Christ. *"He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him"* (Psalm 126:6).

*"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents"* (Luke 15:10).

I'll never forget the man who received Christ at one of our family camps in Romania four years ago. His wife was a believer and the whole church

had been praying for him. What great joy swept across the church that day as he prayed and put his trust in Christ. And that joy has never stopped! Two years later his wife, tingling with excitement, took me aside and whispered in my ear, "God is working in my home!" Her husband had indeed truly been transformed by God's love and power in Christ. What joy for his wife, for his children, and for the whole church!

The great writer Peter Drucker once encouraged Bob Buford, Christian author and leader, with these words, "The fruit of your work grows on other people's trees." When God's servants take the hard road of staying at their work even when, in reality, they feel like quitting, Christ's love conquers hard hearts and lives are changed for eternity. And He fills our hearts with greater joy! ●

*Kent and his wife Sue recently joined IM to serve and encourage our staff in Romania.*

## CHURCH PLANTING IN UGANDA



John Pipes

Another church in Uganda? This is the question I am sometimes asked when I share with others about the new ministry program we have begun under Mobilizing Uganda for Missions (MUM). While traveling around Uganda you cannot help but notice signs along the road

promoting one church after another—so the question is reasonable. I spent well over a year praying and asking God if this was the direction He was sending us. After much seeking I concluded that although there are many signs for churches in Uganda, it doesn't mean there

is spiritual life in them. Sadly, one often finds a congregation that has no understanding of salvation by grace, or of living by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit, or of some of the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Most often this is the result

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# FEAR OR FAITH

Jan McKinnon

I so want to be a woman of faith, but when smacked square in the eye with trouble, what do I do? I ride the emotional roller coaster up and down—sometimes trusting, sometimes fearing. Why can't I be stable? It all starts with the crazy thought that flies through my mind: FEAR. Finances: Will we have enough to live on? My husband: He seems hurt, and I hate to see him in pain and feeling so insignificant. People's opinion: What do they think of us and our ministry? Many of our moves and transitions have felt like a failure. Did we really impact anyone? As I write this, I can see the lies. Why is it so hard to identify them at the time? I know our Lord owns the cattle on 1,000 hills and has ALWAYS met our needs. My husband has a walk with God, and God is growing him, too. Don't interfere, Jan! And, we are to please our heavenly Father, not men (1 Thessalonians 2:4). It's His evaluation that matters.

There are two things I MUST do to be a woman of faith. First, I have to be in the Word; it drives me back to faith. Every time I go to the Bible, God meets me there and holds my heart. Three verses that encourage me: *"I know the plans I have for you..."* (Jeremiah 29:11). *"God causes all things to work together for good..."* (Romans 8:28). *"God is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure..."* (Philippians 2:13).

Next, I think about the character of God. *He is faithful.* I reflect on the years of His leading and teaching in my life, always caring for me. *He is loving.* God doesn't love me more or less because of my actions. The "stuff" that comes into my life is for my good to develop pure gold out of my life. *He is sovereign.* God knows exactly where I am and what is happening. He has ordained all of my steps and nothing is a surprise to Him. *He is omnipotent.* God has the power to make anything happen. *He is gracious.* God gives to me again and again, more than I deserve.

His timing is perfect. I stand in awe that the God of the universe can be so involved in my little life. Praise Him! ●

*Jan and her husband Kent live in Minnesota. Jan serves as an encourager to IM's women and is involved with women's ministry in the local church. Kent teaches with T-Net International.*

*MUM ...continued from page 21*

of a leader who has little or no understanding of God's Word. Essentially it is the "spiritually blind leading the blind."

God answered my prayer by leading me to an International Church planting program—The Timothy Initiative (TTI). One of the major aspects of the material from TTI was the focus on God's Word in combination with an emphasis on the rural church. The course takes roughly one year to complete. We meet together once per month to cover our lesson. In total, there are twelve lessons. As of October, we are heading into our fifth month of TTI. Already there have been six new church plants in west Uganda and Congo. By the end of the course, we are anticipating more than 20 new church plants.

Would you like to come and join us in our quest to develop and plant God fearing churches in Uganda? We would love to have you. If you have a desire to encourage new pastors and their wives and be greatly encouraged by the faith of these men and their families, then let us know. The accommodations and hospitality will suite almost everyone's needs. More importantly, you can make a difference in someone's life that that can have eternal significance.

Feel free to contact me by e-mail at: [Pipes.john@gmail.com](mailto:Pipes.john@gmail.com) or call us (with no international charge) at: 952-583-8475. ●

*John, his wife Christine, and their children live in Jinja, Uganda, where they serve with the local church to renew, train, and mobilize believers for active involvement in reaching the world for Christ.*

# RANCH GIRLS



Laura Stein

Over the years, sometimes I have felt lonely as a missionary, but in our new village, I don't have a chance to. You see, I have a "following"—a sweet group of young girls who wait for me, follow me, call me, and help me a lot, too. Of course, they are in love with the horses and love to spend time with them. These girls absolutely thrive on the personal attention we give them, as well. It started last year with, "Can I pet the horses?" which gradually became grooming the horses, then horse camp, and weekly riding lessons. Now this faithful band of 8-12 year olds helps each evening to bring the horses home, taking them from their pasture across the road to our back corral. A highlight is being allowed to ride "their" horse down the hill. Our horses have received so much love and attention that they're quite calm even when ridden by little girls, bareback, with just a halter.

We have a regular devotional time each Wednesday before the riding lesson. To my surprise, the girls sit still for this, and also really look forward to it. We sit in our rustic kitchen on benches and trunks, drinking tea, talking of God's love for us... and how this love is unconditional and doesn't depend on our worth or good deeds. These girls—Kristina, Tatiana, Lenka, Sona and Tatka—love to talk! Their excitement just has to find expression. I've noticed they almost always talk of things we've done together, as well as their

accomplishments on the horses, like: "Did you see me gallop up that hill?" when it was really three steps in an easy canter. We've worked a lot on self-discipline, too, and having the gentleness required for working with the horses.

So, like I said, I'm definitely not lonely in our new location, and I don't think the girls are either. Slowly, I think that 'lonely' spot in each of their hearts is beginning to be filled with love... special love from our Heavenly Father, meant just for them. ●

*Bevan & Laura Stein have lived in Slovakia for 18 years and are the founders and leaders of the Father's Heart which includes children's clubs, equine assisted ministry, and motorcycle evangelism.*







# THREE REASONS FOR MAKING DISCIPLES

Bogdan & Johanka Pszczola

The first time we heard about Mateusz, was from our friends, Arek and Kasia, whom we mentored for a few years in a discipleship group. Mateusz was a student in the school where Kasia taught English. We met him personally at an evangelism camp and were impressed by his talents and sensitivity. He was a teenager with many questions and ideas about life. During that camp he decided to surrender his life to Christ. A few months ago, he invited his sister Daria to an English Camp, where she also received Christ. We were extremely happy, but we knew that a new birth is not the end—it is just a beginning. Jesus said: My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (John 15:8). This is our calling—to worship God. New birth is a decision, but discipleship is a way of life (similar to a wedding vs. marriage).

Discipleship has three stages: moving from unbelief to belief, from belief to maturity, and from maturity to leadership. Mateusz and Daria met God but they needed to grow in Him. We met with them for discipleship meetings, and a few years passed. Today it is not only their parents (Iza and Andrzej) who walk with God, but also a few other family members. For the last few weeks Mateusz has been at IM's Seaside Missionary Training Center in Odessa, Ukraine. He is preparing to serve God full-time, as he desires to share the Gospel and make disciples.

During the summer, many people in many countries through various IM camps and ministries came to know Jesus. We are praying for them to also mature in God. We know that God gives growth, but He has called us to water the seeds (1 Corinthians 3). These new believers all need to find places where they can learn how to read, interpret, and apply God's Word, and learn how to pray. They



need our time, love, and daily care. They need encouragement and guidance in how to share the Gospel and their testimonies. We would like to encourage you to invest in the life of one person this year and to disciple them in their walk with Jesus. We would like to encourage you to open your hearts and homes. Why? Because Jesus did this, because He commanded us to do this (Matthew 28:19-20), and because it works! ●

*The Pszczolas live in Katowice, Poland, where they focus on sharing the Gospel and discipleship.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I learned how important it can be to someone if you simply show that you care. I had this mind set that missions trips were all about sharing the gospel. But there are ears that aren't quite ready to hear it yet, and so missionaries have another role. To plant seeds, or to even just fertilize the soil, to prepare these individuals for a potential future with Christ. Personally, I feel that I have grown in my faith. The team members I worked with were such an inspiration to me. One's unfailing trust in God, another's peace of mind, are just a few examples." Tanya - Poland

# GOSPEL SATURATION OF POLAND

The explicit Gospel growing deeper and broader is what this is all about.



Tom Otremba

I was watching a talk on YouTube presented by a leadership and vision-crafting expert. He asked a profound question, *What is the one thing that makes you pound the table... that makes you sleepless at night... makes you angry when it is not there?* Very quickly I knew what it was for me—a restless desire to see Poland saturated with the explicit Gospel message.

You see, I live in a country that is full of so-called Christian talk. Religion is on every corner. The church uses the word Christian as a synonym for morality and good behavior. It speaks of Jesus Christ, but without giving any assurance as to what He actually accomplished on the cross. Yes, my culture is “Christianese”—void of pure understanding of the Gospel of

Grace. It is void of rest in the accomplished work of Christ. It has been stuck in the religion of fear for centuries and now it is swinging all the way toward universal salvation, preaching that Jesus saved everybody. Talk about confusion...

What we need is a clear, pure, explicit message to be communicated. We need to preach the need for genuine faith and repentance. We need to preach that Christ did not potentially save everybody on the cross, but factually saved those whom the Father gave Him. We need to build a strong foundation for sanctification that is Gospel-based, not performance-based, for those who believed.

This has profound implications for our church-planting ministry in Poland. We do not just need new churches. We

desperately need new Gospel-centered churches to be planted. On a more practical level this means that we need to develop Gospel-centered resources for discipleship—the kind that would serve as a detox to all the self-help, sin-management, purely pragmatic, Jesus-wants-you-to-be-happy kind of literature that continues to flood Polish Christian homes. On top of that, we need a unified network of Gospel-centered leaders and pastors who would gain a vision for planting new churches.

Would you pray for us and for Poland along those lines? ●

*Tom Otremba, his wife Damaris, and their two children live in Cieszyn, Poland, where they serve as church planters.*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

“This was a great growing experience for us in our marriage, parenting, and leadership. This was our first experience leading a team as a married couple and as parents so we had to keep these areas in balance, while still working to be the best leaders we could to our American team members and as we collaborated with the Polish team. By God’s grace, we found a good balance.

We felt the strengthening of the Holy Spirit and sensed the prayers of so many people interceding for us and our camp.” Bethany – Poland





## THE GOODNESS OF GOODBYES

Deborah Sharp

Don't you just hate goodbyes? I don't mean the casual, "See ya later," you say after a coffee date with a friend you'll see next week. I mean those ones you say when it's likely that you won't see that person again in this life. Those who have been on short-term mission trips know what I mean--in just ten short days you build relationships with the team, staff, and campers that are closer than you could have imagined. You just arrive at camp and before you know it, you are sharing tearful goodbyes to those you've grown to love in such a short time.

Some goodbyes are even worse. You stand beside the bedside of your baby as they prepare to wheel her off for heart surgery, and you realize she may not live through it--been there, done that. Or your aging parent's body just can't fight any more and they pass into eternity--just did that.

So why the gloom in a newsletter about International Messengers ministries? Because IM is about so much more than doing camps and training missionaries. It's about that verse in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."* So many of the IM family have sent their condolences at the recent loss of my mom. They have comforted me with their messages of love and prayers. Many who sent messages said things like, "I know how you feel. I just lost my mom (or dad or grandma)." But, ultimately my comfort comes from God in the absolute assurance of eternity with Him and His other children in Heaven. Those hard goodbyes aren't so hard when you know you'll say hello again and say it permanently.

Years ago, I was speaking in southern Iowa for Christian Women's Club and stayed with a wonderful family. I hated the thought of saying goodbye in the morning as I left to speak in another town. The old farmer gave me a big hug and said, "Well, if I don't see ya terrestrial, I'll see ya celestial." Well, maybe some goodbyes aren't so bad after all. ●

*Deborah and her husband Steve serve with IM in staff care and recruiting.*

## SUITCASES NEEDED

**We are in need of good quality, medium to large suitcases with functioning wheels and pull-up handles. If you would like to donate one or more suitcases, or if you have any questions, please call us at 800-243-6763.**



### SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"The experience was amazing. I would say I have benefited the most from this mission trip by learning to work and prepare and then to rest in the Lord. *That what you have committed to Him, He said he would do it.* Psalm 37:5"

Drake - Poland

# DREAM HOME SUMMER

Beth Oehler



I remember images of my dream home as a teenager—a rambling Victorian-style mansion on a grassy hill. I never imagined that I would one day live in a Siberian mountain shanty... and love it! Alex just completed a year of fieldwork for his PhD studies in the Sian Mountains of Siberia. Last spring our whole family was able to join him and live alongside semi-nomadic herders/hunters. All three guys in the family (the dad and two sons) were quite excited about the whole idea. For me (the mom) however, the time of anticipation was filled with anxiety. What if someone gets sick or hurt and there is no medical help nearby? What if our transportation breaks down and we are stuck in the wilderness? What if a feeling of darkness from the spiritual climate of shamanism is overwhelming?

Many days the fear was so strong, I wanted to back out of our plans. One friend advised me not to worry about being afraid, just to consider it a natural part of trying something new. In skateboarding, she said, there is always fear, and

then a really fun ride.

Sure enough, once we were in the mountain valley, alongside local young families, my fears faded into the background and I was able to enjoy my new environment. Shanty life meant only one room to clean. No running water, but a crystal clear mountain river nearby. No library or playgrounds, but many other children playing in grassy pastures all day long. No internet, but plenty of charming baby yak, cows, horses, and sheep. No electricity, but a crackling wood stove that produced delicious crusty bread. No cafes or a wide variety of groceries, but many cups of milk tea shared with neighbors.

Some things in our new home were easier to manage, and others more difficult. But I certainly found that when God calls for sacrifice of one dream, what He provides in return might be fascinating and deeply satisfying. ●

*Beth, Alex, and their two boys are currently living in Scotland while Alex finishes his PhD.*



*Dream home exterior and interior*





# WE CAN HAVE PLANS BUT GOD DIRECTS OUR PATHS



Carroll Miller  
& Johanka Pszczola

During the summer of 2014 I severely strained my back by lifting our suitcases overhead in a train compartment as we traveled from city to city visiting IM missionaries in Poland. Twenty-four hours later, I could hardly walk.

When we arrived in Katowice to visit missionaries Bogdan and Johanka Pszczola, we stayed in a hotel, since Johanka's disabled dad lives with them. There was a sign at the reception desk indicating a physical therapist was available for massages. That evening I had an appointment with Magda, the physical therapist. She told me that she felt God speaking to her since she had been to a Protestant church (for the first time in her life) the day before and was now meeting a Protestant pastor. I shared with her about God's love and desire to have a personal relationship with her and what Christ did for her when He took her sins on the cross. After praying with her, I gave her Johanka's phone number and explained that she was someone who could further clarify things in her heart language.

The next day we told Johanka about Magda and prayed that she would call her. Nothing happened until six weeks later. Here is Johanka's story:

"We can have plans but God directs our paths. When we first came to the English camp in August, I called a rehab woman because my dad needed help. One of the campers had given me the number for his co-worker. When I called her, she said, 'I can't focus on our conversation because I know your number. A pastor from the U.S. that I met a few weeks ago gave me your number and told me to call you if I wanted to talk about God and I didn't call you but now you are calling me.' God wanted her to talk to me and me to talk to her. The next week I met Magda. She helped Dad while we were on vacation.

***He is orchestrating everything in your life, ours, and hers. He is in control and knows! God knows!"*** ●

*Bogdan and Johanka Pszczola (pictured above left) live in Katowice, Poland, where they focus on sharing the Gospel and discipleship. Carroll and Becky Miller (above right) live in Minnesota and travel to Poland several times a year providing staff care to IM missionaries in Poland.*

**If you participated in a short-term trip in 2014 with IM and haven't had an opportunity to complete your camp evaluation form, please take a moment and fill out the online form available at: [www.im-usa.org/resources/eval](http://www.im-usa.org/resources/eval)**

## DONATION INFO

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 Electronic Funds Transfer (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 EFT, contact our office.

If you would like to make donations online using a credit card, you can donate through Network For Good or Just Give. 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](http://www.im-usa.org) and click on Donate in the top navigation menu. ●

# UGANDA TRAINING CENTER

Pastor James Olwenyi



Greetings from Uganda! After four years of bouncing around and renting different meeting places while traveling all over the country, Mobilizing Uganda for Missions (MUM) will have its very own conference and training center. Located just on the outskirts of Jinja, a facility large enough to hold 100 people for lectures and 30 for sleeping is being constructed. The MUM Training Center will be primarily used for our purity conferences, mission training, and our church-planting course. The completion date is December 1st. We hope to have our first training session in March 2015. We are grateful that God has entrusted us with this facility. Please join us in praying that it will be continually used for His glory. ●

*Pastor James, his wife Mary, and their children live in Uganda. James is part of the MUM leadership team, serves as a Pastor, and is involved in ministry to pastors and families.*



*Artist's rendition of the completed training center*





# THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT

Doug & Roberta Moore

We saw God work in the most amazing way the past few months! Our Care Home in Romania has always focused on helping mothers to be able to keep their babies and children and not abort or abandon them. But the unfortunate reality is that even with help, there are mothers who are unable or unwilling to parent their children responsibly. Because of this, we saw a need for a children's home sometime in the future, but since we struggled financially trying to keep our Care Home for mothers and their children going each month, we couldn't do anything about it. But, when a mom neglected, abused, and then abandoned her children, less than four months after moving out from the Care Home, we were faced once again with this dilemma.

Maria was born at the Care Home and her seven-year-old brother, Florin, was three when they moved here. Their mom left them on

Maria's fourth birthday. Child Protection gave us approval to bring the children back to the Care Home, the only real home they have ever known. We are only approved for mothers with their children and not children alone. Child Protection allowed us to collaborate with a licensed facility so that they were able to get a court order for the children's protection. They also agreed that we would be allowed to keep the children here if we worked on getting the government accreditation and licensing as a private foster home and built a separate facility to house them within six months. That decision was made by Child Protection on August 1st, the day our architect brought over the final building plans for the second elderly home. Although we had only \$50 in the Children's Home account, as we prayed, we felt the Lord leading us to take a step of faith to

build this home for abandoned children.

Ten weeks later, as I write this, I can hear the hammers pounding as the house is being built! God has provided all the resources needed to have this home enclosed before the cold weather hits! ●

*Doug and Roberta Moore have lived in Romania since 1998. They founded and oversee the daily operations of the River of Life Humanitarian Foundation, which ministers to needy women, children and the elderly. [www.im-usa.org/rolmin](http://www.im-usa.org/rolmin)*



## SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"The trip was invigorating for me. I have an understanding and conviction of the freedom and liberties I have in this country as well as the support system I have as a Christian. I need to be more outspoken." Trevin - Poland



# AT THE TWILIGHT OF LIFE

## Dealing With Aging Parents



Carol Schlorff

Saying goodbye brought tears to my eyes. I hugged my parents tight and wondered if this would be the last time I would see them alive. I'd had such thoughts before, but now I had more reason to think so. I was leaving to return to Poland, unsure of when I would be back, or whether a funeral would be the reason for my return.

The situation I describe above, which happened to me about a month ago, is certainly not unique to missionaries. Unless the Lord takes our parents at an earlier age, all of us reach the stage where we see their health deteriorate and their bodies fail. It's heartbreaking to observe the ones who raised you, who were such a bastion of strength, go downhill to the point where they can't take care of themselves. The challenge is to know what to do, especially for those who live so far away.

This is the road I've been walking these last few years. When the first signs of my parents' decline appeared, I wondered about returning to the States to help care for them. But they had moved into a retirement community with continuing care and assured me it wasn't necessary. Nonetheless, the guilt over being so far away lingered.

Thanks to a U.S. government requirement I recently had to spend six months in the States. I determined to be near my parents, not traveling much. I now see my time there as a gift from the Lord. Nonetheless, I struggled with great sadness and fear. How did I cope? What helped me was focusing on the big picture. This life is not all there is. My parents' condition is not their final state—it's only temporary. They will be restored some day, because they have trusted in Christ. God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11 of having good plans for us applies at the end of life just as much as at the beginning. And I've experienced how focusing on the One who holds the future is what helps us get through the difficult present. ●

*Carol lives in Krakow, Poland, where she is involved in ministry activities with her church. She also teaches English to adults and leads Bible studies in English with her students.*

# REAL FREEDOM



Stephen Zupke

The past few months I have spent significant time meditating on Romans 8:1 and the John 8 account of Jesus' meeting with the woman caught in adultery. The Apostle Paul writes that, if we belong to Jesus Christ, we are condemnation free (my paraphrase). Nearly all of my life I have understood this intellectually and have whole-mindedly agreed with it. It has only been in recent years that I have come to the heart realization of this absolutely incredible place the believer has in Jesus. The account of the woman caught in the act of adultery and brought to Jesus for condemnation is such a beautiful illustration of the freedom we have in Jesus. When Jesus asked the woman where her accusers were, she answered, "There are none!" Amazingly, this response includes Jesus. She sensed no condemnation from Him: not in the tone of his voice, his body language, the furl of his eyebrows, the gaze of his eyes or His finger writing on the ground. None, nada, nothing! Jesus' verdict, "Neither do I condemn you," was a verbal confirmation of what had already been nonverbally communicated.

*continued on page 32*



# MR. ROBERTS COFFEE

Paula Roberts

What? Start a fresh roasted coffee business? In Romania?

Sure, we longed for palatable coffee when we first moved here, and Ron had designed a home roaster soon after we arrived.

Yep, we had talked about how a fresh roasted coffee business could be used for discipleship, modeling integrity in the work place, and providing income for believers so they can continue ministry, but...

...what kind of crazy man would venture into the corrupt Romanian business world?

...years of work still loomed on the ministry building we were constructing with our teammates.

...really God? Sitting and drinking coffee seemed tons more comfy than trying to sell it.

No buts. Two years ago Romanian visa laws changed and if we were going to stay in Romania we had to start a business.

Mr. Roberts Coffee? It's official, though stamps and paperwork do not a business make. Hours have been spent discipling and praying, working business plans, finding paper goods, and discussing selling models. Green beans have been sourced, roasted, brewed, latte-ed and cappuccino-ed.

Today you can walk into the Mr. Roberts Coffee kiosk which is almost ready to be transported to a city about 45 minutes away.

Soon, the mayor of that city will be approached, and hopefully—prayerfully, by the time you read this, the smell of Mr. Roberts Coffee will be pulling folks in to try a different kind of coffee. A coffee that may lead to a different kind of Life.

Yeah, our hearts are beating faster. Maybe...

...the kiosk will break apart while it's being transported into town.

...the guys Ron's discipling won't show up for their early morning shift.

...our finances will pour out faster than the coffee is brewed.

...Romanians won't even like Mr. Roberts Coffee...

But, maybe they will. ●



*Paula & Ron Roberts live and work in Bircii, a small village in Romania. Working mostly with youth, they offer youth group, a computer lab, and help with English.*

*Freedom ...cont'd from page 31*

More incredible is the power of Jesus' calling and release, "Go, and sin no more!" The power of sin is broken in our lives when the guilt, shame, and blame of our sin are totally covered by understanding our position in Jesus—hidden, covered, protected. From this position we are released into the freedom of living victorious over sin. Until recently, I have lived under the persuasion that the Christian life is just a series of hard fought battles with token victories. I have freely judged and condemned others because, in my inside world, I judged and condemned myself. By God's grace, the truth of his justification made it from my head to my inside world and freed me from the weight of condemnation. Jesus has transformed me from the inside-out with the freedom of these words, "no condemnation." I view myself differently. Even more remarkably, I perceive others differently. Finding purposeful ministry used to be a struggle. I couldn't lead others to freedom I didn't have. Now ministry finds me on my phone and doorstep. Life is exciting and sweeter under the condemnation-free gaze of Jesus. ●

*Stephen and Ann Zupke live in Oelwein, Iowa, and have ten children. They serve as missionary care-givers for International Messengers.*



# FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

## Offering Christ's Love to the Homeless & Addicted

Bob & Vera Hageman



This has been a year of growth. One family of co-workers moved on to another mission, while a Polish family—Artur, Eva, and Jonatan Lyczba—joined us as interns in January. At the end of their internship in June, they committed to serve two more years at Friendship House, which has allowed ministry to rapidly expand with a Polish-speaking couple here full-time.

Ministry teams and IM interns are a vital part of our ministry. This allows for more personal interactions to take place. One of the biggest challenges is the language, because it is difficult to have interpreters available full-time, but please do not let the language keep you from coming to do ministry; when we started in this ministry we didn't know any Polish!

God has showered us with many blessings, through those who have given in many ways to make this ministry possible. We have been blessed through prayer, through short-term work and ministry teams, through encouraging e-mails and letters, through Skype and phone calls, through personal visits, and through donations of items and

money. A big **THANK YOU** to all who have given and to those who continue to give in some way.

Please pray that many of our homeless friends will go to rehab this coming year and stay to the end. We receive a HUGE encouragement from those who finish the 18-month program, as most of them come back having made a decision for Christ. We have heard from others who are still in rehab that their hearts have been changed for Jesus, which is the ultimate purpose of the ministry of Friendship House.

The following letter is from Michal who has been in rehabilitation for over a year. Please enjoy!

*Hello to you!*

*Already at the very beginning of the letter I give warm greetings to you, Bob and for you, Vera. Greetings from all of us.*

*I write to you because I want you to know what is in my heart.*

*I write this letter because I want to share with you that I was baptized and accepted Christ as my Savior. God showed me the truth, changed my life, and I took His free gift.*

*God so changed my life that I am grateful for the miracles He has done for me. The decisions which were made came from God's desires which He put in my heart. I am now implementing trust and faith.*

*In my heart there is no hurt—there is peace!*

*I was christened on Saturday 7/12/2014 along with Robert who also warmly greets you and all of the rest.*

*Michal*

*Bob & Vera serve the homeless and addicted of Radom, Poland.*







# ESCAPING POVERTY

Bethany Baxter de Noriega

When we were at IM's Mountainside Ministry Training Center in Libby, Montana, we had a class about poverty. My husband, Nelton, had the idea of teaching the class in Peru to the leadership of Genesis Church, where most live in poverty and minister to those in poverty. When Ken Golding agreed to come and teach, we didn't understand how transforming it would be for our leaders. One hour into the class, the interaction was so lively that we realized we were drastically short of the time needed to fully discuss the topic. It became obvious that the answer to helping people out of poverty is not to just give them money or resources, but to help them understand the mentality holding them captive.

Ken and I didn't always have examples, but as soon as the concepts were introduced and

vaguely described through our limited experience, the leaders would laugh and explain their own lives in vivid terms. As they openly processed why they do what they do, oftentimes because of beliefs and values left unchecked, freedom and opportunity for growth ushered in. I have seen real change in our leadership as they have applied the class in their own lives. They are taking responsibility for their actions and learning to plan for the future, instead of just waiting for it to happen. We are now prayerfully making plans, as a team, of how to grow the church as a whole. To God be the glory! ●

*Nelton & Bethany, along with their children Kyliana and Briel, live in Iquitos, Peru. Nelton is co-pastor of their church plant—Genesis Church.*



*Worship at Genesis Church*



## WEDDING

RAYMOND CLARK



ELIZABETH HUBER  
married on 10-04-14



### SHORT-TERMER COMMENTS:

"I've always had a missions interest—but in a financial support and sending capacity. It was good to go and do the work myself—and it has only increased my appetite. It was good to see first hand how the people of Poland serve the Lord and what their unique needs are as they try to reach their local world. This direct knowledge will make me more effective as I pray, give and possibly go again." Bruce - Poland

# FELT NEEDS VS. REAL NEEDS



Heather Nicolae

Have you ever thought of the book of Nehemiah as a model of ministry? In Nehemiah, we see the principle of meeting the “felt needs” of the people, so they can see their “real needs.”

Nehemiah 1:3 says, *“Those who survived the exile... are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”* Their “felt need” was their disgrace and defenselessness to the enemies surrounding them. In verses 5-7, Nehemiah states, *“I confess the sins we Israelites ...have committed against you.... We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.”* Their “real need” was a repentant heart and obedience to their God.

Nehemiah recognized the people couldn’t see their “real need,” but he could address their “felt needs.” He returned to Jerusalem and implemented the rebuilding of the wall but was confronted with much opposition. It got so bad, that they had to rebuild with a tool in one hand and a sword in the other! However, Nehemiah persevered and, when the wall was completed, he called them all together. Ezra read aloud from the Scriptures and the people listened attentively: *“All of the people lifted their hands and responded, ‘Amen! Amen!’ ...they celebrated with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them”* (Nehemiah 8:3-8).

Wow, isn’t that the dream of anyone in the ministry? To have all the people worship the Lord and celebrate with great joy because they understood the Gospel! We are praying for something similar to happen here in Bircii, Romania. In our village of over 3,000 people, good

drinking water was a serious problem, as well as the lack of recreational space for children. We decided we could meet these “felt needs” by providing a deep well that offered pure drinking water and by offering recreational activities. Now there is a steady stream of people getting water from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The ministry land is open three evenings a week for play, and we share the Gospel in practical ways during a five-minute break. Most people here don’t see their “real need” yet, but we know the Lord is working, and we trust in Him.

This principle works in any area of ministry in any country. Find out the “felt needs” of the people. Be God’s servant to meet those needs, and He will show them their “real need” for Him. ●

*Heather, Pavel, and their four children live in Bircii, Romania. Their main focus is reaching out and building relationships with adolescents and youth in the villages of Bircii and Potcoava.*







# A SIMPLE WITNESS

Ed Kleiman

Is there something simple you can do to advance Christ's kingdom right where you are? On the one hand, the Bible is clear: all of the redeemed are to bear witness to what the resurrected Christ has done (Acts 1:8). On the other hand, it may appear quite unclear how you can fulfill this witness in your particular situation. Well, here is something anyone can do. You can do this anywhere, in whatever town you live in, no matter your circumstances. This one simple thing? Distribute tracts. Here's Charles Spurgeon, on the distribution of tracts:

*I well remember distributing them in a town in England where tracts had never been distributed before, and going from house to house, and telling in humble language the things of the kingdom of God. I might have done nothing, if I had not been encouraged by finding myself able to do something . . . [Tracts are] adapted to those persons who have but little power and little ability, but nevertheless, wish to do something for Christ. They have not the tongue of the eloquent, but they may have the hand of the diligent. They cannot stand and preach, but they can stand and distribute here and there these silent preachers.*

*I look upon the giving away of a Christian tract as only the first step for action not to be compared with many another deed done for Christ; but were it not for the first step we might never reach the second, but that first attained, we are encouraged to take another, and so at the last . . . There is a real service of Christ in the distribution of the gospel in its printed form, a service the result of which Heaven alone shall disclose, and the judgment day alone discover. How many thousands have been carried to Heaven upon the wings of these tracts, none can tell.*

*"The leaves were for the healing of the nations"—verily they are so. Scattered where the whole tree could scarcely be carried, the very leaves have had a medicinal and a healing virtue in them. The simple statement of a Savior crucified and of a sinner who shall be saved by simply trusting in the Savior, has*

*greatly blessed countless souls. Let each one of us, if we have done nothing for Christ, begin to do something now. The distribution of tracts is the first thing. ●*

*Ed Kleiman lives in St. Louis, Missouri. He speaks and serves throughout the US and overseas.*



# A YEAR OF PRAISE

Tom & Jill Clark

We have had the privilege of seeing the Lord do some exciting things in Bucharest, Romania, in 2014. We are praising Him for His great work.

In March, after four years of translating, subtitling, and fundraising, *The Truth Project* became available for Romania. Over 30 DVD sets have been distributed so far.

April marked a year of change for the women's conference that Jill has led for the past eight years. This year her dear Romanian friend Olivia took over leadership of the conference and it went really well. We are thankful for her vision and her willingness to lead the conference in the future.

In July we hosted our second annual English Family Camp. We had great team members from the States to help. Each non-believer at the camp grew more comfortable with Jesus as the camp progressed. It's possible that one or two even came to know Christ personally.

In late September we had the joy to see some of the 6000 Bibles that were ordered for distribution in Romania. They are a new Romanian translation that hasn't been available for over three years. These Bibles are in modern Romanian language, which makes them a great tool with younger generations.

On October 4th we had the blessing of seeing our youngest son, Raymond, marry Elizabeth Huber in Louisiana. Elizabeth just completed her 18-month internship with IM in Bircii, Romania. Having a bride who understands Romania will be a great blessing for Raymond, and we are excited to welcome her into our family. ●

*Tom & Jill live in Bucharest, Romania. They are involved in men's and women's discipleship.*



# A DROP OF WATER BREAKS A STONE

## The God of Breakthroughs

Monika Shaded



Recently I saw a documentary about how a huge rock can be fractured. What surprised me the most was that a rock is fractured not by hard strikes, but by raindrops dripping one by one. That dripping caused great breakthroughs and a massive rock was split in half. This made me think about how God is working in our hearts day by day and the results are huge breakthroughs. Over the past two years together with my husband Amadeus we have seen how God has been working in peoples' hearts but we have not seen spectacular conversions. I started wondering if my prayers were hitting a glass ceiling. This past summer, however, we experienced that God hears every single prayer and answers it, and that each one is like a little "drop" that really matters.

We had the privilege to organize two English camps with IM and between them we did a street evangelism outreach. In the second camp most of the participants prayed to receive Jesus. One participant, Diana, whom we've known for two years, wrote: "This camp let me get a step closer

to finding God and being sure that we will be in Heaven." Another, Kaja, wrote: "Here at this camp, reading the Bible, listening and observing other peoples' relationships with God... I understood that this decision belongs only to me...and I'd like to invite God inside." Karol said that his sister coaxed him into coming to the camp and that she received a flyer about the camp on the street in Poznan. Karol travelled across the country to get there. On the last day of the camp he invited Christ into his heart. This summer was filled with other similar stories.

We are extremely thankful and we give glory to God. We know that we owe these breakthroughs to prayers, to support, and to help from the Americans who came to Poland. By being faithful in the things God gave us, we experienced all of these blessings. ●

*Monika and her husband Amadeus live in Poznan, Poland, where they reach out to students and singles with the Gospel.*





# TRAINING 2.0

Abby Jófoldi

Fall 2008: I'm at Mountainside Ministry Training (MMT)—I'm single with no children and I've never lived overseas.

Fall 2014: I'm at MMT again, I'm married to a Hungarian, we have a three-month-old daughter, and I've lived in Hungary for five years in two locations.

When we were expecting our baby (Sara), my husband, Bence, expressed a desire to attend MMT. Through many prayers, conversations, and circumstances we determined to exit Hungary for these five months.

Studying again with my new perspective has been really exciting, especially because I have already experienced how applicable the teaching that we receive here, truly is. For example, throughout Darwin's class on *Perseverance* I relearned many principles that I had clung to during hard times in Hungary; I couldn't have told you I learned them in Darwin's class, but I sure recognized them.

I have really enjoyed how the teachers have exemplified growing in Christ. The classes have

changed for the better too. One such class is Interpersonal Skills. It has become increasingly Gospel centered. We used the book *Peacemaker* by Ken Sande as our main textbook; I highly recommend it. Since we are living together here at the Training Center, interpersonal skills are very relevant. We are all exposed as we truly are. Practicing loving fellowship in a "fishbowl" expedites growth and helps us all to examine ourselves and prepare for the scrutiny of others on the mission field.

Personally, it has been a joy to be a missionary serving with International Messengers. Because of hardships I've had on the field I know that the training here is very applicable to every day life as a missionary. Please pray about exercising your faith by starting your missions journey here at Mountainside Ministry Training. ●

*Abby, Bence, and Sara live in Vác, Hungary. Abby teaches handcrafts to underprivileged children and also teaches English once a week to a few men at a mental health institution. As a couple they lead a youth group, mostly consisting of youth from camp. They also host camps in the summer.*



*God accomplishes much through the willingness and hearts of our staff and short-termers. From fall 2013–summer 2014, we sent a total of 346 short-term workers to serve at a variety of outreaches (see list at right). We also conducted 21 trainings in 14 states/provinces.*

## 2014 Short-Term Ministries Report

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 4 Discipleship Camps              | 1 Professional English Camp (Business)   |
| 3 English Day Camps               | 1 Redeem the Summer Internship           |
| 5 English Language Camps          | 4 ROL Care Home Ministries               |
| 1 Evangelistic Community Outreach | 2 Softball English Day Camps             |
| 4 Extended-stay ministries        | 12 Staff Care and/or Teaching Ministries |
| 12 Family English Camps           | 1 VBS Ministry                           |
| 1 Hiking Camp                     | 2 Youth group service projects           |
| 2 Homeless/Addicted Outreaches    | 1 Youth with HIV/AIDS Camp               |
| 1 IM Staff Conference             |  |

The average age of our short-termers was 42 years old, and 56% of our short-termers were alumni. Our oldest short-termers was 87 and our youngest was 16-months old.

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



- ☐ I/we would like more information about IM's ministries planned in 2015.
- ☐ Please send an application for short-term / long-term (circle one) involvement.
- ☐ I am an alumnus and would like to return to the following camp in 2015:



PO Box 618  
Clear Lake, IA 50428-0618

In Canada

PO Box 11022, 1945 McCallum Rd  
Abbotsford, BC V2S 0E4  
CANADA

- ☐ Please send 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 do not send this annual International Messengers newsletter (continue to send individual missionary prayer letters).
- ☐ Please remove me from all newsletter and prayer letter lists.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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/Retreats  
Mission Committee Vision  
and Encouragement  
Missionary/Pastor Care &  
Counsel

**Darlis Anderson:**

Women's Ministry/Banquet Speaker

**Ed Kleiman,**

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.