



*How beautiful are
the feet of those
who bring Good News.*

Romans 10:15



Work to Eat	3
Heroes, Pioneers, Brave	4
An Antidote to Hard-Headedness	5
How to be a Salt French Fry	6
Nobody Can Stop God's Love in Egypt ...	7
Life is Messy	8
God is Lord of All the Nations	9
One Heart at a Time	10
The Unheard of in Vtáčkovce	11
S(w)inging Praise to the Lord	12
English Camp Seeds	13
Roma Ministry	13
Harvesttime!	14
Camp Schedule	15
Alone, But Not Alone	16
Though the Mountains Be Shaken ...	17
Four Generations	18
God's Light in Us	19
My Struggle to be Holy	20
International Messengers Canada ...	21
RADIANT: Creating a Deeper Life ...	22
Working Through Life's Lies	23
How I Live	24
Creative Evangelism	24
Eyes for the Real Needs	25
Who is My Mother?	26
Prison Ministry	27
Stepping Stones for Students	28
The Great Adventure	29
Don't Stop! Don't Quit!	30
Outreach Family English Camp	31
Children's Camps in Romania	32
Ministry Among the Refugees	33
Blessings of Unity	34
God Makes Depression	
Work for Good	34
Broken	35
Finishing Well	36
So How's Your Success Rate?	36
Desertside Training Center	37
Motorcycle Ministry	38
Christmas Gift Alternatives	39
Ministry Summary	40

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New Insights About Beautiful Feet



Recently I have been enjoying the farmers' market near our apartment. Not only are the Romanian fruits and vegetables delicious, but it has become a place of good conversations about the "Good News." Have you ever felt as if you never do a "good enough job" of sharing

the "Good News"? I have. After all, I have had this misconception that sharing the Gospel as a Christian should always be easy and fruitful when I do it "well." Paul writes that he was not sent with *words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.* 1 Corinthians 1:17

The most transforming simple truth God has shown me recently is this; When I share the Good News "in the best way I know how," God describes it as "beautiful." I can have peace because regardless of my "performance" or "other's opinions" God sees my sharing of the Good News as beautiful. As is written several times in scripture *How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!* Romans 10:15

God only asks me to lovingly share the Good News, and He declares my efforts as "beautiful!" He will take care of the rest.

I am thankful for those individuals whom God sent into my life with "beautiful feet" of Good News! Who is waiting for your beautiful feet to arrive?

Would you like an idea? I have found these questions to be helpful in opening *Good News* conversations.

- What religion do you follow?
- In your religion, how do you get your sins forgiven?
- Are your sins paid off yet?
- When will you know whether you're going to heaven?
- What I believe is a bit different. I know my sins are forgiven. Here's how I know my sins are forgiven...
- Do you want to follow Jesus now?

Jill Clark

Tom and Jill live in Bucharest, Romania, where they are involved in both men's and women's discipleship.

Work to Eat

Listen again to Jesus' words to the disciples in John 4:32-36 "No," he said, "I have food you don't know about." "Who brought it to him?" the disciples asked each other. Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God who sent me and from finishing His work. Do you think the work of harvesting will not begin until the summer ends four months from now? Look around you! Vast fields are ripening all around us and are ready now for the harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!"

Jesus is speaking to us about finding nourishment for our souls—satisfaction in life and oneness with Him. This completing the Father's work around us is where we find much of the abundance that Jesus promised us. Our inadequacy drives us to Him—for eyes to see needs, for strength to take on more, for finances, for the ability to love and clarity in sharing the Gospel. And in this partnership with Him, we find life!

Darlis's and my hearts are being increasingly broken as we shop at some of our local stores. We just don't know what to do with the images and sounds we take in. We hear desperation and such "lostness." Commonly folks are high, some lewd, some angry, some toothless, many are obese, some incredibly pierced, some barely clothed, and some rail-thin. Their interactions with each other shock our senses. If you or I can visit those places on Saturday evening and come home and sleep well, then something is really wrong with our memory of God's grace to us and our understanding of God's heart. Questions should haunt us. Do these folks even know our churches exist? How do we become relevant to their suffering and needs? How do we find a deep love for them in Jesus? Didn't we need the same mercy from God and why is that mercy so difficult for us?

This messy, life-consuming, faith-requiring work is what you and I were saved to do. (Ephesians 2:10). It is the purpose of the potent Word of God in our lives. (II Timothy 3:17). It is the validation of the faith that we claim to have. (James 2:13-26). And these works are His works, that the local church was established to train us up to do. (Ephesians 4:11b-12). If the purpose of our lives, study and local churches is only doctrinal perfection, then we have missed the heart of God. We must let the darkness around us drive us to get to work, even just for

mercy's sake! There are little ones attached to these larger, very broken people.

We recently met a couple in Wisconsin who had opened a free clinic one night a week, to meet needs with their medical training. As we spoke to them in the church foyer they said, "We only need to lift our chins a few degrees to clearly see all kinds of needs that God would have us meet." We know of churches that are providing listeners from their retired population at local elementary schools. The Palau organization in Portland has teamed up with the city government to fix up and bless the local family services offices. Other churches are offering free oil changes for the poor, free meals for hungry kids on Saturdays, free marriage counseling and mentoring for anyone who would want to use the church building for a wedding, Celebrate Recovery for the deeply hurt, house repair teams going out after first service during their Sunday School hour, teams who pack backpacks with food for low-income elementary kids, school library staffing for cash-strapped elementary schools, etc. And these local church people are finding food for their souls in the process! I was reminded recently that our lives must be given to both declare and demonstrate the Gospel to those around us. These are just a few ways to get both of those done. Now is the time to be both seen and heard as believers.

I have this banter regularly with my three-year-old grandson Lukey, where I say, "Lukey, if you wanna eat, you gotta.....?" And he usually smirks just a little and lowers his chin and whispers "Worrk, Papa." He acts as though he doesn't want to admit it, but he knows the right answer! "You gotta work!" I wonder how often our heavenly Father would love to have that conversation with you and me.

My dear brothers and sisters, how can we set the standard of our "faith employment" so low when the darkness around us is so penetrating?? Let's stop trying to fill our hungers in life on our own terms and accept the way that God has made us. We are meant to work with Him to find the nourishment that satisfies our souls. And for His name sake, we *must* reflect His mercy!



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

Heroes, Pioneers, Brave

Heroes, pioneers, brave. That is what we were being called. Why would an 80 and 75-year-old leave their comfortable home in Neosho, Missouri, to go to Odessa, Ukraine, to teach conversational English? Ukraine was at war and our family and friends questioned our



sanity. Barbara wrote in her journal, “No way can Jack and I ever consider going to serve in Ukraine without God’s promise in Acts 1:8. *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” I was also encouraged by Acts 20:24, *I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the LORD JESUS, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.* On September 4, 2014, we arrived in Odessa to begin serving in a place much different than Missouri.

After a month in Odessa, we started having students come to our apartment for supper and to visit and get better acquainted. Ukrainian teachers do not invite students to their homes; so this was strange and puzzling to the students. We were amused to see the student’s reaction when the meal was served. Most had never had an American meal and it looked strange to them. They would take a small portion, and after tasting it, the larger portions would come, sometimes two or three servings. After supper I would show a video of our church members from back home greeting them and pictures of our family. They were intrigued and had many questions about America because it was not the America they imagined, not what they had been taught. We gave them a book called, *Good News For You*, in Russian. Most of the students were unbelievers, and this book showed them the plan of salvation.

Heroes, pioneers, brave? Several people at the IM Staff Conference in Poland told us that when they reach our age, they want to be just like us. Did that make us proud? Not really, it made us humble in knowing that we can still serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at our age.

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AN ANTIDOTE TO *Hard-Headedness*

I knew a youth pastor years ago who had to resign his position because of immoral behavior. When explaining his situation and reason for resigning he said, “It was about a year ago when I quit spending time really connecting with the Lord.”

We’ve learned that missionaries—especially those in intense situations—need to come away from their ministry regularly to refuel. They don’t exactly need a vacation; they need something more deeply soul-nourishing than that. Without these periods of refueling they can easily become cynical and discouraged, believing the lie that they are alone in the ministry. It also leaves them vulnerable to many types of sinful temptation.

Enter Ezekiel (see Ezekiel chapter 3). God tells Ezekiel that He is sending him on a mission to stiff-necked and stubborn people who won’t listen to him. So much for any high hopes of seeing everyone joyfully respond in faith! But, then the Lord tells him something that might have been a surprise to Ezekiel (but surely wasn’t a surprise to his wife): God says, “I have made your head as hard as the hardest stone.” It doesn’t seem like a compliment, but God often uses stubborn, independent, hard-headed people as missionaries. It’s those seemingly negative qualities that help them keep going in the face of impossible difficulties.

God also provides an antidote for the stone-headedness that characterized Ezekiel (and many

of us). He says, **“Let My words sink deeply into your own heart first, then go and speak to My people.”** That’s the challenge for all of us in ministry. We need to set aside the urgent needs that stare us in the face long enough to ask what the Lord has to say to us personally. The priority is on our own heart-condition. We must not work for Him, but instead work with Him. Without attending to our own spirit, we become hypocrites with nothing but platitudes for those who we want to minister to.

I’m in a time of trying to “enter His rest” as it says in Hebrews 4. I’m discovering that although I know what I need, my stubborn heart tends to seek rest and escape in everything but Jesus. But through a season of seeking Him regarding my own spiritual condition, I trust that the Lord will empower me, like Ezekiel, to speak to His people with fresh vitality.

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



SHORT- TERMER QUOTE

“This missions experience pointed me to God’s power to bring about His plans. We did not start out this summer thinking we’d go on a mission trip, but when asked to consider it, we prayed for guidance and had the benefit of watching God orchestrate details—clearing of obstacles at home, raising of finances, gathering of prayer support, working through details large and small. This is the first time my husband and I have been able to go on a mission trip together. The support we provided for each other was a huge benefit. It was a joy to combine our efforts.”

Lois – Egypt

HOW TO BE A *Salty French Fry*

Recently my nine-year-old daughter Roksana and I were reading the passage in the Bible that calls us the salt of the earth. Roksy responded, “Mommy, that’s weird!” “Well,” I explained, “salt makes everything taste better. It even makes chocolate taste better.” I had her attention. “God has changed us and works through us, and because of that we make this world a better place.” I lost her. So I chose a topic that we Hybels are well versed in... french fries! I said, “Your classmates at school are like a plate of french fries without salt.” Roksy cringed at the thought. “And you are like a long, tasty, salty fry! By spending time with your classmates and being a good influence on them, you rub your salt on them. The more you tell them about how good God is, or choose to be different by not using bad language and being kind instead of teasing people, you shake your salt around and make your class a better place. You even make your school a better place. And then the



earth is a better place!” Roksy squinted one eye, gave a face twitch, and then it sank in. She said, “So I’m a salty french fry. Now that makes sense.” (Perhaps if Jesus had lived near the food truck that serves those scrumptiously salty fries, He might have explained it that way too.) The moral of this story... we are called to be salty french fries among a world of tasteless spuds. Let’s get out there and spread the flavor!

Julie Hybel
*Julie, Przemek,
and their daughter
Roksana live in
Krakow, Poland.*



“I benefited in ways no one would ever expect. This trip was a time of rest for me. It allowed me to focus on God and serving others. I did not have to worry about the fact that I was unemployed, how to pay my bills, or running around doing odd jobs to make ends meet. God reminded me that He is the one who provides for me, and all I have to do is be obedient to Him! He also reminded me that sometimes following Him is not the most logical thing. Most people would consider it irresponsible for me to take off on a trip while unemployed, but God clearly led me and opened the doors. He asked me to humbly walk through them and see what He had waiting for me. This trip was not about any major revelations or new knowledge of God, but a way for God to confirm to me who He is as Savior, Provider, Father. He also showed me that He is my main supporter, and that it is ok for me to be away from those who know me and understand me, that I have family wherever I go because of my faith in Him. He also showed me how alike all people are. We all place our identities in things that are not God and need Him to protect us and bring us back into a right relationship with Him!” *Jessica – Romania*

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES**

NOBODY CAN STOP *God's Love in Egypt*

A good friend of mine told me on the cell phone that he heard about an elderly man who wouldn't have enough to eat. He would actually be starving. Why his family had abandoned him, nobody could tell. He lived in a very poor neighborhood, about an hour from us by public transport and another twenty minute walk through dangerous slum territory. I immediately knew that getting there was like crossing a mine field. Drug addicts and other unhappy people wait in the slums to take everything from visitors who don't look hungry and who are dressed in a normal way.

During the next two days, I couldn't get rid of the seemingly crazy idea that maybe I was the person the Lord wanted to send there. This gentleman would starve to death, and nobody would have ever shared the Gospel with him. When the burden was almost unbearable, I called my friend and asked for the man's name and the exact address. Two hours later I jumped on a bus with a plastic bag with groceries in my left hand, a Bible in my right hand, and some change to pay for the ride back home. When the bus stopped in front of the slum, fear crept back into my heart.

Halfway into these narrow streets that were crowded with children, old people, and much garbage, I was stopped by three tall guys. They pushed my back to a wall, pressed the blade of a knife against my throat, and asked me to give them all I had. When I told them that I just had groceries and some change for the bus back, they laughed and commented that they will "finish" me on the spot because life is too short for such stupid jokes. I saw my end coming.

At that very moment a huge, strong man came around the corner. With much anger, he shouted at



the three drug addicts to leave me alone. Don't you ever touch one of my best friends! They seemed to fear him, because they immediately disappeared. I had never seen my rescuer before in my life and wanted to thank him. But, he was gone as well.

I had a wonderful meeting with the old man. We prayed together. I shared with him the truth that the Lord loves him and that He wants to save him before he dies.

This is today's Egypt. People are tired from what they have seen during the past years— hate, violence, and bloodshed. We want to use this favorable time and share God's love with our nation. This is the time for us to take responsibility and to reach out, even if it's dangerous. Many Egyptians of our generation know Jesus as a prophet but not as their Savior.

During the last two years our ministry has exploded. Today our worship team consists of seventeen members. They lead us into the Lord's presence, and often we stand in worship for many hours. The media, sports, and village teams reach out to young people, no matter which religious background they have. The IM camps have been and will be a powerful tool to evangelize and

continued on page 8

disciple many young people who later join our movement. The IM Desertside Training Center and many volunteers and friends from abroad continuously help us to build a strong and healthy foundation for all these new believers. Because of God's grace, we don't fear discrimination or persecution anymore.

Mina Fayez
*Mina lives and
 serves with IM in Egypt*



▲ **The Egypt worship team**

Life is Messy

I struggled writing this article. Not because I didn't have things I wanted to share, but because I just couldn't find the time. I'm the mom of a very active toddler. Nobody ever told me that these toddler years would be THIS crazy! And I have only ONE!! Maybe I'm a wimp, but this being-a-mom-stuff is hard! Each time I feel as if I get into a rhythm... BAM, things change. I'm finding out that I don't deal well with change!

Each week I look at all the things that I need to do and I feel overwhelmed. Being a stay-at-home mom and doing staff care with IM part-time keeps me very busy. I want to be fully there for my family and keep up with housework and meals, but I also want to be there for the missionary women I work with, not to mention taking care of myself!

Recently, there was a day when I found myself just exhausted saying, "I can't do it all!!" And then, it hit me...I don't HAVE to do it all. I've always been a perfectionist. One thing that God has been teaching me lately is to LET IT GO! Life is messy...I just need to be OK with that! Some days, beds don't get made, dinner doesn't get made, there are more Cheerios scattered on the floor than in the cereal box, I forget about an important meeting, e-mails pile up in the inbox without being answered, friends that I haven't seen for months continue not to be



seen, people that I want to call don't get called, laundry sits piled up on the couch for days, etc. But, God (who controls it all) continues to whisper to my heart: "Be still and know that I am God!" If I wait until everything in my life feels nice, neat, and tidy, I will miss out on all of it! Life feels messy to me right now, as though I have no control over anything...but maybe that's exactly the point! ☺

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

GOD IS LORD

Of All the Nations

Friendships can begin in the most unique circumstances.

Who would have guessed that our American family would be involved in the wedding of a Polish woman and a Welsh man? Well that is what we got when two youth from our church in Poland grew up, went to school abroad, and fell in love! Now that wonderful couple is preparing to be in full-time ministry in Wales. We consider them to be a part of our extended international family!

Borne Sulinowo hosts a medical facility that specializes in rehabilitation for people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). About two years ago, thanks to the internet, Iain learned about this facility and would travel for two days from the northernmost part of Scotland to this small town to receive treatment. As a result of the lack of English speakers locally, I was invited to visit with him! At first, our visits consisted of polite niceties poetry—which is a love of his. Soon because of the harsh realities of living with MS we were able to move into deeper and more spiritual topics. This year we invited him to our church services and made

sure to have some strong arms there to lift him in his wheelchair up two flights of stairs! We consider Iain, and his mom Moira who travels with him, to be some of our international friends.

David has also had the opportunity to develop a friendship with a Czech man married to an American woman living and serving in the Czech

Republic. The two met while going to school in Berlin! From that relationship an opportunity arose for our family to travel to Czech Republic to work at a summer camp sharing the Gospel! The group of kids there were so excited to connect! They communicated in a mix of Polish, English, Czech, and mime! Those children are like our loving Lord, concerned for the peoples of all nations.

How are you loving the people of the nations, or the people around the corner?

Nicole Beger

Nicole, her husband David, and their children live and serve in Borne Sulinowo, Poland.



One Heart at a Time

Romania appears to be a beautiful country, but in reality it ranks highest in abortions, child abandonment, and human trafficking in all of Europe. What breeds such a lack of value for human life and allows such exploitation of the most vulnerable members of society? We've lived in Romania for 17 years and minister daily to women and children who have been, or are at risk of becoming, one of those statistics—they're people we know.

In any culture which doesn't value human life, there is an inherent undercurrent with the most vulnerable people being used and abused as a commodity for gain by someone they trust, even their own parents. Some of the children in our Care Home were used like that before they came here and would still be in danger of being exploited and abused if they were not under the protective care of this ministry. Some of our moms were used that way when they were children so they don't have a clue that parents should provide protective boundaries over their children.

Civilization can accurately and historically be defined as to how closely a culture comes to living according to God's moral standards. Uncivilized societies defined by how far away from God's moral standards they move, resulting in unbridled exploitation of the most vulnerable people in society.

I like to think of our ministry as a safe haven of hope for the most vulnerable. If the evil in the world is due to prideful and rebellious hearts, thoughts, and philosophies (all in opposition to God's moral standard and destructive to people He created and loves), we must counteract that evil by proclaiming and living

in the reality of God's Word and His Truth. Jesus Christ has the power to overcome sin and death and to bring eternal salvation to those who believe and repent.

When we first came into ministry someone said something to me to the effect that missionaries shouldn't go into a culture to try to change it. I doubt we could, but I think we should try—one heart at a time.

Doug and Roberta Moore

Doug & Roberta are IM missionaries and the founders and daily overseers of the River of Life Foundation in Cornesti, Romania, which consists of a Care Home

for "at risk," needy pregnant women and their children, "Emanuel" a family-type foster home for children, and "Maria House" an assisted living home for needy elderly women.



▲ Roberta with some of the kids in our ministry homes

THE UNHEARD OF IN VTÁČKOVCE

Years ago I heard someone talking about Vtáčkovce (Vtaach-kov-s□), or “Birdville.” They reckoned the Roma (Gypsies) living there were quite something, proved by the fact that busses weren’t stopping there. There’s probably some truth in that story. I heard it was because someone threw rocks at the bus, thus allowing the transportation company an excuse to stop servicing their remote village.

Only about 20 kilometers (twelve miles) from where we live in Košice, Vtáčkovce is difficult to get to in the hills. An estimated 60 Ethnic Slovaks still live there, but so do maybe up to 900 Roma. The osada (ghetto) on the outskirts is now larger than the town. It has grown because of its remoteness. Although remote, it’s not a place that God’s forgotten.

Many years ago a team from our church went to Vtáčkovce to show the JESUS film. Quite a few people prayed then to accept the Lord. A year or so later we took Samaritan’s Purse shoeboxes there at Christmas and almost had a riot, literally. But, the tracts explaining the Gospel were left behind and the boxes were given out in the ghetto.

Some of those new believers began to drive into Košice to be a part of the church God was planting in the infamous Lunik IV ghetto. Now, years later, we saw more than 30 new believers baptized this summer (2015), confirming their desire to follow Christ.

Many of those living in Vtáčkovce don’t have running water and live well below any poverty line we’d consider impossible in the West, but still they have a contagious love for our Lord. When Pastor Laco’s wife, Anka, told the ladies we wanted to come teach a sewing course, the women were excited. I asked how many she expected. She indicated “Maybe even up to 15, as there was quite an interest.” A week later when we got to the old granary to hold the first class I was met by 35 women and 20 children! We’re teaching them to use sewing machines and they’re thrilled with the opportunity!



▲ Standing in front of the granary in Vtáčkovce with some of the women who stayed to help clean up after a session of the sewing class.

Karla Thiessen

Karla, Brad, and family have lived in Kosice, Slovakia since 1991.



Swinging Praise to the Lord

Daily Camille throws a tantrum and after it's finished, she hugs another lady, shrugging me off like a disease. It hurts my heart to see this. It's an intentional slap in the face. What could I do? Today, after another tantrum, she not only kept close the rest of the day, but continued asking to play with me. She taught me to jump rope, showed me favorite books, asked for help with her food, and sat on my lap—not letting any other little girl near me if they tried. Then, she asked me to push her high on the swing. Her sweet little voice cried “Tare, tare!” and up she went, higher and higher, until she was over my head and nearly out of reach. I was not about to let this little girl's hopes of a high-ride down, even though the day before she wanted nothing to do with me. Before long, she began to sing. At first, I didn't recognize the words and then they became clear, “I want to sing, sing, I want to dance, dance, dance, I want to sing, I want to dance, PRAISE THE LORD!!!” as The higher she soared, the louder and louder she sang—I nearly cried it was so beautiful. From such terror yesterday to such joy today.

Though I'm sure we will have more difficult days ahead, I am so grateful for today.



One thing I've been trying to practice more is intentional prayer during tantrums (and joys) throughout the day. When your child is screaming though the first thought is “Why can't they understand!?” but more each time my heart is reminded to pray out loud over them. A few nights ago, Camille couldn't sleep. I was heading downstairs to pray, and I asked her if she wanted to come. “YES!” she said. She snuggled in close and was very quiet while I prayed. Two days later, she was upset and instead of losing it,



she took my hand saying, “Want to pray. Want to pray.”and HOW in the WORLD could I resist that invitation?

Alissa Foreman
Alissa is an intern serving in Romania as house-mom at the “Emanuel” family-type foster home for children, a ministry of The River of Life Humanitarian Foundation

“It has helped me to see that although the cultures are different, the message of Jesus is the same and has no borders. It has strengthened my resolve to carry out Jesus' command to make disciples.” *Roger – Romania*

SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES

English Camp Seeds

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11 NIV

Hands simultaneously clasped to close the circle around the table before the prayer of thanks and blessing. “Would you like to pray before this meal, Agata?” Carroll asked. First a blush, then a sincere communiqué raised to her Creator. After the “amen” she proudly proclaimed, “That’s the first time I’ve prayed out loud!” Affirmations were exchanged and we began passing the food. This conversation took place in our home in Minneapolis when Agata, her husband, and their three children stayed in our home for a week in August 2015.

What a contrast to our initial visit in her Polish/Italian home months earlier. Upon our arrival late in the evening, Agata’s husband shared that they never pray in their home. “Our custom,” he explained, “is to take a small basket of food to church on Easter Sunday and the priest blesses our food for the entire year. That way, we never need to pray in our homes. But...you are welcome to pray in our home if that is your custom.” So we did. Before every meal and out loud. A new routine was established for our meal times together. Adults and children became accustomed to verbally thanking God for food and friends and time together.

Meeting at an IM English Camp, developing friendships, sharing our lives, laughing and crying together, spending time in each other’s homes, and making memories—God is using these experiences to show his pathway of life that leads to relationship with Him.

“See you at camp next summer!”



Becky Miller
Carroll and Becky Miller are part of IM’s staff care team, providing care and support to IM staff in Poland.

Roma Ministry

It all began simply enough. I was on a weekend trip to a quaint town in Slovakia, having come from Vienna, Austria, where I was a schoolteacher. On this visit I was suddenly very surprised to experience a strong impression from the Holy Spirit saying, “Come back to the young people in this town.” And thus began a time (2005-2008) of living in both Vienna and Banska Stiavnica and seeing many ministries develop in Slovakia. In 2008 I realized I needed to narrow my ministry focus, and I chose the Roma (gypsy) people. The majority of Roma in Slovakia live in the eastern part, so I moved to Kosice in 2009 which is much further east.



Kristen Wollam
Kristen works with Roma women, teens, and young girls in Rankovce, Slovakia.

I had a vision to start a creative sewing business with Roma women and an idea about living out in a village—beyond that I was pretty clueless. I met a German missionary couple who introduced me to Jana—a Slovak woman who lived in a village and seemed to know everyone in the area. Jana sent me to the Lutheran pastor in the village of Rankovce (which has a large Roma population), to see if something might happen—it did! I was able to start a creative business, mostly with sewing, at the church. I found a run-down house in Rankovce and in 2011 was able to buy it with donations. It is actually a small farm with barns, a fruit orchard, and currently my own animals (so fun)! After much work, the house was transformed, and a second story was added by a team from Austria. We also converted a second building into a lovely and practical workshop for the ladies’ work. I also founded a non-profit called *Hope for Roma*. Currently we have two groups of five ladies who sew (to sell), we run an ongoing Alpha Course for about 25 ladies, and we have a group of teen girls who meet to make jewelry to sell. The girls also have a Bible study group and are involved in an evangelistic puppet theater ministry. There are also Kids Klub meetings for a group of younger girls.

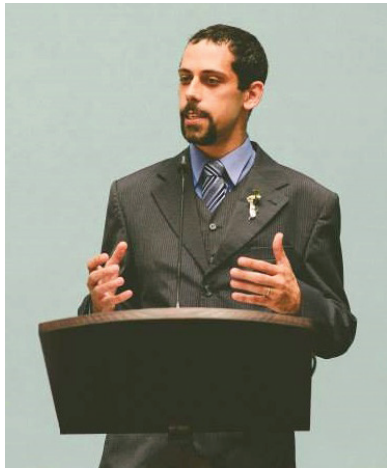
In the middle of all this, the German missionary couple purchased the house next to mine, and our ministries overlap with each other and with the Lutheran church. Another missionary couple is also beginning to get involved in the work in our village.

I can only stand in awe at what God has put together here. None of the connections were by my hand, and I am honored to be used for God’s kingdom in this place.

HARVEST TIME!



▲ **Jurek**



▲ **Roman**

defense class. Well, I have taught self-defense from time to time. Here is a man who was saved through the efforts of both American missionaries and Czech nationals. He is now a harvester. Now, we meet for preaching and self-defense instruction, but I give him the tools and he does the work. We do not find harvesters, we raise them.

It has been said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Matthew 9:37. This verse is frequently tossed around in missionary circles, usually (and rightfully) using it to encourage more of us (missionaries) to "go" and "do." But, the great blessings of being a harvester is seeing the harvest replace us harvesters. As missionaries, we call those in the various countries in which we serve, to "go harvest." Those of you who know my family, already know Jurek. Jurek hated our church. No, "hated" is not too strong. He comes from the typical non-Christian background. His wife had become saved and was a part of our church. Unfortunately (at least it seemed so), her interest in the spiritual things of God drove more of a wedge between them. Their marriage was failing, but it was this failure which ultimately led Jurek to us, where we could then point him to the Lord. And the Lord used this occasion to break Jurek so that He could rebuild Jurek. Jurek placed his faith in Christ and has now become a harvester. He has grown much and now serves as an elder. He finished my "Preaching NT Letters" course and now preaches...although he does not yet enjoy doing so. In time!

This last summer (2015) we were in the Czech Republic helping a pastor friend of ours. A second pastor friend of ours asked me for help in two areas. First, he wanted help with preaching. I said "Great!" Second, he wanted help with an outreach project to both men and women. His idea was a self-

David Beger

David, his wife Nicole, and their children live and serve in Borne Sulinowo, Poland.



"My level of comfort in dealing with the unknown has grown immensely over the last few trips. God puts me in these corners where trusting Him is my only godly answer, and He always comes through with just what I need for each time. I am learning to trust Him for more each trip." *Ann – Poland*

"If you knew today was the last time you could speak to your closest friends and family your last words to them would be the most important. Jesus' last words to them were 'make disciples of all nations.' These trips fulfill Jesus's wish for our lives." *Dave – Egypt*

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES**

2016 Short-Term Ministry Opportunities

EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS (EELC)	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Poznan, Poland (college students)	Shaded A/M	June 30 – July 12
	Alexandria, Egypt (ages 18-25)	Oehler B/Fayez	July 7 – 18
	Odessa, Ukraine (ages 14-26)	Huffman/Naydenov	July 14 - 27
	Antonovka, Ukraine (H.S./College)	Winkler/Litvak	July 19 – August 1
	Alexandria, Egypt (ages 18-25)	Oehler B/Fayez	July 23 – August 4
	Poznan, Poland (college students)	Shaded A/M	July 28 – August 9

FAMILY EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Larnaca, Cyprus	Oehler B/B	June 28 – July 10
	Bran, Romania	Clark	June 29 – July 11
	Odessa, Ukraine	Huffman/Naydenov	June 30 – July 13
	Gdansk, Poland	Jachym/Lockrem	early July**
	Poland	Snyder	Mid-July**
	Alexandria, Egypt	Fayez	July 15 – 26
	Poland	Dabrowski	July 19 – August 2
	Slovakia	Thiessen	End of July or in August**

SPECIALTY CAMP	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
Painting/maintenance/upkeep@ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Minister to moms, kids, elderly @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
English Retreat for University Students	Poznan, Poland	Shaded A/M	Dec. 26 – Jan. 6
English Camp w/sports activities (ages 14-20)	Kampala, Uganda	Tustanovsky/Oehler	December 28 – January 11
Discipleship (H.S./College) (ages 14-26)	Antonovka, Ukraine	Winkler/Litvak	December 31 – January 11
H.S. Outreach/English Day Camp (ages 16-19)	Radom, Poland	Snyder/Lockrem	January 20 – February 8
Discipleship (ages 18-25)	Alexandria, Egypt	Fayez	January 29 – February 8
Discipleship (ages 18-25)	Larnaca, Cyprus	Oehler B/B	February 19 – 29
Discipleship (adults w/their kids/teens)	Kiczycze, Poland	Pszczola/Chmielewski	February 21 – March 1
University English Classroom Outreach with evening programs	Radom, Poland	Snyder/Lockrem	1st or 2nd week of March**
Evangelistic Hiking English Camp	Ukraine (Carpathian Mountains)	Huffman	April 28 – May 9
Business English Camp	Czech Republic	Lipus	approx. May 10 – 25**
Orphanage Ministry	Gulu, Uganda	Pipes/Odongo/Olwenyi	last part of May**
Construction Projects @ Camp LELA	Odessa, Ukraine	Rechkemmer/Puzanov	anytime during April & May
Building/Set-up of Camp LELA	Odessa, Ukraine	Rechkemmer/Puzanov	anytime during May
Construction Projects	Odessa, Ukraine	Rechkemmer/Puzanov	anytime June – August
Evangelistic Community Outreach	Jinja/Kampala, Uganda	Pipes/Odongo/Olwenyi	Mid-June**
VBS/Street Evangelism	Corabia, Romania	Droll	June 24 – July 4
Joshua Project	Moldova Nouă, Romania	McKnight/Udrea	July 11 – 20
English Soccer Camp	Karak, Jordan	Oehler B	July 15 – 26
VBS (ages 3-18)	Bircii, Romania	Nicolae	early part of August**
Camps for Orphans (see details on Camp Schedule on IM website) available at 7 camps taking place during June 12 – Aug 20	Odessa, Ukraine	Rechkemmer/Puzanov	Short-term opps
Evangelistic Hiking English Camp	Ukraine (Carpathian Mountains)	Huffman	August 11 – 22

*Youth/Kids Camp

**Specific dates yet to be determined

For the most up-to-date camp schedule visit our websites:

www.im-usa.org/camps-schedule
www.im-canada.ca/camps-schedule

Alone, But Not Alone



I have been a missionary with International Messengers for fourteen years, serving thirteen of those years in Kaposvar, Hungary. I spent eight of them serving with a couple and their growing family, and although I am now serving alone, I am anticipating someone to come and join me here,

however, that hasn't happened yet.

Prior to serving at a summer Evangelical English Camp in Egypt (2015) with a team from International Messengers, I was reading messages on Facebook and found a post by Darwin and Darlis Anderson. It was written on their wedding anniversary while attending a marriage conference and was entitled, *Words of Love and Thanks*. It began with, "How I thank God for you: He has been so good to both of us." With those words I began to cry as I remembered my late husband, Jim, and our twenty-six years together. I continued to read the message, and with the words, "You made my life better than I ever dreamed it would be" I thought about Jesus. He made my life better than I ever dreamed it could be after the loss of my husband. He took my husband's place, and I have grown,

changed, and deepened because of Jesus; I am a better person because of His love in my life.

Jesus brought love, joy, and happiness into my world which I thought would never be possible after Jim's home-going. He opened my eyes to things I never saw before and opened my heart to things I never felt before. Although it hasn't always been easy, I'm so glad I have Jesus in my life. I do not know why He loves me, but I'm so thankful that He does. As I was still thinking about all that Jesus is to me, the song started *It Will be Worth it All* started playing on the radio. We had sung this song in church a week after my husband's funeral, over thirty-one years ago. The chorus is as follows:

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus!

Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ.

One glimpse of his dear face, all sorrow will erase.

So, bravely run the race till we see Christ.

Something that I believe is this—in Jesus Christ we are never alone and my desire is as follows:

I want to run this race called life,
with all my being set on Christ.
Not slowing down around the bends,
but run steadfast till the journey ends.

Barb Gorman

Barb lives in Kaposvar, Hungary. She serves in her church, teaches English, works with students, and is involved with prison ministry.

If you participated in a short-term trip in 2015 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

"What stands out to me the most is how God's plans work in spite of me. Sometimes I need to get out of the way and let Him work without me. I felt very frustrated when one of my English students skipped class for two days. She decided to go observe the children's ministry because she was a teacher. While I was stewing, she heard the simple child's version of the Gospel message and it sparked a very fruitful spiritual conversation with our children's leader afterward. God knows where each of us should really be at any given moment." *Jenny – Poland*

**SHORT-
TERM
QUOTE**

Though the Mountains Be Shaken...



The sun rose as usual. I went for my morning run, catching a few glimpses of the towering Himalaya through the haze in the distance. Although the Kathmandu pollution hides them most of the time, I can never stop being mesmerized by their beauty and power they represent.

I didn't see them very clearly that morning. But, later I felt quite clearly the might of their movement.

Having just finished (or so we thought!) a time of praise and worship, we settled in our standard positions... most sitting cross-legged on the large rugs rolled out over the church's cement floor. A floor one tends to trust to stay in the same place. But it didn't that day. With a loud roar, the ground beneath us suddenly turned into a violent angry ocean, lifting and shifting and wreaking havoc. Mount Everest moved by more than an inch, and Kathmandu shifted up and over by three feet.

"Oh Jesus! Oh Jesus!..." A cry rose up from many, calling out in startled fright to our soul's Foundation. To our Refuge and Fortress, Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever and Who does not move when everything else does.

I struggled to my feet. The "fight or flight" reflex called for flight... but where to?? Out of the building seemed reasonable. But the door, blocked by others with the same notion, did not seem an effective escape route. Many stumbled and lurched toward it, the shifting ground, causing service attendees to stagger and sway like drunks out of a bar instead of worshipers out of a church. My gaze shifted from the exit to Pastor BabuKaji, sitting there behind the podium in his wheelchair at the front of the church with eyes stretched wide open, like twin moons in his dark face.

My Nepali may not be nearly as fluent as I wish and dream. My hair, skin, and eye color also declare to

all that I am a foreigner in the land to which God has called my heart. But in coming weeks, I felt more oneness with the people here than ever before. We suddenly shared an event that transcends country, culture, and ethnicity.

On this, Day One; Hour One... several Nepali friends clung to my hands... perceiving that the foreigner with white skin might know what to do. I just looked back at them with equally wide eyes, clung to their hands in return, and thanked God that the building in which we worshipped was built in preparation for an earthquake that scientists had been anticipating. Fifteen or twenty minutes later, we did what seemed most appropriate... we returned to worship. The lights were out and the microphones were dead, but somehow, the volume, passion, and intensity of calling upon an Almighty God diminished not in the slightest. We sang and screamed and danced and prayed and raised desperate hands to our Holy Heavenly Father, as aftershocks continued to rock the earth like waves every 5-10 minutes. In the midst of this, the church received one of its biggest offerings ever—from people who didn't even know whether their houses were still standing. It is the most moving service I have ever been a part of... in more ways than one.

Shortly thereafter, I passed by the site of our previous church building—or by a pile of metal, stone, and mortar that marked its spot. At the end of April 2013 we moved to our "new" facility. At the end of April 2015 we celebrated our second anniversary by staying alive with no injuries.

In October 2014, I created a calendar for 2015. I included a picture of a magnificent mountain for the month of April along with a verse, which fit much better than I'd anticipated it would at the time...

Isaiah 54:10, "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, my love for you will NOT be shaken, nor the covenant of my peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you."

Holly Tapley

Dr. Holly Tapley serves with IM in Nepal.

Four Generations

I recently received a text message from my friend saying, “My dad says to my mom, ‘Nothing will come out of it!’ Mom asks, ‘What do you mean?’ ‘It means that I begot two sons from whom I have NO use.’”

Two men in their thirties—no wives, no children. That is the way in which the father expressed his pain associated with the lack of a future generation. Where has this feeling come from? Multiplication is a part of how God has created us. Unfortunately, many believers experience the same feeling when looking at their spiritual children. They are all prim and proper—they don’t swear, don’t do bad things, and they attend church regularly. Yet, they have no spiritual offspring. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.* (2 Timothy 2:2) In one verse he speaks of four generations: 1) Paul—the disciple of Jesus, 2) Timothy, 3) trustworthy people, 4) others.

When we look at this picture, we can see that it was not enough to pass on godliness, Scriptural knowledge, gifts of grace, and to get Timothy involved in the church. The apostle wanted to remind his spiritual disciple about one of the most important lessons we have to learn in order for the Gospel to reach the ends of the Earth—the multiplication lesson. A few days ago, we received a phone call from Mariusz who has been serving a sentence in prison. He attended a meeting organized by another prisoner named Grzegorz. Two years ago Grzegorz met Jesus in prison through a foster family who takes care of



his son Olek. This foster family, Kasia and Arek, are our friends who gave their lives to Christ when they were still students and spent some years in a discipleship group we led. They passed on to Grzegorz not only the Gospel, but they have been discipling him. They have been doing this by visiting, talking on the phone, and writing to him. The bars of the prison did not stop them from discipleship.

The disciple of Jesus is mature when the disciple of his disciple, disciples others. It is when he or she not only teaches others about God, but also teaches how to teach multiplication. It is when new generations arise and neither time nor borders hinder the Gospel. May the new generations of Jesus’ disciples bring life and hope by making disciples just as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, desires it.

Bogdan and Johanka Pszczola

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

“I have benefited from my missions experience by seeing how God can use a stay at home grandma to reach out to married couples, and young children. To be able to use my experiences over the years, whether good or bad, to help and encourage others.” Janet – Poland

SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTE

Strong, independent, capable, and pretty, describes the go-getter American woman, right? Add to that, versatile and multi-lingual and you have the perfect missionary woman! Let me just say these descriptions didn't fit me very well a few hours after surgery, as I lay in the intensive care unit with a tube in my throat, the Slovak doctor waiting for my coherent answers to his questions. Actually, a few things in recent years have shaken my shallow belief of fitting these "ideal" descriptions beginning with: sitting in the psychologist's office, unable to understand one of our teenage daughter's behavior; going through a period of depression a few years ago; and then, this spring, undergoing an operation on my spine, while facing the possible outcome of being paralyzed.

Following a major surgery, or serious illness, the Slovak health care system provides people with follow-up care at a rehabilitation center. In September, I checked into the Kovacova rehabilitation center for a four-week treatment. This treatment includes exercise, massage, thermal pools, swimming and rest. However, for those who look carefully, it also includes treatment for souls.

My tailor-made treatment plan came in the form of beautiful friendships with some of the other patients. My first friend was Matej, an eight-year-old boy in a wheelchair with a shy, yet friendly, attitude. Matej's head and brain have grown appropriately, but the rest of his body stopped growing years ago, so his organs are beginning to push on his little body frame. Matej slowly overcame his shyness and gave me a big grin each time we saw each other. My next friend was Barbora, a strong, athletic woman who recently lost a leg due to an infection. Barbora and I got into the habit of greeting each other and visiting a bit while sitting in the thermal pool. On Barbora's last day she thanked me, with tears in her eyes, for accepting her and being her friend, commenting that many of her friends had abandoned her, leaving her feeling very lonely. I invited her to our ranch, and she was so happy to have been invited and to have somewhere special to go.

It's hard to say whether these times with Matej and Barbora were more special for them, or for me, because, through them I realized how God chooses our weak moments to shine His light and love through us. Barbora also mentioned feeling a lot of "positive energy" around me, as she said many patients did. I was glad for this compliment and just changed the wording a bit to say "God's light in us," which is what I experienced for four weeks myself through Matej and Barbora.

"For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6

Laura Stein

Bevan and Laura have lived in Slovakia for 19 years and are the founders and leaders of the Father's Heart which includes children's clubs, equine assisted ministry, and motorcycle evangelism.



My Struggle to be Holy

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” 1 John 3:2

Holiness isn’t a hot topic. It doesn’t play well. It seems that it’s an outdated melody. It doesn’t bring excitement.

Yet, holiness is what we were made for. To be holy is to be like Jesus...to grow in holiness is to grow to be more like Jesus.

I have struggled with holiness for over 25 years now. I have legalistic tendencies. I was to follow the rules. I was to receive credit for getting better... from God, from others, from myself. Yes, I am genuine in heart. But, I want to score points and compare myself with others and be better. I have got to find ways to excel and to be approved. I want to please God! Don’t you? That makes me very tired. It makes me think of Christianity as being fake.

Then there is the other “me” who smells much more liberal. Come on! You’ve got to find some balance in life! So I give myself permission. You know... after all I have been through on my path to perfection and holiness, I deserve some slack. I need relief. After all isn’t Christianity about grace? Haven’t we been stuck in religion too long? Isn’t God merciful after all?

Finally, there is the Gospel—God’s power. Finally, there comes my Savior. The one who saves me from both of my enemies: legalism and lawlessness. And I see that neither is a way of God. He freed me from myself—both sides of me—the rule oriented, and the false freedom oriented. He draws me to Himself. He

calls me. I see that He is better and more appealing than my starving and my seeking pleasure outside of Him. I see His glory is the ultimate thing I have been looking for. And everything just fades away. It is the Good News in sanctification: I change by Grace, through faith in Jesus.

Does it take work? Yes. But, my first job is to keep singing that Gospel melody in my own heart... to rest. Then, I work. But, I work out of rest in the accomplished work of Christ on my behalf.



Tom Otremba

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

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.



NEWS FROM

International Messengers Canada

IM Canada is excited to be involved in what God is doing through IM ministries around the world. While we continue to send 25 to 40 short-term volunteers annually to various IM camps, outreaches, and projects, we're now seeing more Canadians getting involved with longer-term opportunities.

Here's a summary of what's new for IM Canada in 2015:

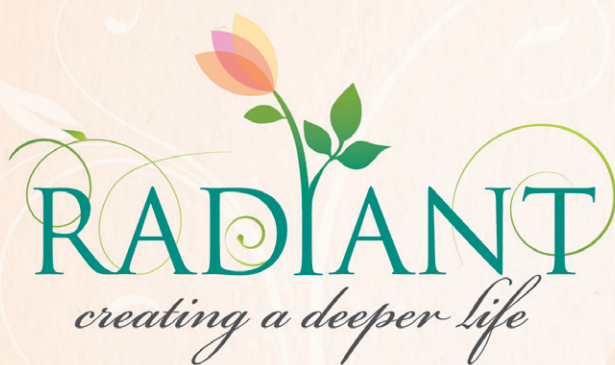
- We moved into a different office that's four times larger than the previous office. This allows space for five staff (room to grow).
- Glen Gebert joined IM Canada as an Information Technology Specialist. He's available to serve the world-wide IM staff with whatever computer support needs they have through both remote desktop assistance and on-site support. Glen recently visited staff in Moscow to install more hard-drive memory, troubleshoot/repair their English school computer network, and set up a new computer server to run it.
- Wes Isaak joined our staff to do the accounting and bookkeeping activities previously done by volunteers. He will also assume many of Gene's office duties. This will allow Gene more time for recruiting and networking.
- A couple is serving for three months this fall in Odessa, Ukraine, as house parents for the students at Seaside Missionary Training Center.
- A woman will serve for three months early in 2016 as a teacher at Eway Christian English School in Odessa.
- On October 24 we launched a one-day women's conference called "RADIANT: Creating a Deeper Life" as a new ministry of IM Canada. Four to six RADIANT conferences will happen across Canada this fall, winter, and spring. Its purpose is to draw women into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and encourage them to take the next step with God, whatever that is, from serving in their own church and community to serving on an IM short-term team overseas.



Gene Fox

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

▲ **The IM Canada office, L to R: Gene & Grace Fox, Tracey Gebert, Wes Isaak, and Glen Gebert (inset)**



*Those who look to him for help
will be radiant with joy... Psalm 34:5 NLT*



Grace Fox has founded a new IM Canada ministry—a one-day women’s conference titled “RADIANT: Creating a Deeper Life.” Launched at Campbell River Baptist Church (Vancouver Island, BC) on October 24, 2015, the conference features three speakers— Grace, Heidi McLaughlin (IM alumni 2009), and Kelita Haverland. Kelita is also an award-winning songwriter and comedienne.

RADIANT’s mission is to inspire women to take the next step in following Christ—to say yes to whatever He’s asking them to do. “That looks different for every person,” says Grace, “but ultimately RADIANT is all about women becoming Christ’s devoted, mature disciples. It’s about encouraging them to pursue greater intimacy with Him; thus, experiencing His indwelling presence and power in life-changing ways.”

The conference seeks to achieve its mission using biblical teaching, personal stories, comedy,

breakout sessions, and worship music. It also provides the women with an opportunity to participate in cross-cultural ministry either on an IM summer camp team or on a RADIANT outreach. Lord willing, RADIANT will take a women’s team to Romania for two weeks in November 2016.”

All combined, Heidi, Kelita, and I bring about 70 years of women’s ministry experience to RADIANT,” says Grace. “We’re asking God to open doors in churches across Canada, and trusting Him to use us as instruments to bring healing to the wounded, hope to the disheartened, and revival to those whose faith has plateaued.”

Contact Grace at Grace@RadiantWomen.ca for more information about how to host the conference in your church (Canadian churches only).

Grace Fox

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

“I am humbled by how God has used my simple ability to speak English to reach out to those who need to hear the Word and by hearing, know Him. It always feels like I am experiencing a miracle when the campers make public commitments for Christ! It is a humbling experience to see God at work.” Karen – Ukraine

SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTE

WORKING THROUGH *Life's Lies*

This was my journal entry: *I feel discarded and rejected. I feel that my life investment has been trashed, my future hope dissolved? Life is sometime really difficult and I have become acutely aware that my feelings may be lies I believe.*

There is a counselor who talked to me and a book I am reading that has helped me think and clarify my thought patterns. We have tracks in our brains that have been made throughout our lives and we don't even think about it but we subconsciously remember the experience and believe this as truth. For example, a teacher asked you for an answer and you didn't know and the class all laughed. You vowed to never be in that situation again because it made you feel inadequate. Or as a child spilling your milk and your parent said, "That was stupid, pay more attention to what you are doing." One would get the message that I am inadequate and stupid, so in present day when not doing things perfectly (which no one can) we subconsciously think we are inadequate and stupid.

This is so destructive, we know that Jesus told us in Psalm 139 that we were perfectly knit in our mother's womb. Romans 5:8 tells us He loves us unconditionally enough to go to the cross for us. These are childhood tracks but we also make adult tracks. Our world lies to us through advertising saying, "You must be beautiful or handsome so people will like you." But our Bible tells us in Ephesians 5:2, *Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us.* We didn't have to be beautiful, handsome, or good enough for Him to love us, and He showed this supreme love enough to die for us.

SHORT-TERM QUOTE

"I was changed by my time in Poland. The Holy Spirit worked in my heart, showing me how earnest young people can be as they prepare to enter the adult world. I saw how compassion (from Christ) touches people deeply. I saw how my small daily interactions with people can affect them in big ways. I'm so thankful that I'm loved and worthy in Christ."

Julie - Poland

So how do we make these mind changes? When you are not experiencing the Fruit of the Spirit in Galations 5:22-23, the bells should go off to evaluate, "What am I thinking?" The fruit of the Spirit is how Jesus said I could live—in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self control. So when I'm stressed, what do I believe? When I'm angry, what am I thinking? This helps me understand what I believe and what Jesus says about it. Ask Jesus to open your eyes to the lies the world has told us.

This is a process I'm learning and God has really shown great freedom and victory in my life. We serve a wonderful, personal, God.

Jan McKinnon

Kent and Jan live in Minnesota. Jan serves as an encourager to IM staff women and is involved with women's ministry in the local church.



Weddings

CALEB TORRES



LESYA NASYPAIKO
married on 11-22-14

FILEMON SHADED



NATALIA KONCZAL
married on 7-04-15

BRANDON KAMMRAD



ABRA WHITE
married on 7-25-15
Daughter of John & Mary White

PEIRCE JORDAN



JESSICA AUSBORN
married on 8-01-15
Son of Dan & Deb Jordan

How I Live

“For I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20



I was meditating on the verse above a few weeks ago, and then recently, it was the lead-in Scripture for our pre-service Sunday prayer meeting. I love it, because it expresses something that the Lord has been

reminding me of recently and teaching me anew—that is, my identity. I’m experiencing my first ever fall season of ministry in Odessa not as an intern. I have a pretty full schedule, and not only that, but the Lord is bringing around me and my ministry team many people who are just hungry for God’s Word and open to hear the Good News. Although it’s so wonderful to see the Lord working on every side, it’s scarily easy to lose my focus and my true identity in the midst of it all. It’s easy to start thinking of myself primarily as “an English teacher,” “a church-planter-person,” or even, “a disciple-maker.” But I’m so grateful for the invasion of this truth into my needy soul. Being primarily any of those things will eventually burn me out or break me. But above and before anything else, I am the sinner that Jesus gave Himself for and to forever! The Gospel of grace is always breaking my other identities apart and causing me to melt again in the love of my Redeemer, reminding me that I am His and He is mine, and that this is how and why I live.

Kimberly Treadway — *Serving in Odessa, Ukraine*

Creative Evangelism

God uses unique ways to make connections with lost people.



A friend invited me to go “chopping.” It’s harvest season and the corn is being chopped and stored for winter to feed the animals. It’s quite a massive operation. I went out and watched for a while then asked if I could ride on the chopper and he said yes. We talked for two hours about family, sports, life, and spiritual things.

On spiritual things, I tried to clarify the difference between being religious and having a relationship with Jesus Christ. I told him that Jesus wants us to walk with Him and hold onto His hand throughout the day, and that He has given us His love letter—the Bible—to help us build our relationship with Him. This man has had some hard things happen in his life and God had prepared Him for this conversation.

I told him about a group that was reading the Bible together and that there was room for one more couple. He paused for a long time and then said, “Yes, this is what we need.” He went home and asked his wife, and they both showed up for the Life Transformation Group (LTG). His wife agreed that this is what they needed. God is helping them with life struggles.

We have several LTGs meeting together, and the comments have been things such as: “I am a kinder parent.” “I see life from a more godly perspective.” “We (my wife and I) are praying together.” “Although life is busy, my husband is stopping to take time with the children.” “I want to read the Bible, but it’s so much easier when I know I’m going to be asked whether I have read.”

We all want to be obedient and grow in our Christian life. We want to invite others to Jesus, and reading the Bible is a perfect way for them to see our Jesus.

Feel free to contact me at: drkentmckinnon@gmail.com for more information.

Kent McKinnon

Kent and Jan live in Minnesota where Kent is a pastor.

Eyes for the Real Needs

The enthusiasm surrounding Genesis Church moving into the new building shielded my expectations from reality; we would be doing ministry out of a construction zone for the next several months. My vision of the nursery at the new church was a glorious, cozy, little haven right off Pinterest, complete with adorable decorations and rocking chairs. The reality has been dusty boxes of toys, a dirty floor to clean every week, and sitting on the cement floor. Plus, the newly painted walls are already smudged because of ongoing construction!

The second Sunday there, I could barely even focus on the kids. I was so lost in my own assessment of how much work still needed to be done, desperately trying to calculate when, or even if, my dream would ever be a reality. Discouraged and frustrated, I had little patience or interaction with the kids and counted down the minutes to when we could just go home. Out of nowhere, His compassion pricked me, setting my wandering heart back into check. It was as if He said, “These new kids have names and stories, and need a loving word more than the walls need a fresh coat of paint.” In an instant I snapped into focus, and began wondering about these kids’ stories.

What kind of home did they come from? Did they feel loved? Do they know they are loved beyond measure and have worth beyond cost? As I began talking with them, I was surprised to find that two of the new kids came without parents, one with an older sibling, and the other completely alone.



Yes, there is much work to be done and as we enter another phase of new beginnings, it's easy to get distracted from the real work of the ministry. We can't afford to lose focus on the eternal things that will outlast decorations and rocking chairs. Please pray with us, that we will keep the main thing the main thing and that we

will be sensitive to the many needs in this new community.



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

SHORT- TERMER QUOTE

“Jesus is worthy to receive the reward of His sufferings and He is receiving that reward through the believers in Egypt. They have a devotion that has caused me to search my motives for how I am serving Jesus. Am I serving to receive something from God, or because He is worthy of everything, which is all of me? Who or what am I pouring my love and devotion into? The ‘stuff’ I think is fulfilling or Jesus who IS LIFE-GIVING? Is Jesus receiving the reward of His sufferings every day? This life I’m living on earth really is passing away and everything in it. The Egyptian believers live each day with boldness and are letting the reality of the Gospel shine through their actions of love. They are being Jesus’ hands and feet to their own people. How am I doing that where Jesus has placed me right now?” Hannah – Egypt

Who is My Mother?

***“Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?
...Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my
brother, and sister, and mother.” Matthew 12:48-50***

I confess, I’ve sometimes said, “I’m so busy with God’s important work! I don’t have time for people.” Recently, God showed me the folly of this thinking.

I started being more intentional in reaching out to my neighborhood in June 2014. During this process, I grew close to one particular neighbor. She lives just across the street. She is an elderly African-American woman who has great love for Jesus. Once, when she was discouraged about being unable to keep her place up, I bought her a hose and began watering her lawn.

She told me how—and this must be the hardest thing in the world for a mother—she’d had to bury three of her adult children. Later, I learned that her son, James (who is around my age), was in the hospital.

“Which hospital?” I asked—not because I wanted to visit—but, because it seemed the “right” thing to say.

She told me the name of the hospital and asked whether I planned to go. Keep in mind, this came at a time when (I thought) I already had too much to do. I had so many more “important” things on my plate. Still, I found the word “Yes,” coming out of my

mouth. She answered, “When you get there, go to the phone outside ICU, say who you want to visit, and then ask for mother.”

I mobilized prayer, and began making regular visits to the hospital. James believed he was a Christian, but I still presented the Gospel and prayed every time. Once, when I was walking out of the ICU, I overheard her speaking with a white nurse. Referring to me, she said, “He’s my other son.” And she really meant it—that was hard for me to grasp, at first. She really meant it. In Christ, I really was, “her other son.”

I meant enough to her that she thought of me as her son. And why? Because I had made a few gestures of kindness. I’m reminded: We forget how big a difference is made in the small gestures of showing God’s love. As God’s children we are called to compassion, and the compassion I showed this dear lady was by no means a grand gesture—but it made a tremendous difference in her life (and mine too). It made such a difference that a black woman could point to a white man and say to everyone who would listen, “That’s my son.” She could say that, and really mean it.

James passed away, but that did not end my investment in

my new mother’s life, or her investment in mine. I’ve become involved in the life of another of her sons—Tyrone. I consider him a friend. Mother and I now have many good talks on her front porch. Her daily praying for me has got me through a lot. She’s very honest about what she goes through because of her great loss, but she has a great love for the Lord, and it is more than enough to sustain her. I’d like to think what we have between us helps, too.

A week after James died, Ferguson, Missouri, exploded in racial tension. There, hate and destruction prevailed in clashes of racial strife. The possibility of peace, much less loving relationships, seemed impossible to most. Meanwhile, only ten miles away, a black woman and a white man, a mother and her son, were living out the beauty of Matthew 12:48-50.

So now, when asked, why don’t I talk about the more important things in my ministry? —(preaching, teaching, evangelism, missions)—I respond, “This lady, and situations just like this, are my ministry. Jesus gave me this ministry when He said, ‘Behold your mother’ John 19:27”

continued on page 27

She is my ministry. She is my mother.

I leave you with this challenge: Do you realize you can make an eternal difference on your own street? You can do so by simply engaging, in Christian love, your next door neighbors. If you think about it, you'll be overwhelmed by all the opportunities to show the love of Christ to those within walking distance—but, then, like me, you may say, "But, I'm too busy for that; I need to focus on important work. God's work."

It may be true that you are, at present, engaged in important work for God. Maybe you are simply too busy to engage others in Christian love. Maybe. Or, maybe, like me, your busy-ness and misplaced priorities aren't so much taking you to God's work—they are the very things taking you from God's work.

Ed Kleiman

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



▲ **Mother and I when I recently visited her church**

Prison Ministry

I arrive at the prison a few minutes before one o'clock for my two teaching sessions. I go through the first of seven locked or barred doors. I place my passport in a tray below a one-way mirror. This unseen person always asks whether I have a phone as I am placing my teaching supplies on the x-ray belt.

This prison has over a thousand inmates. This term I have two groups of men. During other terms, I have had a class of men and a class of women. Several of the women who made up my class in the past will be released soon. Most of them were very appreciative of the lessons and made cards at the end of each session.

Sometimes there are challenges—like the time two men opened the door during the women's class and threw in notes to their girlfriends. After that I asked the guard for the key to the room and locked the door. Then there was a time when a man told me he was leaving. (I had been told not to allow anyone to leave.) I told him to sit down and to my astonishment, he did! Since those incidents I always have a whistle in my pocket.

As a part of every lesson we read a Bible story. A few complain. One man told me that he is a Christian and reads his Bible daily. That must take a lot of courage since there are six men to a cell.

Are the English classes making a difference in their lives? I don't know, but it is changing mine. I know that except for the grace of God in my life, I could be in their position. Please join me in praying for the guards and inmates in the Lublin Prison in Lublin, Poland.



Tillie Cowherd

Tillie lives in Poland where she works with children who live in a shelter with their mothers. She also helps lead a children's club, and teaches English in the local prison.

SHORT-TERMER QUOTE

"God has made me a better person and helped me to draw closer to Him. I never thought that I could do something like this because I'm a shy person. But God has allowed me to do things that I never imaged I could do through this ministry. God used me in amazing ways on my first trip to the Ukraine in 2010. God has allowed me to go back in 2014 and 2015 and I've been able to make a lot of friends too. God has also given opportunities to share and serve for His glory."

Billy – Ukraine

Stepping Stones for Students

In the course of my first nine years in Poland, I lived in three different cities (got married too). When Bernatka and I moved to my fourth city, Radom, we were convinced it would be no different—stay two to three years and then move on. Sixteen years later we are still telling ourselves we won't stay in Radom much longer. Does God laugh? Over the course of those years we have ministered to high school students, homeless, alcoholics, refugees, teachers, and the church. Now, we are being led to start a new ministry with the University students here in Radom.

We started praying about it at the end of 2013. In the spring of 2014 God set in motion the first step. That fall semester, the English Philology Department had their first-year students attend lectures in American history taught by IM short-termers, Bob Suran. Bob is a retired pastor/college teacher. We set this up through our dear sister in Christ, Iwona, who is one of the English teachers there. At the end of that semester, the team who did our winter camp also spoke in the college classes. Bob returned home, and the second semester began. I then volunteered my services as a native

speaker for any teacher who wanted me. At the end of the year it was great to see how God had opened the doors so wide.

We have met with Iwona and set up an ambitious plan for this year. We will have special events, and we will host conversation groups and Bible studies for both students and teachers. The conversation groups are stepping stones to introduce our faith and invite people to a Bible study. Coming to help us is Josh Smith, an 18-month IM intern. He is currently still raising support, so we are anxiously awaiting his arrival. Do you like talking with students? Do you feel the call to share your faith with them? Come join us. We are only in one of many departments at the university. Are you being called to start in another department?

Steve Snyder
Steve and Bernatka live and serve in Radom, Poland



Homegoing

Linda J. Anderson

August 21, 1955 – October 31, 2015

Linda began working at International Messengers on February 14, 2000.

Showing wonderful trust in Jesus, she moved away from her support system as a single widow in St. Paul, Minnesota, to come and serve in our Home Office.

She served as administrative assistant and travel arrangements coordinator. She was invaluable to us in her determination to build local relationships with neighbors and community folks, for the sake of the Gospel—her life challenged us. She also served from her pain in helping us understand how to care for grieving missionaries on our staff. No one volunteers to be a grief expert, for sure, but Linda served us very well in that capacity.

After a short battle with cancer, Linda went home to be with the Lord on October 31st. She will be deeply missed by many IM communities internationally as she touched many lives through her years here.

A memorial fund has been established in Linda's memory. If you desire to give, please make checks payable to *Linda Joy Anderson Memorial Fund* and send to Clear Lake Bank & Trust, 322 Main Ave, Clear Lake, IA 50428. Funds will be distributed to the various ministries that she had chosen.



The Great Adventure

The Christian music artist Steven Curtis Chapman once wrote in a song: "Let's follow our Leader ... into the glorious unknown. This is a life like no other ... this is the Great Adventure!" Our "Leader" truly does invite you and me on a great adventure... a daily walk, guided by the Holy Spirit, trusting and following Jesus Christ. But, if we don't accept His invitation, we risk missing out on all He has in store for us!

While serving at Mountainside Ministry Training Center (MMT), we've come to realize the four months a missionary student is at MMT truly is part of the great adventure! Students of all ages and stages of life are invited to ENGAGE, not only in the classes, but also with their fellow classmates, their teachers, the community of Libby, AND the Leader Who has called them to be here.

At MMT, we see God work transformationally in the lives of students, meeting them at their point of need and preparation. Darwin Anderson, once said, "Those who receive a rich blessing from the MMT experience are the ones who approach it with humility, as if Jesus asked them to be there." Our prayer is all our students would come, convinced Jesus Himself asked them to be here! This quote is on MMT's living room wall as a reminder to both students and staff! Would you please pray for this vital IM ministry?!



How about you? Have you trusted Jesus with your life? He has a plan and a purpose for each of us. It may be serving cross-culturally...or it may be serving your next door neighbor. Either way, a daily walk with our Lord and Savior IS a Great Adventure!



Jeff and Andrea O'Connell

Jeff and Andrea live in Libby, Montana, with their two sons. They serve as the directors of MMT.

ITEMS NEEDED for Mountainside Ministry Training Center

The Training Center could use donations to purchase some much needed items:



- Twin mattresses \$95.00 each for bunk beds (need 4)



- New bed pillows \$15.00 each (need 10)



- Office laptop \$700.00 (need 1)

If you are interested in donating to MMT to help with these needs contact Jeff or Andrea O'Connell at the Training Center:

E-mail: jeff@im-usa.org or

andrea@im-usa.org

Phone: 866-578-4820

Don't Stop! Don't Quit!

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12

The word “desire” is a strong word that indicates passion, focus, and strong personal commitment. The person who desires “to live a godly life in Christ Jesus” stands out from the crowd. This kind of life shines. It cannot be hidden. So, Paul’s next words are simply “continue” in all that you know and believe keeping in mind the godly people from whom you learned it all (2 Tim. 3:14). Persecution will come, Timothy, but don’t stop. Don’t quit.

As Sue and I have had the wonderful privilege to get to know our amazing family of IM missionaries in Romania—and beyond—we are continually impressed by the sacrificial nature of their work especially because of the enemy’s efforts to discourage them. Yet, we consistently see their faith hold up in the face of persecution as they give glory to God for the strength to fight another day.

One such worker is Maria. We met her at Tom and Jill Clark’s English Camp last summer. She serves with her husband in high school ministry in Bucharest, Romania. She told the story of her husband’s outreach to a high school boy. The young man was impressed with the need to keep himself morally pure before marriage. He was also learning of God’s love for him in Christ and his need of a Savior. Yet, when he told his parents of the things he was learning, they became angry. They became so angry that they called the police who came to investigate this ministry. The police warned that they had the power to shut down the ministry and put them in jail. Why? For teaching

the truth of Christ that only sets men free. The entire ministry began to pray. After spending a day with these fine Christian workers, the police have become more sympathetic and we hope these charges will be dropped. Will you pray to this end? And pray for the conversion of this young man and his parents as well?

Pray for our missionaries who face incredible challenges every day. Pray for their strength. Pray that they will not lose the perspective that God is in charge, not the enemy. Pray that they will experience the love and support of God’s family as they endure trials for the sake of the Gospel of Christ. Pray that they don’t stop, don’t quit.



Kent Wagner

Kent and Sue are part of IM’s staff care team, providing care and support to IM staff in Romania.

“The Lord’s blessings came through in experiencing great team dynamics and great relationships with the Romanians who became part of the team. Also, it was again great to see the Holy Spirit at work in the fundraising process. Even though this was a construction project, I can’t help believing that the Lord will open up a new spiritual interest in each of the young Romanian men working with us. I pray they will be the future leaders of the Romanian church.” *Mike – Romania*

SHORT-
TERM
QUOTES

UNEXPLAINABLE/REMARKABLE

Outreach Family English Camp

“[God] wants to do the inconceivable, the unexpected, the remarkable, the incomprehensible, so that – He – God – is the only explanation for what occurs in our lives.” (Don Cousins)

In 2013 I believed God impressed on my heart the need for an outreach family English camp. Families here in Romania were looking for things to do together for vacations, and I thought we could combine their desire to learn and practice English (especially for their children) with a camp. This year (2015), we hosted an incredible camp. In fact, it was amazing that we were able to have a camp. Jill and I had worked very hard at inviting everyone we knew.

We were having the best results (of recruiting campers) of the three years we have been hosting this camp. Then, the bottom dropped out. In less than a week, a group of 16 people shared that they would not be able to come to camp. That meant we had more staff than campers, coming to camp. What were we to do?

After prayer and talking to our home office, I (Tom) made the decision to go ahead with the camp. There were seven short-term team members coming from the States to teach at camp. I knew God had a plan, but I didn't know what it would be. By the time the team arrived, we had three or

four additional people committed to attend camp, but I still didn't know what God had in mind. On our planning day before camp, through one of the short-termers, God added six more campers—three adults and three children. Two days into camp He added three more adults and three more children, and then two days later, the unbelieving father of

one of the families attending decided that he wanted to join us. We praise God for how He added campers, but most importantly we were thankful for the Spirit that permeated this camp.

The love, grace, unity, and joy of Christ were evident to all! Children and adults were exposed to Jesus through His Word and through the Spirit at the

camp—many for the very first time. Time will tell whether the seeds that were planted will grow into mature Christians, but we hope and pray that will happen. This camp was unexplainable and remarkable, and we are trusting Him for the results.



Tom Clark

Tom and Jill live in Bucharest, Romania, where they are involved in both men's and women's discipleship.

SHORT- TERMER QUOTE

“God worked a love in me for the girls that were not so easy to love. I stepped out of my comfort zone to do some of the activities, and had a great time doing them. I tried to put others first and think about how I could serve them. I also prayed with a couple of ladies--by the Spirit's prompting.” *Tara – Egypt*

Children's Camps in Romania

This summer we had two camps with the children from the village of Topa-Mica. We sent six children from non-Christian families to a Christian camp. They had a wonderful time, they heard about Jesus, and they learned how important it is to be faithful like Daniel in the Bible.

Those six children are: Raul, Cristi, Claudiu, Claudia, Julia, and Florina. Raul is eight-years-old and is from a family of non-Christians. His father is very hard except he allows his son to attend our meetings and Christian camps. Raul is very attentive and can very easily memorize Bible verses. He likes to sing Christian songs. Julia is ten-years-old and she stays with her grandparents. Her mother died five years ago. Florina is also ten-years-old and she has two brothers and a sister. Her father is an alcoholic. Her brother eagerly awaits going to camp next year. For two weeks, these children helped us in the camp at the Christian center "House Ionas" in Topa-Mica.



At camp, these and other children learned about the wonderful works of God. They learned songs, played, stained, painted, and received a meal each day. More than 25 children attended.

Every day during the camp, I brought nine children by car to our Christian center. These children, along with their parents, take care of the village animals, and live about four kilometers away from the village. They live in the field, surrounded by the forest, in huts made of twigs and nylon sheets. It is very difficult to work with these children as only the older children speak Romanian—the smaller ones speak Gypsy. But their faces are joyful and they are willing to participate in all activities. It was good that it did not rain, otherwise, I could not go after them by car as the road is very difficult. The theme was *Jesus Can Perform a Miracle in Me—He Can Save Me*. David, our eldest son, served at this camp. He coordinated the activities with children, trained them in games, and took pictures. He helped me a lot.

We thank God for all the support we received. God gave us health and strength to work for Him.



Vio Rete

Vio, Margareta, and their four children live in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. They work with village churches and serve children, teens, and the needy in their area.

MINISTRY AMONG

The Refugees of Eastern Ukraine

You probably all know about the situation in our country that has been going for two years already—something that we never thought would happen, did happen. We were watching and tried to follow what was going on in Kiyiv, Ukraine, and other regions. Then, disaster came to Odessa on May 2, 2014 and many people were killed. It actually started 100 meters from our flat and it sounded like fireworks, but after a few seconds another thought came to my mind: “It is too bright outside for that kind of event.”



Some months later I received a message on my Facebook account from a good friend and brother in Christ, who was very much inspired by the ministry to refugees that he was seeing in his hometown church. This ministry was very simple, but I believed very useful. By this time, thousands of people from the war zone were scattered all around Ukraine. In almost every city, many refugees from eastern Ukraine were trying to find some shelter and a way to somehow survive. Just a small bag of food would make their day a little happier. My friend suggested, “Maybe we, along with others from our church, should try to do something like this in Odessa?” I had no reason to say no, just the opposite—I was very excited about it and gladly said, “Let’s do it.” So we started to invite the refugees to come to our

church facility one hour before the service was to start. Refugees came and we spent time with them, listening to their stories and handing out some food and medicine. We were honest with these dear people—giving them food and medicine was not our primary goal. Our primary goal is to share that we have something more precious to share—Somebody who can bring real peace and comfort in their lives. It was an awesome opportunity to share our faith in Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Some of these people are still coming to our church, and we are very much enjoying fellowship with them. Our hope is that they will become hungrier for God and understand His love and care in their lives.

Sasha Litvak
Sasha is the Pastor of Light Christian Fellowship in Odessa, Ukraine. He and his wife Lena have three children.



Blessings of Unity

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore. Psalm 133:1, 3

Our youth pastor preached on this Psalm years ago. The Lord impressed on our hearts the importance of unity, and we have had ample opportunity to pursue unity in ministry life.

When we moved to Romania, the church there was in the midst of conflict. Though outsiders to it, we saw the conflict spread and destroy relationships. Our hearts hardened toward several brothers and sisters. After a time, the Lord revealed our own sin, and we sought reconciliation. Peace and blessing followed our efforts. Upon returning to Romania in 2012, we desired to be catalysts for unity. Many of our friends had left the church angrily. We persevered in seeking unity and the Lord has blessed our efforts. Embittered young men sought forgiveness from our pastor. The church comforted and supported us when our son was in an accident. I have preached in the church. Several friends who had been to Romania numerous times returned for short-term ministry, and the church welcomed and embraced them.

Recently, God bestowed another blessing. In the past few weeks, a pastor friend here and I talked about evangelizing adults in a nearby village (Oboga), and taking people from our Romanian church along to train them in evangelism and to disciple them. I contacted our Romanian pastor, and found he had been praying for two months about adult outreach to Oboga. After that discussion, he spoke with the church leadership team and they agreed to involvement in this ministry. If we had not sought unity, this would not have been possible.

Dwelling in unity is not easy. We must forbear and forgive one another, as others must also do for us. But, God has blessed our efforts in His timing and in His way. May God give us the humility to continue forbearing and forgiving, for here God gives blessing.

Doug Droll

God Makes Depression Work for Good

Prior to moving overseas, I would have described myself as ambitious, optimistic, and a go-getter. Pessimistic and depressed are words I never would have attributed to myself. But, as spring rolled around after our first winter overseas, I realized I was coming out of a little depression. Now I expect it every winter. It may be due to lack of sunlight, being inside with our smaller children, or a lack of exercise in the winter months, I am not sure. But, I am certain it will be my companion in January and February.

A couple of winters ago my depression hit a very low point. I cried irrationally. I was worried about the future. We do not have a home. What will I do when I am old? I actually asked my children, through tears, if I could live with them when I am elderly. Really, these thoughts never cross my mind during spring, summer, or fall. To say the least, I was low.

I asked Doug to pray for me with our Romanian friends at his weekly discipleship group meeting. My pride in being the American missionary with all the answers—absolutely gone. And God worked! The group prayed for me and treated me differently after that—like one of them, as though a barrier was gone. One friend, Claudia, had just started a Bible study/prayer meeting with two other young women, and she invited me to come. Little did she know that I had been starving for this type of fellowship with other women during my years overseas. My language skills were not great, but I went anyway. Claudia translated a little. I learned Romanian through this group. More importantly, God granted me fellowship with other women. We prayed,

studied the Bible, and shared life. The group grew. Over time, Claudia became busy and I took over as leader. She has more time now, so we co-lead the group. We have had unbelievers, new believers, and long-term believers learning together about God and life. The core group is transparent and welcoming to all. Praise God that He used my depression for His kingdom purposes!

Jen Droll



Doug, Jen, and their five children live in Romania. They are involved in discipleship, evangelism, and church planting.

Broken

“Kimberly, help me!” The mid-night cry came through the concrete wall we shared with our neighbor. Natalia had fallen and broken her hip. The family had no money for an operation. She lay in bed, alone and broken.

Her mid-night cries became regular. She called for help to find her TV remote, to open the window—or close it, to find her phone or her medication or for water.

Although I called myself God’s servant, I didn’t like being treated like one. “Why would You put us next to this neighbor?” I asked God. I am ashamed of my selfish response. God reminded me of Philippians 1:6. *...He who began a good work in you WILL bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

My eyes opened to Natalia’s great spiritual need. Who would show her Jesus? God planned that privilege for me, to complete me. I knocked on her door, uncalled. I sat in her roach-infested apartment and, with the skills of a second grader, read Mark chapter 1 in Russian. Another day, chapter 2. Then, chapter 3.... “Natalia, do you believe in God?” I asked. “I’m communist. Of course not,” she responded.

I often did battle with my heart to serve her. The command “love your neighbor as yourself” took on new meaning with this unwashed, demanding grandma. But the reality is, I used to be just like this grandma—unwashed, demanding, broken. And still God LOVED me, and continues to love me! Because of that, I could love her.

One day, a friend came with me to translate. “Natalia,” I began, “you have a worse problem than a broken hip.” When I told of God’s love and plan of salvation, she responded, “I didn’t believe in God until you came. Now I believe there is a God.”

God used this broken babushka to show me that the person I saw as an interruption, He designed for my growth. I can love the unlovable because He loves me! Praise God He is still completing me!

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



BIRTHS

NATALIA

born on 12-16-14
to Adrian & Elizabeth Biskup

DANIEL

born on 12-21-14
to Amadeus & Monika Shaded

JESSE

born on 6-20-15
to Chris & Kelsey Riecke

Seeking President for SHARE Education Services, an international education organization serving families throughout Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. For more information contact: SHARE Education Services presidential search committee at:
www.shareeducation.org/presidentialsearch

FINISHING WELL

How to Make the Most of Your Retirement

Are you retired? Do you speak English? God is using people like you in their retirement on the mission field in short-term, mid-term, and long-term endeavors. No previous missions training or experience required! How can you join them?

Here in Odessa, Ukraine, we have retired English speakers using the Bible to teach conversational English in our English schools, serving in our missionary training center, and serving in our church. Our church is bilingual, in Russian and English, so you can serve and worship with us in English and fellowship with many other English speakers. We also have an English-speaking staff to help train you, serve with you, and care for you physically and spiritually.



▲ Here is Rose (third from left) in the Black Sea with two Polish missionary students and IM staff Kimberly Treadway (far right).

“...The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

We ARE praying. Will you go?

Allow God to use your wisdom, knowledge, abilities, leadership, commitment, time, and availability to serve Him. Serve in our local church. Be a true prayer warrior on the mission field. You can mentor younger men and women, many who are training to be missionaries. Don't retire from serving God. You are needed and wanted in His service. Your best years of Christian service may be just ahead! Please join our seasoned citizen missionary team: Barbara, Jack, Bob, Rose, Donna, Gerard, and Beverly!

Please contact me (Mark Huffman) for details:
mhuffman.usa@gmail.com

Mark Huffman
Mark is director of Seaside Missionary Training Center and a church planter/pastor at Living Hope Church, in Odessa, Ukraine.



SO HOW'S YOUR SUCCESS RATE?

A question ministry workers are often asked and struggle to answer.

Four years ago in 2011, Steve and I were at the Friendship House in Radom, Poland, a ministry to homeless alcoholics. On a night we took sandwiches to people under the viaduct, we met one such person, a man named Robert, who looked really rough. I asked him what he was looking forward to and he said, “I've lived as an alcoholic, and I will die an alcoholic.” Pretty dismal, huh? That is the situation for many of those we minister to in Poland—hopeless.

In September 2015, we were visiting again and saw Robert. We learned that since our visit in 2011, he had ended up in jail, was released from jail, came back to the Friendship House regularly, got sober, now works wherever anyone will hire him, and has an apartment. The photo shows Robert as he looks today, holding a picture I took of him four years ago. So, back to the question, “How's our success rate?” Great, right? Well, not quite. We seek not their physical healing only, but their spiritual healing as well. Robert is still not committed to Christ, but we

continued on page 37



believe God will eventually heal his soul as well as his body. Others are clean and sober and *have* surrendered to Christ. Some are faithful in attending events at Friendship House and come to the Bible studies. Sadly, some have rejected the truth, some have burned in fires in the abandoned buildings they live in—many have died. So, again, “How’s our success rate?” By the world’s standards, our return on investment ain’t so great. But by God’s standards, it’s a success if one more broken person will be in heaven to sing His praises in eternity.



Deborah Sharp
Deborah and Steve serve with IM in staff care and recruiting.

Desertside Training Center

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Isaiah 35:6

If the church in the unstable and war-torn Middle East needs one thing most of all, it is the training of young leaders. In September 2014, after having spent much time with Christian friends in Alexandria (the second biggest city in Egypt), and after serious prayer, we took a step by faith and invited eight young Egyptians to nine months of learning on-the-job. Another IM training center was born. Somewhere in the poorer neighborhoods of Alex we began to rent an apartment where the daily training is held and where international teachers can stay overnight.

Out of those eight interns, six went into full-time ministry. By spring 2015, we had a long list of new students for the Fall 2015 session. The students usually have Evangelical, Catholic, or



Coptic backgrounds and they tell us all the same story: We need solid spiritual training for a new Middle East. Egypt is not the same as it was before the revolution. Young believers don’t fear to go public and to share their faith anymore. But over decades discipleship and leadership training were quenched by fear and discrimination. Desertside wants to be among those who serve the local church to fill this big hole.

In October 2015, we began training this second group of for long-term work in Egypt and the neighboring Arabic countries. The existence of this little school initiative is another proof of God’s unbroken faithfulness to all the promises He made: *The nations on the Nile and in the desert I will make like a watered garden.* (Isaiah 58:11)

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



Motorcycle Ministry

The summer got started with my motorcycle ministry as once again I preached to 440 bikers and prayed for and blessed them. Later I rode with some of them on a long trip through the Balkans. This was the first time they invited me to come along and to speak to them about God, the Bible, and what it says about everything from sexual temptation to extra-terrestrials.


Since they are unchurched they were very surprised to find that most of what they thought they knew about Christianity, e.g. that it is the same thing as Islam or that you can't just do some good deed to compensate for your bad deeds, is not true. We had morning and evening devotions followed by lively debates and discussions. I agreed to go anywhere they wanted, which usually meant bars, as long as we could still hear each other. Only once did I have to walk away and leave them. Afterwards they never went someplace I wasn't willing to go. For example, on one occasion they all wanted to go to a nude beach but, since I wasn't willing they didn't go. I told them my goal was that by the end of the trip they would all be at least one step closer to the kingdom of God. I was very pleased to find that by the end of the trip they all had made significant changes, for example, limiting their crude jokes and foul language. But one avowed atheist, who was such an alcoholic that he couldn't ride his motorcycle without a couple shots of vodka in the morning, and another guy who was a successful businessman and agnostic, both had made such strides towards God that they questioned their own previous convictions and thanked me for helping to open their eyes. Neither of them were totally converted, but they were both very interested, intrigued, and deeply touched by our time together. The others also were impacted in ways that surprised them. So I know it was a fruitful ministry trip. They were constantly barraging me with questions and telling each other to shut up so they could listen to me. I think I struck a nerve and met a very strong unmet need in their lives. Praise God!

If anyone really likes this area of our ministry and would like to come join me some time, there may be a ride that I am going on that you could go on too. Some rides are not well suited to some types of bikes or riding styles. For example, Harley riders would have found this ride in the Balkans to be challenging. It was more for super sport or enduro types. If you can't come but would like to help financially there certainly is a need for support. This one trip cost about \$1,000 in just food, gas, and lodging. I have my eye on a new bike to replace my current one. While it is still good for now, I am always open to upgrading to a KTM Super Duke 1290. I feel the joy of God when I ride and preach to be unlike anything else I have ever experienced. I can't say that the guys were my "blood type," but I can say that it was worth getting out of my comfort zone to hang out with them for ten days and 4,000 kilometers. Jesus ate with prostitutes and tax collectors, not because they were his type


but because they were closer to the kingdom of God than the young, rich, and upwardly mobile. I believe that Jesus would not only approve but probably don some duds and ride a Duke, too. So thank you with all my heart and enjoy the rewards of knowing you make this ministry possible.



Bevan Stein — *Bevan and Laura have lived and served in Slovakia for 19 years.*



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

- ☐ I/we would like more information about IM's ministries planned in 2016.
- ☐ 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 2016:



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)

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____



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



Christmas Gift Alternatives from the IM Family

It's often hard to buy Christmas gifts for people within our family and friends. Normally we purchase gifts assuming that they may be returned, short-lived, and sometimes we're even fearful that we are just adding "stuff" in their lives that will only clutter. We'd like to offer some Christmas gift alternatives with more of an eternal twist to them. If you choose to donate to one of these areas, we will send you a card and envelope (for each gift you give), to put under the tree indicating that you have given a Christmas gift on their behalf to help with one or more of these ministry needs.

Yes, I would like to give:

- ☐ Arabic Bibles (\$15 each) to be given out by our staff in Egypt as they work
- ☐ Scholarships (\$25 each) to help an Egyptian student(s) attend an Evangelistic English Language Camp
- ☐ Food Baskets (\$35 each) for Milad Fayez's work with the very poor in Upper Egypt
- ☐ Scholarships (\$30 each) to help an orphan(s) attend Camp LELA near Odessa, Ukraine
- ☐ Scholarships (\$50 each) to help an HIV-infected children and families attend a Joshua Project camp next summer in Romania

Amount for Bibles \$ _____

Amount for Egypt scholarships \$ _____

Amount for food baskets \$ _____

Amount for Ukraine scholarships \$ _____

Amount for Romania scholarships \$ _____

Total Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Return this form along with your tax-deductible check made payable to INTERNATIONAL MESSENGERS and send to:
International Messengers, PO Box 618, Clear Lake, IA 50428-0618.

To give online, visit: www.im-usa.org/christmas



Ph: 641-357-6700
Fax: 641-357-6791

PO Box 618 • Clear Lake, IA 50428-0618

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Enhancing Trust

2015 Short-Term Ministries Report



God accomplishes much through the willingness and hearts of our staff and short-termers. From fall 2014–summer 2015, we sent a total of 328 short-term workers to serve at a variety of outreaches (see list at right). We also conducted 21 trainings in 10 states/provinces.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Career Ministry Exploratory Trip | 1 Kids Day Camp |
| 1 College Internship | 2 Orphan Ministries |
| 1 Computer/Business Assistance Ministry | 1 Professional English Camp (Business) |
| 3 Construction Ministries | 2 Redeem the Summer Internships |
| 4 Discipleship Camps | 3 ROL Care Home Ministries |
| 2 Evangelistic English Day Camps | 2 Evangelistic Softball/English Day Camps |
| 5 Evangelistic English Camps | 29 Staff Care and /or Teaching @ IM overseas missionary training centers |
| 2 Extended-stay ministries | 3 English teaching ministries to H.S. and/or University students |
| 11 Family Evangelistic English Camps | 1 Workshop for Social Workers |
| 1 Hiking Camp | |
| 1 Homeless/Addicted Outreach | |
| 1 IM Staff Conference | |

The average age of our short-termers was 45 years old, and 62% of our short-termers were alumni. Our oldest short-termer was 88 and our youngest was 9-years-old.

We give God all the glory for another blessed year!