

FALL 2016



International Messengers **GOOD NEWS**

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



*Yes, I am the
vine; you are
the branches.*

*Those who
remain in me,
and I in them,
will produce
much fruit.*

*For apart from
me you can do
nothing.*

John 15:5

INSIDE

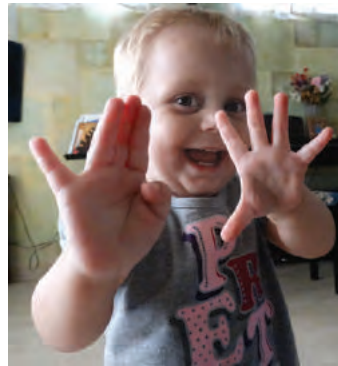
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A miracle is something only God can do. Every time a person is saved it's a supernatural work of God. It's a miracle that God is interested in the details of our lives and involves Himself in them.

When I was a new believer, I identified with Peter when he walked on the water towards Jesus, during the storm. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus he was able to stay afloat, but the moment he focused on his circumstances, he sank. As a new Christian and divorced mother of two, I learned to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus and not on my circumstances, otherwise, I would sink as well.

But this past spring, after 22 years of being a Christian and 18 of those years being on the mission field in Romania, I had a major crisis of faith. I was overwhelmed personally and in the ministry. I was discouraged about our children who are not saved, frustrated by the behavior problems of the children we care for in the ministry and problems with the moms, exasperated by a lack of help and overwhelmed and exhausted in our work, and undone by a two-year-old! This time I was more like the disciples in the midst of the storm, desperately bailing water out of the boat, while Jesus slept, yelling, "Don't you care!" My lack of faith frightened me. I asked God for a miracle.



One day at Sunday school with the children, the little two-year-old who had given me so much trouble, stood up and started pointing to her side and each wrist, saying "boo ba- boo ba," "Jesus died for our sins" and pointing upwards. All the kids and I were amazed, and we knew this was from God.

Then, God put on my heart the verse, "*Out of the mouths of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.*" Psalm 8:2. Immediately God changed my heart, restored my faith, and stopped the work of the enemy. This was my miracle.



Roberta Moore

Roberta and her husband Doug have lived and served in Romania as IM missionaries, since 1998. They are the founders and overseers of the River of Life Ministry which is a loving Christ-centered community of care homes, providing needy Romanian women, children, and elderly, a haven of refuge and hope.

**For detailed donation information
visit: www.im-usa.org/donate**

STRENGTH IN *Weakness*



Brent Howland

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

In a tight-knit circle of a few ministry-guys, the bravest one dared to share how completely defeated he felt. He told us he had given in to pornography, raged at his wife, and skipped work. While the tears streamed down, we put our hands on him and prayed our hardest. Hiding and masking his failures only left him even more trapped. Strength came through humbly admitting his weaknesses. In that circle, he received more care and grace—not less—when his sin was made known.

That experience (and others) has helped me to grow in my understanding of weakness. I used to think that difficulties and trials, whether sinful and self-inflicted, or external and circumstantial, were things to be avoided and even hidden. I thought that God could use me more if my problems weren't so big. But, I can see in the Scripture that God seems to love to use really messed up people. Abraham tried to help God by committing adultery, Moses murdered a man in his anger, David committed both of those sins and had an incredibly dysfunctional family life. Yet all three were incredibly useful in God's hand.

In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul begged the Lord to remove his mysterious "thorn in the flesh." But he must have been on a journey of understanding how God uses weakness too. After the Lord told him, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness" Paul began to celebrate his struggles in a way that he apparently never had before, because they spoke as evidences of how all-sufficient the grace of God really is.

Can you see the possibilities? There is no more need to be bound up in fear and shame! If His grace is all I need, if He is even able to take what's lost and broken and use it, then there are no limits to how I can be used by Him. I can be open and honest about all my failures and issues because I'm leaning into His provision for me instead of my own strength. His grace trumps my weaknesses so dramatically that He can even turn them around and make them victory stories for His Kingdom! All that's left is for me to simply trust the Grace-Giver.

Not What You Think

Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.” John 15:16 ESV



“Honey, I think we should go and serve in an Evangelistic English Camp in Romania this summer. What do you think?”

Her husband could hardly believe his ears. This was an answer to eight years of praying!

“Well, if you’ll go, we’re going!” he exclaimed.

And they did go. He cancelled his plans to go to a professional convention in July. And now English camp would fill two full weeks of their busy calendar for the month of July.

How did this happen? Jesus tells us. But it’s not what you think.

In the above verse Jesus explains how He works with His disciples to make us more effective in our praying. First, He chooses us. But that’s not how it worked in His day. A would-be disciple would always choose the rabbi under whom he wished to study. Yet, now, Jesus chooses us.

Secondly, Jesus appoints us to bear fruit. He gives our lives new dignity. No matter how limited our abilities or how humble our circumstances, He uses us in His service. Now, He produces in us the fruit of Christian character, and He produces through us the fruit of new disciples for Jesus. We are to “go” and reach them in their lostness.

Thirdly, He encourages us that this fruit will “abide.” He can and will make it so. As His followers, we will stand the tests of life; and new believers will endure until Jesus returns.

Interestingly, this is all done “so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.”

Of course we must always pray, in all circumstances and in the face of every challenge. But, what Jesus says here is not what we normally think. He says that we do better service in order that we may pray more effectively. And the way we pray more effectively is to serve more fruitfully. Jesus is here telling us that it is important that we have the goal of being more effective in our praying. Fruitful service leads to effective praying.

As the husband in our story prayed and waited for God to work in his wife’s heart, he himself continued to go on mission trips, to serve the Lord in his local church, and to take every opportunity to lift up the name of Jesus. He gave himself in service continually and, often, sacrificially. They did go to Romania last summer. And, as of this writing, she’s willing to go again! Praise God who through our humble service produces fruit that remains. And praise Him for answers to prayer that are more than we can ask or imagine according to His power at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).



Kent Wagner

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



Why would God send an angry, dysfunctional missionary to the field? He calls missionaries who are afraid and reluctant; He chooses missionaries with ugly sinful pasts. God uses missionaries who don't pray enough and ones who have a poor concept of what He is really like. But why? The story of Jonah provides a helpful case study and it contains so much that I can identify with.

I can relate to Jonah on the boat. He heard God speak and ran the other direction—I know what that's like. He knew the storm was because of him, but he didn't want to confess at first.

I can relate to Jonah inside the fish. I pray best when I'm completely desperate and have no way to help myself, when no one else is around for me to try to impress.

I can relate to Jonah on the beach. I know the feeling of relief and freedom that goes with being given grace in the form of a second—and undeserved—chance. I think that's where I'm supposed to live all the time—in the freedom of knowing I've been saved and forgiven. Jonah had the whale experience, but I have the benefit of the cross, which, of course, is an eternally more significant form of salvation.

My hope in all of this is that God is just as gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love (Jonah 4:2) toward me as He is toward the lost people that He longs to reach. As I look at the story, I see God's compassion for the angry missionary throughout. God sent the storm (1:4) to keep Jonah from getting away. When casting lots to see who the problem was, it fell to Jonah (1:7). When they tried to row harder the storm got worse (1:11). The Lord provided the fish to swallow Jonah (1:17) and when the fish vomited Jonah onto dry land, that was God's provision too (2:10). God relentlessly pursued Jonah even in the end when Jonah started pouting; He provided the vine (4:6), the worm (4:7), and the scorching wind (4:8) to try to reach Jonah and draw him back to Himself.

I'm so thankful that he doesn't just let me go my own way. Jonah's story (and mine) shows how God accomplishes His purposes in us at the same time as He sends us on mission to accomplish His purposes among the nations.

Brent Howland

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

Last Chance to Hear

It was Monday morning. My first English lesson at the local steel factory headquarters. I entered the building, walked along the hallway and entered the office. After having a short talk, the manager shared with me about the terrible accident that happened near his home. He was deeply moved. Near his home, a group of kids were playing soccer on a small grassy area by the road, and a 12-year-old boy, chasing the ball ran across the road and got hit by a car. People gathered around, the ambulance was called, and the doctor and paramedics worked hard for half an hour trying to keep him alive, even calling in a helicopter, but nothing helped. The boy died.

What a tragedy! No parent would ever want to experience anything like that.... Two days later, however, when I came to see our kids at our youth group ministry I found out that one of the boys was missing. I was in shock! It was Tom! He was the boy who died in the accident. I was so sad! But then I realized that two weeks before the tragedy happened we had spoken about sin, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus Christ. I had asked each one of the kids to take a slip of paper and draw a black dot for every sin they could remember they had committed. There were many black dots on each paper. Then, we put all the "black dotted papers" on a piece of wood and nailed them down with a big long nail. After that I read the Scripture about Jesus being the ransom for our sins and we finished our session by praying individually for forgiveness and receiving Jesus as personal Savior. Tom was there too—I believe he is in heaven now. He had prayed in his childish sincerity his prayer for forgiveness of sins and accepted Jesus as his Savior. It gives me comfort when I think about Tom. We never know when our opportunity to share the Gospel might be the last chance for someone to hear it. Let's not be ashamed of the Gospel, let us not postpone sharing with our friends, because we never know.



Bronek Lipus

Bronek and his wife Larisa live in Trinec, Czech Republic. They teach English to business people, lead home Bible studies, and work with youth ministry. Their desire is to be faithful servants of Jesus.

GULU CHILDREN'S HOME OF MERCY

God continues to provide Mobilizing Uganda for Missions (MUM) with opportunities to glorify Him. This past year we opened the Gulu Children's Home of Mercy, an orphanage in Gulu, Northern Uganda. Gulu was the center of a long civil war from the late 1990s until 2006. The outcome was a large number of Ugandans died. In addition, AIDS has taken many lives throughout Uganda. These events left many children to grow up without parents. The orphanage can care for up to 25 children. For the children, this is their home until they turn 18. The Home provides all the care that a child would receive in a home: love, security, nutrition, and education. But most importantly, they receive the love of Christ each and every day.

We dug a well that makes a huge difference daily. Before the well was dug each child eight years old and older had to walk over 1.5 miles to get water. Now having the well makes a big difference in their personal hygiene and also in the Home. We still have needs...for example we need a kitchen and storeroom built. We are lacking furniture and a security fence. We are very open to individuals and teams coming over to love the kids. If investing time and energy for kids is something that makes your blood flow, please pray about making a trip here. The entire team and the kids would welcome you with big hugs of appreciation.



Gulu Children's Home of Mercy
—the well is in the foreground.



John Pipes

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

Open Doors

It was Saturday evening, we had finally reached home after many hours of driving from the family camp in Piwnicznej-Zdrój (in southern Poland). The journey was great, especially since the little ladies (our twins) had some long naps. Chel, LeRoy's sister, was with us so she with her brother caught up on the years apart discussing many things, laughing and singing... It was special to see how adult siblings can experience friendship and teamwork together, which I observed during the family camp.

Monday morning in the kindergarten where our children Sarah and Naomi attend, we started VBS with an English focus for the youngest group of children (from 2-3 years old) and we did this for three days. With the assistance of our friend who owns the kindergarten, we invited the youngest group of children along with their mothers and grandmothers. It was a great combination, and in the future I would like to include more grandmas with their grandchildren, they are so helpful and relaxed!



The director of that kindergarten is a Christian, and she asked us to lead weekly English meetings with some biblical aspects for the children and parents. God has also been opening other doors for organizing pro-family groups. We pursue discipling and invite others to join us in hope that with time they will become independent and skilled in taking leadership as well. We need helpers who would like to work with children, so if you love children and would be willing to sacrifice your time, we would be grateful for your presence and partnership. Your involvement in our ministry is felt deeply, and we thank God for your support. Together we can achieve great things in the kingdom of our Lord!

Ania Schwartz

Ania, LeRoy, Sarah, and Naomi live in Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland, where they work with a church plant and minister mainly to children and teens.





Weddings

JORDAN SCOTT	ADAM THIESSEN
	
ANNA ROBERTS married on 11-17-15	MILENKA FARKAŠOVA married on 7-16-16
Daughter of Ron & Paula Roberts	Son of Brad & Karla Thiessen

The Grand Story

A few months ago my family and I came back to Odessa, Ukraine, from a year of missions in Kazakhstan. What did we learn? There is not nearly enough room here to answer this, but I will share what I can.

When we came to Kaz—to the small church of Omir Kitabi, we already had our own reasons why we wanted to come: to be a blessing because we are blessed, to assist a local church in Kaz, and to learn about cross-cultural missions. We packed three bags and left Odessa on May 31, 2015. We were in awe and fear at the Shymkent airport when we arrived, still asking ourselves why?! But, the people there motivated us, and their love for the local church inspired us though the year. Soon, God showed us another reason that changed everything.

One day we went to visit a local family where we talked and drank tea. About a year before we came, this church was literally thrown onto the shoulders of a man who had been a believer for just two years, and now had to lead it as the pastor, not even knowing how to prepare a sermon. This man faced an immense amount of disrespect and a harsh attitude from church members only because of his age in Christ. As we chatted, the girl said that she had spent one evening with the pastor's family. During her visit, she heard a mumbling, and when she went to check it out, she saw this pastor in tears, praying and begging God to send someone to help him survive and shepherd these people and not give up. When we came to this church, it was taken as God's answer to the pastor's prayers. When we heard this, I was scared and humbled, because I saw a glimpse of God's Grand Story and of little us. Now, we knew why, not because we are so smart, but because He cares about His church and hears the prayers of His people in every nation and language.



Zhenya Bozhatarnyk

Zhenya and Lidiya Bozhatarnyk live in Odessa, Ukraine, with their son Matthew. They are expecting their second child in December. Their desire is to return to Kazakhstan in 2017.

Mobilizing Uganda for Missions: The Timothy Initiative

For three years “MUM” ministry has been training church planters. Seventy pastors have completed the course during the last three years. From the 70 pastors/church planters, 54 churches have been planted. There are three more in the beginning stage. One of those that started is located in the Gulu, Uganda area. Gulu was the center of the civil war in Uganda from the late 1990 until 2006. The region between Gulu and South Sudan is like stepping back in time. No roads, electricity, or water, and no sign of followers of Jesus in truth. The church plant started in March 2016. The first meeting a few of the inhabitants came to hear the Gospel. The next outreach the number increased from a handful to well over 50. By the last day of the outreach most of the village and those within a 30-minute walk came, well over 200. Many were saved. From those, a church was started. About a month after the church started the local leader of the area came and renounced his bondage to witchcraft and the spirit world, burned all of his icons and gave his life to Christ. In addition, he donated well over three acres of land for a church to be built. The church is meeting under a mango tree until we can raise the funds to construct a building—personally, I like the mango tree! Glory to God.

John Pipes

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

DISCIPLE-MAKERS WHO MAKE DISCIPLE-MAKERS

Besides doing the bookkeeping and other administrative work at the Canadian office, I also do evangelism and discipleship on my time off. I was so excited when I was introduced to Training for Trainers (T4T) because it promoted a faster and more effective way to make disciples, which was both biblical and hearkened back to the zeal of the first century Christians. (For more information, read the article at www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/training-for-trainers-process). In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul tells Timothy to teach reliable others who will teach others. This means that Paul did not just make disciples, but made disciple-makers who were to make disciple-makers themselves. Ying Kai, who originated the concepts of T4T, had groups of disciple-makers replicating themselves down to the 18th generation! The key is to get your disciple to make disciples themselves immediately, not wait for him/her to mature for a few years first. This is how Ying Kai was able to multiply disciples so rapidly that after ten years he had 1.7 million disciples!

I joined a few others to start the first T4T group in our area, and we began to practice the T4T way of multiplying disciples. The first thing we learned was how to share our testimony and the Gospel in a culturally understandable way. What I really appreciated about being in this group was that I was no longer alone in my efforts to share the Gospel. Every week I had a group of people who were willing to listen to my attempts, encourage me, and motivate me

to keep going. It was like a support group for people who want to obey the Great Commission. With the encouragement and accountability, we found ourselves sharing more than ever before. Some of us shared Christ for the first time to people we had known for years. Since I didn't know very many people in Abbotsford, I went door-to-door with another fellow to share the Gospel with strangers.

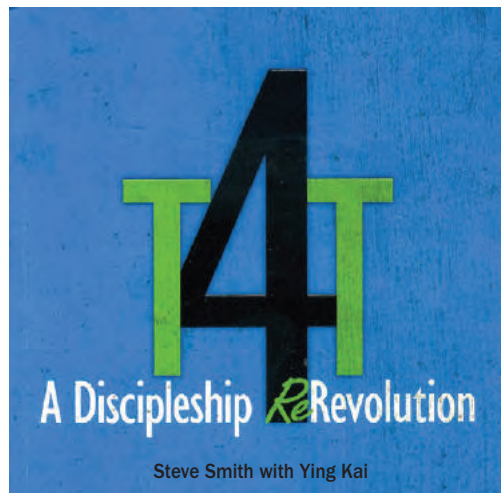
There are about 30,000 Sikhs living in Abbotsford and very few Christians are reaching out to them.

Sikhs believe in one God like Christians and Muslims, but they also believe in reincarnation like Hindus. Since many Sikhs live here, I need to learn how to communicate the Gospel to them in a way that will speak to their hearts. Please pray with me for the salvation of the Sikhs here and that God will bring me a Sikh who is a person of peace as mentioned in Luke 10, who will then become a disciple-maker of his people.



Wes Isaak

Wes lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia, and serves in the IM Canada office.



I feel very blessed because I stepped out in faith in God and said "yes." Preparing for the trip brought me into closer relationship and dependence on God. While there I experienced the power of prayer. I knew people at home were praying because I had an unusual calmness and peace. The whole experience helped me to see God's global perspective that He desires all people everywhere to come to the truth of the Gospel. Barbara - Poland

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTE**

The Work Remains

My heart seemed to beat a bit faster. I was sitting across from one of our summer interns while she re-capped her work in Ukraine. “We were able to form relationships with a few of the kids, and they heard about Christ for the first time.”

“How wonderful” I said, yet inside God was pulling me aside.

“Paula,” God seemed to say. “You already have relationships with your friends from high school. Why won’t you go tonight and tell them about me?”

Ugh. That 40th high school reunion had haunted me for months. I really didn’t want to face the memories and the girl I once was. Hair set and make-up on, four hours later I was on my way. I had two friends in mind. “Lord,” I prayed. “Let me share You.”

We laughed, we talked, we hugged, and though I tried, those conversations about Him never materialized.

On the way home I was honest with God... “What’s up with this?” I said aloud. “I went because you asked me to go, and zip, nada, nimic, noth....” He stopped me there, “NOW IT’S TIME TO PRAY.”

Ahhh, I understood. This was just like our work in Bircii, Romania. Though I might not interact with those high school friends (or those in Romania) for another 20 years, my assignment and HIS work, had just begun.



Paula Roberts

God pulled Ron and Paula Roberts back to the States from Bircii, Romania, last November. They are now working at IM’s Mountainside Ministry Training Center in Libby, Montana.

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

Over the years, we have witnessed the power of God’s teaching when ministry and everyday life collide: while church planting in Poland; training leaders who have gone into ministry; teaching pastors and future church planters in the Czech Republic; training missionaries in the States; and now as we work our way into the Middle East. Ministry and everyday life are not separate worlds.

Indeed, we tend to organize, sort, and categorize by nature: daily life, church life, family life, school life, work life. Organization is not itself a bad thing. We outline our sermons into four points to make it easier to learn the riches within the biblical text. We have specializations so that heart surgeons master heart issues, and pediatricians can better serve our children.

However... church planting and missions were not separate departments in the early church, nor should education be divorced from a Christian’s daily life. Sure, the early church selected the “goers,” but churches were birthed through missions and they reached out through missions. Missions is the responsibility of every local church. Even yours. Likewise, training and theological education works best within the context of everyday life. Life and training go best hand-in-hand. And here’s a secret: Christian leaders can get sound theological training or get help planting a church without leaving their ministry for years on end...with your help.

If you would like to join us in planting churches and training leaders, help us bring Bible college, seminary, and in-ministry training to them right where they live. Our biggest needs are finances for translation of materials, travel, and student scholarships. Adopt a pastor or church plant today. We also need teachers to be training in the materials we use. If interested in learning more, contact us at dbeger@yahoo.com.



David Beger

David, Nicole, Phoebe, and Samuel currently live in Flagstaff, Arizona. Their ministry focus is “the planting and establishing of healthy national churches.”

SHARING LIFE WITH *God's People in Nepal*



As a new International Messengers Canada Society board member, I am keen to learn its core values, purpose, and history. What's the vision and mission; how is God resourcing the talent pool? The historical timeline says that motivating and training believers in world missions was core in 1984 and the method then was providing effective, cross-cultural, short-term missions experiences for college-age students and adults. The updated tag line scrolling across the website says IM partners with the local church to renew, train, and mobilize believers to active involvement in reaching the world for Christ. My curiosity is piqued. What is measurable?

We just returned from a three and a half week cross-cultural mission trip to Kathmandu, Nepal, with IM (our second IM trip – third short-term mission trip in two years). Through God's direction, my husband and I were on a team to train church leaders from villages in Nepal and India. We asked God to guide our words and actions—to use Bible people as examples of effective and flawed leaders and to keep us from making irrelevant cultural references. We asked that our teaching and behavior would match.

All our arrangements, fundraising, and preparations were deeply infused with prayer. Before we left, we searched, discussed, refined the seminar and were so enriched. We had opportunity to practice in our home church AND we left with these confidences—the invitation was from God—His people affirmed the message we would teach and we would obey.

We loved God's people in Nepal, served His church, and returned with strength and joy to share here. We were impressed with the youthfulness of the leaders, their attentiveness and thirst for learning. We saw God's light shining in the darkness and glimpsed the magnitude of His immeasurable Love. And we get to keep living in that Light and Love! We have many specific stories to share for a long time!

Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

Verna Ratzlaff

Verna and Bruce live in Calgary, Alberta. Verna enjoys a life filled with many opportunities to work and volunteer that fit alongside her main priority of her roles as wife, mother and grandmother. She honed her leadership skills through volunteer positions in the church by serving children, youth, and women's ministries at various times. Her favorite thing is seeing others thrive!

www.randomnesswithme.wordpress.com



Trials and Blessings of Ministry

The Friendship House was conceived because of the needs of the homeless and addicted men and women of Radom. God was faithful in supplying the necessary money to purchase the building, and He has always met our financial obligations. He also sent Artur and Ewa to help in the ministry, and it has grown and grown. They have been with us several years and are a real blessing. The ministry was really “humming along!”

In April of this year we became the subjects of serious rumors. There were personal attacks against Artur and many more against the ministry. Almost all of the morning traffic had stopped coming to Friendship House.

We are in the process of confronting people involved with starting the rumors. We try not to defend the ministry—we just want to explain what is the truth—truth stands on its own. We feel disappointed, sad, angry, tired, and mentally exhausted. Please pray for us to be able to confront with the LOVE of Christ and not with personal anger.

There have been quite a few men return from rehab. We are seeing some distinct problems arising with being able to “make it on their own” after leaving Friendship House. These have contributed to the starting of the rumors.

The men are content to keep living at Friendship House. Therefore, looking for a job was not a priority even though they were expected to do so. A time limit was set for them to be on their own, the jobs were found, but many excuses were made as to why they couldn't leave—even after an apartment was rented.

After moving, it was easy for them to slip back into their old habits—to start drinking and quit their jobs. Encouragement and support from Artur, Bob, and the pastor of our church continues—but some of them are content living as they did before going to rehab. It is not up to us “to change them” but it is sad and discouraging to see lives go backward instead of being a witness for Christ.

We are instituting some new procedures in order to help them return to “normal living!” We are thankful that we are not in physical danger. This allows us to concentrate on how God would have us respond. We want to be vigilant—knowing He wants to use this time of adjustment to bring about good changes in the ministry at Friendship House.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Through the good times and “bad” times we give thanks that we are in His hands.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)



Bob and Vera Hageman

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

A Summer to Remember

How many of you know a college student or young single (ages 18-29) who wants to make a difference in the kingdom of God? And they aren't afraid to step out of their comfort zone to do it? Last summer, Susannah Baffa felt God calling her to take a leap of faith... *"God used the time I was in Ukraine with RTS to grow my knowledge of, and love for, Him. I was blessed to be able to meet and develop friendships with the missionary who shared her apartment with me and many Ukrainians – IM staff and campers. It was such a joy to be there!"*

The Redeem the Summer (RTS) program is designed with these courageous young people in mind. Through the 6-8 week internship, they are given the opportunity to serve alongside seasoned missionaries, to really "get their feet wet" and experience the highs and lows of missions, more than they might on a typical short-term trip. They get a taste of what it's like to live in another culture with a language different from their own. Often, God stretches their faith and deepens their relationship with Him. Best of all, interns have the wonderful privilege of sharing the Good News with people who have no idea that Jesus loves them and offers them forgiveness and hope!

RTS intern, Zachary Moore, plans to return to Ukraine full-time... *"I went into the summer hoping to learn as much as I could from Mark and Kim Huffman, and that's exactly what happened. The missionaries in Odessa, Ukraine, shared their vision for ministry with me, gave me practical advice for sharing the Gospel with unbelievers, and provided numerous opportunities to put it into practice."*

Do you know someone who would like a summer to remember? Recommend RTS to them!



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 AT MMT

MMT (Mountainside Ministry Training Center) could use donations to purchase some much needed items:



- **Bike Helmets** for kids and adults (need 6) **\$30.00 each**

At MMT, we're building a playground for the MKs (missionary kids). Our first step is to create a safe, fenced area with benches.



- **Benches** (need 2) **\$95.00 each**



- **Fence** (need 200 ft.) **\$40 per 10 ft.**

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



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

Christ in Me

Inadequate. Weak. Small. Those are the “big ones” we’ve been wrestling with lately. Sometimes the need here can be overwhelming. We have some dear friends here who are struggling to break free of alcoholism. We have had students in our school who have been shuffled from home to home because their parents are alcoholics or drug addicts, and they have seen things no children should ever have to see. Nearly every one we know here has lost someone—either family or friends—to suicide, or drug or alcohol related accidents. So many times I have sat and listened to people’s stories, and my heart just broke. Our efforts to help seem so small. There is such deep pain and grief that we think, “God, are you sure we’re the right people for this?”

Recently I was reading in the book of Exodus, when Moses met God at the burning bush, and he asked a similar question: “*Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?*” What really struck me as I read this was that God didn’t answer with who Moses was, but rather He said, “*I will be with you.*” Exodus 3:11-12. This is the thing that God has been reminding me of so much lately. It’s not about who I am, or who my husband is, but about Christ in us. “*It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant.*” 2 Corinthians 3:5-6a.



Katie Larsh

Katie, her husband Jon, and their four children currently serve in Cat Lake, a fly-in only First Nation reserve in Northern Ontario.

God has been pounding this verse into my head lately as I struggle with my doubts. In some ways, although it is painful and humbling, it has been good for me to be reminded of my weakness. I am reminded that God didn’t call us because we are something great, but simply because we are His. We are Christ’s ambassadors, and God is making His appeal through us to a broken and dying world. “*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*” 2 Corinthians 4:7.

SACRIFICE

Sacrifice means many things to many people. To me it meant leaving my family and friends in the United States to live in Peru—leaving the cool weather of Iowa for the heat of the jungle, having my taste buds learn how to eat foods I didn’t grow up with, and working my brain muscles to learn how to speak in a foreign language. If you are a child of God, you have the same calling to pick up your cross and follow him. God sacrificed His one and only Son to the point of death. Jesus’ death brought us life.

What is God calling you to sacrifice for him? What are you holding onto so tightly in your hands that you are saying, “God you can have everything but _____.” It’s hard to sacrifice things we care dearly about, but the overwhelming joy that follows is priceless. Obeying God no matter the cost is worth it.

Seeing God work in ways you never imagined because you obeyed is worth far more than anything gold can buy. In the Bible God says over and over that He will provide for his people, for those who follow him. It’s time to wake up and start seeking God on our knees and asking him, “Abba father, what do I need to sacrifice for you?” Then when he reveals the things, follow through and give them all up to Him. It will be hard, but God will give you strength. Don’t let life pass you by being lukewarm. Give it all up to God and jump out in faith when He calls you to do something.



Hannah Baxter

Hannah is living and serving in Peru. She enjoys working with the youth, discipleship, teaching English, and taking advantage of the open doors God provides.

SELF-CARE... *Putting On My Oxygen Mask First*

Most of us are familiar with flying on planes. In fact, I would assume many of us fly so much that we can recite by memory the safety spiel that the flight attendants communicate on each flight. On a recent flight with my family, I tuned in to what our flight attendant was saying in the everfamiliar announcement: "Should the cabin lose pressure, oxygen masks will drop from overhead. Please place the mask over your own mouth and nose before assisting others." As I sat there next to my two-year-old, I thought about how my natural tendency would be to make sure SHE had a mask on before I put mine on. It would be selfish if I put my OWN mask on first, wouldn't it?

As I reflect back on this past year and how completely burned out I have become, the oxygen mask analogy speaks to me. As a busy wife, mom, and a counselor of missionaries, I have been stretching myself very thin. Recently, it hit me... I was so busy making sure everyone around me was doing OK and putting aside "me time" to take care of everyone else's needs... but I was gasping for



**It would be
selfish if I put my
OWN mask on
first, wouldn't it?**

Lisa Nagel

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

breath myself. I started to have a series of health issues and began feeling depressed and angry. My only solution was to STOP and put on my oxygen mask, so to speak. It felt selfish to be caring for myself and putting my own needs first, but I think that was the point of what God was trying to teach me. How much good could I be to the people I care about if I couldn't even function myself?

Believe me, I have a ways to go in learning this lesson, but I have found some strategies that I pray will bring me to a better way of functioning in the future. I pray that those of you who struggle with this also will realize that it's a lifesaving decision for all involved to put on your oxygen mask before assisting others.



Every time I ponder the experience abroad I'm overwhelmed with gratitude. Remembering my Egyptian brethren and the international IM staff (especially those who are old and single), helps me to forget about myself and my American dreams. It has helped me to trust Jesus with the friends and relationships He both gives and takes away. Joel - Egypt

I have seen God work and been encouraged by what He is doing in Ukraine. I was able to practice sharing my faith and renewed my love for sharing my heart for the Lord.

Lisa - Ukraine

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES**

How did you become a missionary?

As a missionary, the question that I have been asked the most over the years is, “How did you become a missionary?” Generally the answer I give is about how I got to Romania in 1997 but the story actually started much earlier.

I was blessed to grow up in a believing home and my mom gave me the opportunity to attend a week of Christian camp in the summer. One year, there was a special speaker who was a missionary from Quito, Ecuador. She spoke about her life in Quito and the ministry she did there with children. I was enthralled. I remember being amazed that she had learned the language, which seemed so difficult to me. I had heard about missionaries before but to me they seemed like people only described in stories: super Christians, going to live in the jungles of Africa, etc. But here was a real person, a normal person, who lived in a city, not a jungle and she obviously loved what she did. This was my first encounter with a missionary. God had planted the seed that would change my life.

Through my teen years my main objective was to get through school and go to college. I really had no idea what I wanted to do with my life but at Seattle Pacific University I was blessed to have amazing professors who showed me that a person could make an impact for Christ in any profession. I was drawn to sociology but knew I didn’t want to be a social worker. Then I took my first missions class. I was captivated by everything and so minored in Cross-cultural ministries. In this time period Steven Curtis Chapman came to SPU and did a concert. I will always remember listening to his song “For The Sake

Of The Call” which talks about abandoning everything, being wholly devoted, for the sake of the call. I knew that for me that meant becoming a missionary. It didn’t happen right away. After graduating I spent the next five years working and ministering in an inner-city church plant and running a tutoring program for inner-city kids. Then the Lord called me to Romania through my uncle, and I have been here since 1997.

Being a missionary doesn’t mean being a super-Christian and moving to the jungle (necessarily). If God has called you, in one way or another, don’t fight it. He has a place for you where your gifts and talents are needed.

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” Romans 10:14-15



Heather Nicolae

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

SUITCASES NEEDED

We are always 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.



It's never too late!

It's always such a joy to see how God provides over 300 short-termers every year for the various ministries of our staff. While their average age is 45, it's the octogenarians who impress and encourage us with their faithfulness and hard work. Their boldness and recklessness strengthens us. We're so grateful for these precious ones who have given of their time, over and over and over, to share the Gospel around the world by sharing about their long lives of experience. These "gray hairs" add wisdom, perspective, and a godly stability to our teams and they are highly respected by those we minister to, also. Here's a little information about a few of them to inspire you!



Vera Cudney, from Puyallup, Washington, went on her first short-term trip in 2013 at the age of 79 to a Family English Camp in Poland and has gone every year since! Our staff recently commented, *"At age 82, Vera was strong and enthusiastic, very popular*

with the campers, well prepared, cheerful, responsible, empathetic, and connected well with the campers."

Stan and Virginia Edwards, from Sequim, Washington, have served at the River of Life Care Home every year since 2007. In 2016, at 82 and 75, they served ten weeks there. They're busy with mowing, painting, doing odd jobs, stoking the fire, cooking, sewing, helping the children with crafts and homework, and spending time with the moms and kids. "The people" bring them back every year and have become their "other family." They need to see them periodically.



Jack and Barb Sanders from Neosho, Missouri—Barbara joined four English Camp teams from 2007-2013, and then in the fall of 2014, her husband Jack, age 80, a retired

pastor, and Barbara, age 75, a "younger" retired school teacher, moved to Odessa to take the lead at EWay (an adult English language school) for two winters. They were loved by the students and staff there.



Bob Suran from Decatur, Alabama, a retired college history professor, has gone on 14 trips with IM which have included 24 camps and short-term ministries. He started in 2007, at age 74, by joining a Teachers' English Camp team headed to Romania. Since then he's served in Poland,

Slovakia, and last winter taught at a university in Radom, Poland, opening the doors for evangelistic student ministry there. Most recently, at 83, he did a winter English Camp in Poland. His zeal for sharing the Gospel is contagious.

Andrew Urbanowicz from Aurora, Ontario, originally from Poland, went on his first trip in 2013 to a Family English Camp in Poland at the age of 86. The story of his time as a soldier during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 captured the hearts and minds of the campers. With a wonderful smile and delightful demeanor, he instantly engaged with the campers on a personal level. He has served in Poland every year since and fully plans to serve again next summer at the age of 90!



May God raise up more heroes like these who want to, and are able, to do ministry cross-culturally during their retirement years. If God has given you enough good health to join us, please do—it's never too late!



Darlis Anderson

Darlis and Darwin Anderson live in Clear Lake, Iowa, and serve as the directors of International Messengers.

Empty Me

Emptiness can be the most helpless feeling. When people and ministry around you are buzzing with life, you are stuck in a bottomless, empty space. You ask God, “What is this? Why am I here? What are You doing? Why is this happening in a time when I need to be the most on fire and alive? Why can’t I hear You? Your promises roll around in my head, but it is as if they have no weight. Would You please say or do something to help me know that You really are here with me?”

A song from Chris Sligh called “Empty Me” is a heart pricking prayer: *Empty me of this selfishness inside. Every vain ambition and the poison of my pride and any foolish thing my heart holds to. Lord, empty me, of me so I can be, filled with You.* In the times you are abounding spiritually, you can pray that and feel pretty good about yourself, but in the abyss, it becomes harder to escape from your lips. Self-pity begins to harden your heart and cloud your vision. You begin to find your worth in other things that you believe fulfill you, but they only lead you deeper into this empty chasm. You examine your heart and try to find some fault to confess to perhaps understand why God has turned His back on you. But what if you don’t find anything? Now your heart is open and bare as you stand in this endless void.

As I stood there with nothing left. I had no more desire to struggle to get myself out. I was doomed. The stillness felt like jaws of despair about to consume whatever was left of me. In that moment, I heard Him. That Still, Small Voice, “Come to Me.” My heart tattered and broken, I ran into His fatherly arms which I had been pushing away. He lifts my head and I see His tender eyes full of compassionate love. Then He directs my attention to a nearby tree, stained with blood. The cross. “Look unto Me. You are My child and no failure you face will ever change the way I see you. I love you too much to leave you as you are. Stop striving. Let Me transform you. Look unto Me.”



Hannah Zupke

Hannah serves in the home office of International Messengers as administrative assistant. Her desire is be willing to be used by the Lord in whatever way He chooses.

I learned to push through issues of physical comfort for the sake of the mission and especially for relationship. Jennifer – Egypt

I know God used me, and the rest of the team, to just love on these people in ways they haven’t experienced in a really long time, or maybe even at all. It was amazing just being able to genuinely love and serve them - showing them that we love because He loved us first. And not seeing them as refugees, but as people He died for, just as He died for me. I was nervous going into the camp, but God definitely grew me in ways I didn’t expect; in confidence and in boldness. Destiny – Cyprus

Being on a missions trip was such an awesome experience for me. I learned that God can use even a woman like myself: rather average, with a broken past. Kathryn – Romania

I learned to trust God in His ways and His plans. I was blessed to meet and interact with many amazing people. I grew stronger in prayer and had the privilege of watching God answer my prayers right in front of my eyes. I was challenged in my faith and as a future teacher. I learned that God can use me just as He made me for a unique purpose and that I don’t have to try to be someone else or do things like someone else in order to be effective.

Molly – Hungary

It has opened my eyes to the great Love of Christ. I have learned to love a culture, a people that is now dear to my heart.

Abigail – Romania

It was a great opportunity to put self aside for a period and learn to “decrease, that Christ might increase.” Neal – Poland

**SHORT-
TERM
QUOTES**

The Lord is my strength...

*The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him. Psalm 28:7*



Depression, burnout, mental illness, nervous breakdown, have you experienced this? Do you know people who have struggled for a long time with a difficult experience and have not grown spiritually, they escape quickly and furtively after the end of a service, and have difficulties in establishing relationships?

Two years ago we joined IM and two years ago we became involved in conducting a pastoral program called “Life Breakthrough” for people wanting to help others in a mental health crisis. These workshops were conducted in Barycz, together with a pastor and a doctor, Krysia Zaręba.

During these two camps we saw changes in the hearts of the people who were there. Anna and Czeslaw, leaders of “Crown” financial services, came to Barycz last year completely burnt-out. They left reinvigorated, full of new strength, peace, and joy. This year they decided to come again bringing a new leader of their ministry—Grażynka. Grażynka came with a phobia associated with loud music. On returning from the camp she took part in a service in which a loud youth band was playing. She felt great and worshipped God with the people gathered, without anxiety and panic attacks.

Jola from Warsaw took part in the workshop for the second time. Currently, she is leading the “Life Breakthrough” course in her church fellowship. Similarly Slawek and Anne from Gdansk decided to lead a group in their church. Many participants expressed their gratitude for the time spent at the workshop and reported a willingness to help those experiencing a crisis in their fellowships.

Many people in Poland are dreaming of a place where people could come with a history of mental health crises, to be able to spend time surrounded by friendly people, and have professional help (Christian psychologist, psychiatrist, counselor, etc.). Our desire is that God will touch the hearts of people who will come under the roof of this house.



Grażyna and Krzysztof Motyka

The Motykas live in Warsaw, Poland, where they have been involved with Bible studies, discipleship groups, and Alpha courses. In 2016 they began a ministry for Christians with mental health problems.

2016 Short-Term Ministry Opportunities

EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS (EELC)	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Egypt (ages 18-25)	National Staff	June 30 - July 11
	Odessa, Ukraine (ages 14-26)	Huffman/Naydenov	June 29 - July 10
	Egypt (males, ages 16-20)	National Staff	July 9 - 20
	Antonovka, Ukraine (H.S./College)	Winkler/Litvak	July 21 - August 4
	Jordan (males ages 16-20)	National Staff	July 28 - August 7

FAMILY EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Bran, Romania	Clark	June 28 - July 10
	Maroz, Poland	Jachym/Lockrem	July 12 - 24
	Kiczycze, Poland	Pszczoła	July 13 - 24
	Odessa, Ukraine	Huffman/Naydenov	July 13 - 26
	Romania	Soare F/A	July 12 - 24
	Poland	Hale/Schlörff	Second half of July*
	Karpacz, Poland	Dabrowski	July 19 - August 1

SPECIALTY CAMP	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
EWay Evangelistic Christian English School	Odessa, Ukraine	Huffman	Sept., Oct., and Nov.
Caregiver (3 kids) ROL Emanuel Children's Home	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	4 mos. (Nov. '16 thru March '17)
Painting/maintenance/upkeep@ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Minister to moms, kids, elderly @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Bathroom Wing Renovation @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Flexible/Fall '16 - Spring '17
Stoking Woodstoves @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Anytime in winter and spring
Discipleship (H.S./College) (ages 14-26)	Antonovka, Ukraine	Winkler/Litvak	December 31 - January 12
Evangelistic Sports Camp (ages 16-21)	Kampala, Uganda	Tustanovskyi	Approximately Jan. 5 - 16*
Discipleship (adults w/their kids/teens)	Kiczycze, Poland	Pszczoła/Chmielewski	January 22 - 31
Evangelistic English Ski Camp	Ukraine (Carpathian Mountains)	Huffman	February 9 - 20
English Day Camp (High School age)	Radom, Poland	Snyder	February 16 - 25
University Outreach	Radom, Poland	Snyder	February 25 - March 6
EWay Evangelistic Christian English School	Odessa, Ukraine	Huffman	March, April, and May
Evangelistic Hiking English Camp	Ukraine (Carpathian Mountains)	Huffman	April 27 - May 8
Business English Camp (adults and students)	Czech Republic	Lipus	May 10 - 23
Building project and Youth/Young Adult Ministry	Cat Lake, Ontario, Canada	Larsh	Late June to August*
Backyard Projects @ IM's Training Center (MMT)	Libby, Montana	MMT Staff	Anytime in June, July, August
Painting the outside of IM's Training Center (MMT)	Libby, Montana	MMT Staff	Anytime in June, July, August
VBS/Street Evangelism	Corabia, Romania	Droll	June 23 - July 3
Youth English Softball Day Camp	Zirc, Hungary	Petrik	July*
Scouting Camping Camp	Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland	Schwartz	1st or 2nd week of July*
VBS Day Camp	Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland	Schwartz	1st or 2nd week of July*
Joshua Project	Moldova Nouă, Romania	McKnight/Udrea	early July*
Evangelistic Sports Camp (ages 16-21)	Kampala, Uganda	Tustanovskyi	end of July/early August*
Evangelistic Hiking English Camp	Ukraine (Carpathian Mountains)	Huffman	August 3 - 14
VBS (ages 3-18)	Bircii, Romania	Nicolae	Summer*

*Specific dates yet to be determined

**Option to do both camps

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

www.im-usa.org/camps-schedule

www.im-canada.ca/camps-schedule

Matching Faith with Prayer and Euros

In the late 90's, starting to work among the Roma community, we held a week-long evangelistic outreach campaign at our language school, then called The Word Company, here in Košice. Stephen, a Roma (Gypsy) man from Köln, Germany, came and spent the day on the streets and the evenings doing "services" in our small three room office space downtown. Even speaking a different dialect (some would say a different language) from the Eastern Carpathian Roma spoken in this region, he was understood, and connected with those that listened. A number of people were saved.

One of those was Laco. His wife, Anka, was already a believer, and brought Laco to the meetings. Responding to the good news, his life was drastically changed. He began to work among his friends and family. Now a church planter, Laco is pastoring the Roma church in Vtáčkovce, about 20 kilometers (about 12.5 miles) from Košice.

One hard-core alcoholic in their circle was Anka's mom, Lida, a previously divorced older woman known not only for her drinking, but also for her foul mouth and temper. God touched her heart through Laco and Anka's testimony. Years later, she's now an incredible evangelist. Everywhere she's lived we've seen almost all of her neighbors accept Jesus. Now on a retirement income, Lida still has no place to live. A prayer warrior, she's been praying for our **Stability International Project** to help the Roma build their own homes. This summer she decided

to begin putting 50 euros each month (one third of her monthly income) into a savings account to help purchase the land she'll need in order for her sons to build her a two-room house that she'll call her own. Sharing our burden for this huge need we see, she's praying for this project and telling others to begin saving, believing God can work in their midst. Please join us in prayer for this project, that we would have both the wisdom and resources needed, for the Roma believers in this region, and for the needed workers in the fast growing Roma churches around our Košice region here in eastern Slovakia.



Karla Thiessen

Brad and Karla Thiessen have been living with their family in Košice, Slovakia, for over 25 years. Karla is pictured here with Lida (right) on the day she first deposited funds into her building savings account.

SHORT- TERMER QUOTES

Serving has helped me open my eyes to the world. I've had to get out of my comfort zone physically and emotionally in order to make an impact for Jesus in another culture. It's helped me to be a more empathetic, patient, and gracious person. I don't want to simply go for a week or two and come back to the "real world" of my life in the states. I want to continue relationships with the locals and full-time missionaries. I want to bring my experiences and impact the people in my area. Natalie - Hungary

Through this experience I've grown to love people in greater ways. I've grown in boldness in sharing the gospel and in confidence. Through this mission I was also challenged to rely totally on God, to pray continually, and to be in His word daily no matter what life throws in the way! I definitely saw growth in myself that I didn't expect, and I can't wait to see what God does next! Destiny - Cyprus

Unexplainable Plans

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

It is with great joy I give God all the glory for the Community Bible Study (CBS) class in Bucharest, Romania. It has been a journey of 12 years of open and closed doors. In the fall of 2015 God unexplainably brought together a diverse group of women interested in experiencing a CBS in-depth Bible study in English.

I met Cristiana at our English Camp in 2015. Actually Cristiana didn't register for English camp, but was invited by the facility director to stay at the facility during English camp. Cristiana expressed a desire to be a part of a Bible study together in the future. I invited her to Community Bible Study. It was not easy, but Cristiana persevered to find childcare and navigate the city traffic to attend class weekly.



Cristiana at Bible study

Cristiana was thrilled to participate and soon was inviting others to the study. Cristiana is faithful, enthusiastic, and teachable. She was one of three women I was able to train as leaders. Cristiana not only completed her lesson weekly but also recorded for herself the insights other women in the group shared.

God brought together diverse women from different churches for the CBS study and also knit the hearts of these women together in love and respect for one another. Women grew through the study of the word of God and respect and unity among the body of Christ in Bucharest increased.

Glory to God for His unexplainable plans for CBS in Bucharest and transformed lives!

Recently, Cristiana was one of the first women to arrive for this year's Community Bible Study!

Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams]. Ephesians 3:20-21 Amp Bible

Where have you recently experienced God as the only explanation for something?



Jill Clark

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

SHORT- TERMER QUOTE

It teaches you to be so dependent on God. It also takes the focus off of yourself and your everyday worries. You build true relationships that are genuine and meaningful. I truly feel used by God here. Kevin – Romania

I always get a huge boost to my faith as I have to trust so many things to God, and He comes through time and time again. It has helped me to trust God more and more each year.

Tom – Poland

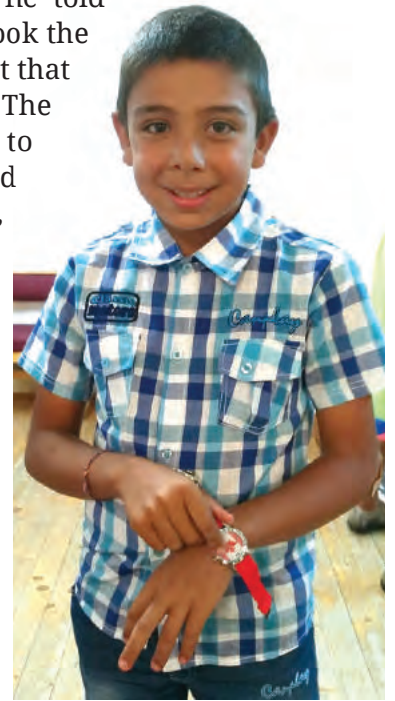
A Time to be Generous

A recent volunteer who was visiting gifted a watch for Andrew, asking me to give it to him. Before I did, Hudson found the watch and with big eyes thought it was for him. Cautiously I told him it was actually for Andrew. Saddened, he asked, “Why was Andrew chosen for the gift and not me?” I explained why, and that he should be happy when someone else receives a gift, especially after he (Hudson) had generously received three gifts from others, one being a watch (which he had already broken). Hudson started crying sad tears, but then got angry and took his broken watch and threw it away, saying, “Andrew has lots of watches! Why didn’t you tell him (the volunteer) that?” Once he calmed down we talked about generosity—that because God is generous with us, we should be generous with others. And that it’s good to give to someone else when you have been given a lot yourself, and how his attitude also needs to be generous and not selfish—to be happy that Andrew would receive a watch just like he did a few weeks before. He seemed to understand, accept it, and agree.

Later I gave Andrew the watch. He looked at and admired it. I told him who it was from and Andrew immediately said, “But what about Hudson?” I couldn’t believe how generous his attitude was. Andrew responded that even though he really liked it, he had many watches at home and Hudson should have it. “Hudson received other gifts this week,” I said, but stepped back and said, “if that’s what you think, then YOU should give it to him.” Andrew called Hudson over, whispered something and handed him the watch. Hudson’s eyes lit up as he hugged

Andrew tightly! After he told me what happened, I took the opportunity to point out that THAT was generosity. The volunteer didn’t have to give the watch away and neither did Andrew, but they were both generous and gave with generous hearts!

The next morning at breakfast, Hudson excitedly shared the story... “Andrew was generous yesterday...” and the generosity grows.



Hudson with the watch



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.

I was enriched by being absorbed into another country. I was blessed by interacting with the Jordanians as I facilitated God’s Word and shared my testimony in English Reading Time. I enjoyed tasting Jordanian food. Faye Marie – Jordan

As usual, I most benefited from the new relationship made and the continuance of old ones. God was faithful to honor His work as it was read in English and Romanian. Hearts that were cool toward the Bible were touched and people gained a new love for the Bible and the humble person of Jesus Christ. Larry – Romania

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES**

Ministry in a Hindu Land

In September, Grace and I witnessed God work powerfully as we ministered alongside IM staff Holly Tapley in Kathmandu, Nepal. Along with another Canadian couple, we provided Bible and leadership training for two five-day conferences for rural church leaders and pastors/wives. After seventeen months of intense relief work and outreach following the April 2015 earthquake these leaders needed rest, encouragement and fellowship.



The first week we partnered with Sundar Dhoka Church, training nearly forty rural church leaders who have come to faith through the church's outreach ministry. Some of these men and women came four days by bus to attend this conference.

The second week we partnered with the Himalayan Ezra Institute—a three-month Bible training program. More than eighty leaders attended. Some came from the region where the earthquake's epicenter hit. They'd lost everything but still they danced with joy when the group worshiped through song.

Hearing their personal testimonies helped us understand the reason for their joy. Typical stories included:

- I died after a three-month illness. I went to a place with lots of smoke, but then I saw a white horse approach me. A voice said, "Ride the horse." It took me back to my village. The sickness drained from my body like milk pouring from my leg, and I returned to life twelve hours later, completely healed.
- Satan blinded my daughter. For five months our Hindu gods and rituals could not heal her, but one request to Jesus did. Now we know Jesus is the one and only true God.
- I felt very angry when my wife trusted Jesus. Five times I threw her off the third floor but she would not die. Now I know that Jesus was protecting her, and I follow Him too.



Our experience living in Nepal from 1982-85 provided anecdotes for Grace's teaching sessions and created an instant bond between us and the Nepalese. My highlight was helping Sundar Dhoka's paraplegic pastor "dance" in his wheelchair with the church leaders as they celebrated their freedom and joy in Christ. What a privilege to be part of building God's kingdom in a Hindu land!

Gene Fox

Gene and Grace live in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Together they serve as the national co-directors of International Messengers Canada.





Vital and Green

*Even in old age they will still produce fruit;
they will remain vital and green.*

They will declare, “The Lord is just!”

He is my rock! There is no evil in Him!” Psalm 92:14-15

“Vital and green” and “old age” are not likely phrases to be paired where we are serving. Old age is a time of less money, a harder life, and a burdensome time for family. The family is culturally expected to provide for the elderly, but in these times that expectation is shifting. Younger family members may leave Romania behind, and along with them they leave their elderly parents and grandparents who often must care for young children while the parents are working in other countries. In this sometimes-desperate setting, enter the church of Jesus Christ!

In a nearby village, we have joined the weekly work of our church in the children’s Bible club, and Doug and others have begun to engage the adults of the community with the Gospel. He has recently become acquainted with an 80-year-old elderly woman. This woman became a Christian 75 years ago, prior to atheistic Communist control. Her parents raised her to know the Lord, and she remained faithful to Him all these years. After her marriage, she moved to a nearby town, and upon her widowhood she moved to the village. She has not had Christian contact in that village. There is no church other than the local Orthodox Church. When Doug and others visited her the first time, they read the Scriptures to her (she could not read because she could not get eyeglasses), prayed with her, and sang to her. They arranged to bring her to our city, Craiova, to get her eyeglasses. She has been thankful for the time with Christians. “Will you come next week?” She cannot leave her village, but thankfully we can go to her!

In the midst of our service to these elderly people and others, we are able to share the Gospel with family and friends. We are an example of God’s heart for the widows and elderly, who are not forgotten by Him. This has been a hidden, unexpected, yet very satisfying aspect of our ministry in Romania. May we all be used by the Lord to encourage the elderly saints among us to pursue Christ, that they will be vital and green and still produce fruit.

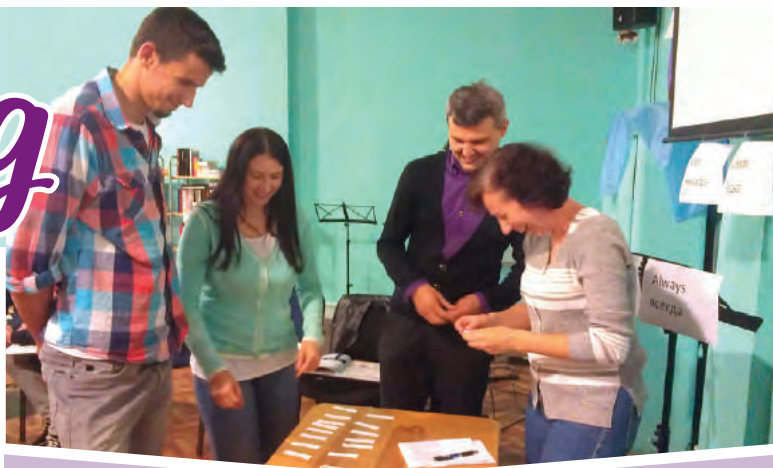


Jen Droll

Jen, Doug, and their five children live in Romania, where their focus is on discipleship and church planting. They hope to see Romanian churches that they work with become more involved in discipleship, evangelism, and church planting.

Plodding

“Plodding” = *proceeding in an exceedingly slow manner*. Proceeding with the Gospel in the former Soviet Union is exceedingly slow. The hearts of people are packed hard from years of plodding through the same lifeless traditions, the same superstitious beliefs, and the same communistic thinking.



A group of students in one Eway class playing a game.

In our ten years of serving in Ukraine we learned that plodding is not all bad. It may not be speedy, but it’s faithful progress! When it comes to teaching God’s Word, plodding makes sense. We teach the love of Jesus slowly, practically, relationally. For example, in our Eway Evangelistic English classes, we plodded through the Gospel of Mark one year and the Gospel of John the next year. This year, we are plodding through Matthew. Week by week, lesson by lesson, we point our students, from ages 13 to 77, to Jesus. We teach pronouns, pronunciation, and present tense, but more importantly, we model the peace and hope found in Jesus.

One of my students, a 60-year-old woman, admitted after the lesson on the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6, she has never prayed! Ever! She doesn’t know how to pray or why she should pray or the peace that can be hers through prayer. No wonder the soil of her heart is like a rock. But now she heard the teaching of Jesus on prayer and the idea of prayer is planted in her. Together, we continue to plod through the book of Matthew, week by week, and pray that God will soften the soil of her heart—along with every other student’s heart!



Kim Huffman

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

Maybe “plodding” is what the psalmist David had in mind when he wrote Psalm 37:3, “*Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.*” This describes us, dwelling in the land, being faithful to Jesus, and proceeding slowly through the Gospel.

SHORT- TERMER QUOTES

I am glad to have had the opportunity to experience what I did. I left with a joyful feeling knowing that I was able to carry out an outreach like this and help plant the seed of salvation in the minds and heart of so many people. As to my effectiveness, it is up to the Holy Spirit to continue the process of salvation. I cannot save anyone from their sin. Only Jesus could have done that. We only become failures when we think that we do the saving. Our calling is to plant the seed, pray for the people that we reached out to, and let the Lord be glorified during the process. David – Ukraine

On this trip, I learned to rely on God more as I attempt to minister to others. Though I don’t have a perfect offering to bring, I can bring an open and sincere heart ready to serve, and God is faithful to use that as He wills. Molly – Hungary

Seeking Counsel

When we were trained to become teachers/leaders in the Crown Financial Ministry in 1989, we had no idea how the Lord would use this Bible based curriculum to transform our lives and open the door to other ministry opportunities. One verse we learned was: *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel."* Proverbs 12:15.

We have been visiting Poland to do English Camps and encourage IM missionaries since 1997 and have had the opportunity to share these biblical principles from Crown. In 2015, we were asked to invest a week in Odessa, Ukraine, at the IM SMTC (Seaside Missionary Training Center).

Returning to Odessa and teaching Crown to the class of 2016, with another nine students preparing for missionary service, we had dinner with Sergii and Vera Iurevych, from our class last year. Over dinner, they enthusiastically shared the personal transformation and impact the Crown teaching brought them during the last twelve months. In their own words and with their permission:

"Before we took the Crown Training we did our finances without any structure, we didn't know what our income and expenses were, how much we spent on things and what the Bible taught on how to manage money. But after the Crown Training and seeing what the Bible teaches, by His grace we are able to manage our finances faithfully. We see how God blesses us and provides. We understand that everything that we have is from God. He trusts us to manage all of it for His glory and we are glad that we can learn these things from the very beginning of establishing a family. This new approach encouraged us so much that I was glad to share these principals with my sister so she would manage money the same way. Thank you Carroll and Becky for building up God's kingdom and investing in our lives!"

We are thrilled to help impact current and future Christian leaders in Eastern Europe who will make disciples until Jesus comes.



Carroll Miller

Carroll (above center) with Sergii and Vera Iurevych. Carroll and Becky Miller are part of IM's staff care team, providing care and support to staff in Poland.



ARINA

born on 04-25-16
to Sasha & Lena Litvak

DAWID

born on 06-04-16
to Amadeus & Monika Shaded

LINCOLN

born on 06-04-16
to Sarah & Aulo Wing

BARBARA (BASIA)

born on 08-31-16
to Joe & Zaneta Vaughn

JONATHAN

born on 10-03-16
to Bence & Abby Jóföldi

Creative Ministry!

International Messengers does summer English camps which are a wonderful way to expose nationals to Jesus and the Word of God. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to go overseas to a camp this year. But since our God is so very creative, I asked Him to give me ways to creatively connect with and encourage missionaries this summer. He gave me this thought, "You can pray." In my concern for missions God brought to my remembrance, a speaker who told how he had his church set their cell phone alarms to ring at noon to pray for the persecuted church. This would be perfect! I contacted my missionary friend who had five camps during the whole month of July and the first week of August. I asked her for specific requests and asked if I could contact her during this time frequently for updates. I then asked our church and four praying friends to commit to setting their cell phones to ring at noon to pray. I sent emails to help them remember and also to inform them of the specific requests throughout the week. We prayed! My missionary friend sent updates throughout the week.

It was exciting to see God work: missionaries were encouraged, campers came into relationships with Jesus, and our church was challenged to think and pray beyond our community. Personally, my desire is to remember to pray for people and this was a wonderful reminder every day when I heard the ring to ask God to intervene and show Himself real at camp.



Jan McKinnon

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

Please consider implementing this into your life. There may be a missionary who needs regular prayer, a friend who has specific needs, family issues, lost friends, and so many more reasons to pray. I hope to hear phones ringing at noon around the world.

Save the Date!

If you are engaged in member care—whether it's with a care-giving organization, a sending mission, or a local church—the 2017 PTM Conference has something for you. Experience community and refreshment in a supportive environment, as you learn from peer groups and workshops designed to increase awareness and build skills in walking along-side overseas workers.

Author and spiritual director Fil Anderson is our featured speaker for PTM 2017, and he will be expounding on the theme "Audacious Grace." We will begin taking registrations for this conference in February, 2017, but mark your calendar now and plan on attending this significant event October 3–6, 2017!

PTM CONFERENCE

October 3–6, 2017

AUDACIOUS
grace



Write us at ptm@barnabas.org or visit our web site www.ptm.barnabas.org for more information.

English Camp in Ukraine

Assemble a group of more than 70 Ukrainians from 4 to 74 years old, add a bunch of talented English/Russian translators, a team of enthusiastic Christian missionaries, and a collection of native English-speakers from Canada, South Africa, and the United States, and the outcome is exceptional. During 12 days in July 2016, it was my privilege to assist at an Evangelistic English Language Camp in Ukraine.

The campers had responded to an invitation to spend part of their mid-summer holiday in intellectual mode, honing their linguistic skills in a semi-rural locality near Kherson at the mouth of the Dnieper River. This was a welcome relief from political tensions, an ongoing territorial war in the Donetsk region, and the socio-economic stresses of a currency devaluation since early 2014 from 8 to 25 Hryvnia to the US Dollar.

English levels ranged from beginners, who had mastered greetings and introductions, to advanced students who wished to engage with subjunctive requests in professional contexts. The camp was structured around a schedule that had been streamlined over ten years of camps organized by International Messengers. Each morning, small groups practiced reading and comprehension from an English version of the Bible, with a Russian translated version for comparison. After lunch, the participants engaged in conversation. Another two sessions in larger groups challenged learners to increase their vocabulary, grammar, and use of idiomatic expressions, by means of discussion and word games. In the afternoons there were short talks about marriage relationships, giraffes, and Christian spirituality.

Breakfast, lunch, and supper provided additional opportunities for conversational practice, over meals of tasty fare including borscht, pork, cheese, tomatoes, and bread. The lengthy daylight and steamy climate were optimised after supper. Early evening activities were water games, a carnival-type competition, a marshmallow-roasting campfire, and a tower-construction challenge. Also in the mix were times of singing in English, Ukrainian, and Russian, as well as insightful talks based on the essential message of the biblical Gospels. After six days at the camp venue, interactions continued for another three days in urban Odessa (population one million). The

Ukrainians spent time with their foreign visitors in several other environments. These included a church service, a picnic at the beach, a visit to the Coastal Battery 411 War Memorial Park, watching a movie (brought to an excitingly abrupt end when part of the ceiling collapsed under the weight of cement being mixed for renovations on the floor above the fifth floor venue), several enjoyable sessions of consuming local ice cream, and local mashutka (bus) trips down Liustdorska Doroha (a major road through the city). There was also a walking tour of city centre sites.

For some of the campers, the English camp prompted deep existential questions, meaningful discussions, changed perspectives, and encounters with a previously unfamiliar Creator God. For others, content in their historical Russian Orthodox convictions, or a complete absence of any religion, the camp appeared to meet their expectations of holiday relaxation, social networking, and better English competence.

I benefited personally from the warmth of these young Ukrainians in responding to the inputs I gave into their lives. The level of gratitude and openness was exceptional once we got to know each other. Most fulfilling was to see their willingness to consider the truth of the Gospel. It was amazing to be part of this rewarding endeavour.



Stephen Rule

Stephen (front row, far right) with the campers showing their English certificates at the end of camp. Stephen is a short-term team member who is from Johannesburg, South Africa.



Homegoing

Ralph Jensen

October 16, 1932 – August 21, 2016

If there's a camp in Heaven...Ralph Jensen'll be there! Age didn't stop Ralph and his wife Mary from going on short-term mission trips and every camp he attended benefited from his experience. Retirement didn't mean an RV parked in Texas or playing bridge. It meant more time to serve, not only overseas but also in his church, First Baptist in Minneapolis. He was very effective in missions support by increasing awareness of various ministries—praying for them and raising financial support. His church honored and encouraged missionaries every year with an amazing mission-fest and Ralph and Mary were a big part of that. Ralph also faithfully served on the International Messengers board of directors from June 2002 through September 2013.

I remember a staff meeting that Ralph attended and surprised us all. When it was his turn to address the staff he assured them he was not there to “check up on” anyone; but rather to encourage them. And encourage them he did! He let them know they were valued and prayed for frequently. He spent much of his time (when he could have been sleeping) talking with individual staff members, listening to their challenges, and inspiring them to continue in the battle. He always had a word from the Word to strengthen and reassure them.

Ralph went to be with Jesus this summer and although we miss him so much, we know he was received into heaven with the words, “Well done, good a faithful servant!”

by Deborah Sharp

If you participated in a short-term trip in 2016 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

SHORT- TERM QUOTES

My faith is usually tested and strengthened because of obstacles that are encountered when stepping out to serve. I have seen the Lord's protective nature and loving care at every turn. He calms my fears and provides for every need and stirs up an abundant joy in the call to serve Him. I am greatly encouraged to see such hunger for the Lord among people who live in cultures that are opposed to the Gospel message. Sandra – Egypt

This trip has expanded my worldview and deepened my faith. It's encouraging to see the one true God being worshipped in the Muslim world. Also, being on these trips strips away all of the securities of home and forces me to depend solely on God's providence.

Brian – Jordan

I was totally dependent upon Him – traveling alone, meeting with and working with people I did not know and doing the work in the camps. God was so faithful and near to me as I trusted Him more and more. My walk with Him has become even more dear to me.

Sue – Hungary

You can always expect God to show up where hearts are needy and seeking for His presence. Even when your heart is struggling to make it day by day, admitting your need for Him and moving forward with thankfulness is when God is able to use all things for His glory. Hannah – Uganda

Seeing the Beauty in Missions

Oh, how easy it is to focus on negative stuff: We regurgitate conversations that irked us. We worry about the “what-ifs.” We get stuck in “if-only.” We anticipate the worst outcome rather than expect the best. And then we wonder why we lack joy and peace.

While in Kathmandu recently, I walked a back street with Holly Tapley. The road itself left much to be desired. We dodged rocks and potholes and mud puddles. When we reached a ninety-degree turn at the end of the road, we stumbled upon a pile of red bricks topped by a rusty something-or-other. Several stray dogs napped nearby.

The scene resembled countless others in this city but with one exception. Behind the corrugated fence sat a tiered flowerbed—a splash of beauty amidst the mess. Holly and I, deep in conversation and focused on not twisting our ankles on the rocky roadway, nearly missed it.



I couldn't help but wonder how often I miss beauty because I'm focused on the negative. Rather than expecting God to answer my prayers in His best way and time, I worry about all the things that might hinder Him from working as I wish He would. Rather than asking God to bless those with whom I might not see eye-to-eye, I waste energy second-guessing what they meant when they said such-and-such. And rather than praise God in my heart as I go throughout my day, I tend to mentally rehash matters hurtful or linger on concerns that cause me stress.

Can you relate, or am I the only one who struggles in this way?

The Kathmandu street scene was like a gentle reminder from the Lord: “Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise” (Philippians 4:8). The writer of this verse continued,

“Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you” (v. 9).

“Thank You, Lord. Lesson received. And in the process of being applied—again.”

The visual aid has challenged me to not focus on the negative in the missions context—travel hassles, illness, the challenges of working in a culture and with a language I don't understand, financial challenges, sleeping on hard beds, eating unfamiliar foods, personality conflicts, and more.

Rather, I choose to focus on the good and the lovely and the beautiful. In missions, this means experiencing God's presence and power to do what He's called us to do. It means watching Him provide financially again and again and again. It also means having the opportunity to share the Gospel with fellow travelers, seeing the light come on in people's eyes when they

understand that Jesus loves them, and then seeing Him transform their lives.

I want to live a life that brings a smile to my Father's face. Focusing on the beauty in missions rather than on the negative is one way to do so.

Will you join me in my resolve?

Grace Fox

Grace is an author and speaker whose passion is to connect the dots between faith and real life so her audiences might live the life God intends. Grace lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia, with her husband Gene. They're the national co-directors of International Messengers Canada.

www.gracefox.com



The Oxygen Mask



I am so familiar with pre-flight safety instructions that I hardly even pay attention anymore. However, I always tune in and reject one small statement, “If oxygen masks should fall from the ceiling, always adjust your own before assisting children...” Whatever I’m doing in that moment pauses while I glance at my girls and mentally protest, “NO WAY! Their lungs are so small, I’d put it on them first, I can last longer.”

I now recognize how much my spiritual life reflected that same attitude. The first 30 years were spent helping others love Jesus and grow, rather than vigorously guarding my own love for Him. Oh, I had great seasons of clinging to and growing in my Savior, but only as long as everyone else was “okay.” As soon as I sensed a struggling soul, my time in the Word and prayer would be cut short as I recklessly spent myself on behalf of others. After all, the Christian life is one of sacrifice, right?

I admit that I reached “burnout.” Sleepless nights and depression became regular visitors during the week and I struggled to do anything of lasting value. I did good things at the expense of the best thing—the price tag on a life lived that way is high. I finally

reached the end of me, and weakly held out to Jesus what was left—a broken, exhausted, spent soul and body. I vowed to live the next 30 years putting on my spiritual “oxygen mask” first. I finally understand that if I don’t, I’ll spiritually die and be no good to anyone.

Even though it’s been a hard and painful year, filled with more valleys than mountaintops, it’s been the most precious one of my life. As I cultivate faithfulness and put Him first, everything else is forced to bend the knee. As a result, I see His goodness and grace poured out over every problem, struggle, and difficulty, turning it into something blessed and beautiful for my good and His glory!



Bethany Baxter de Noriega

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

SHORT- TERMER QUOTES

Missions open your heart to many new things and to many new people. It definitely expands your family and forces you to depend on the Holy Spirit. I think prayer gets highlighted during trips and makes you feel the true weight and understanding of what it means to have the veil torn in two. We have true access to the Father’s throne room because of Jesus. Elvir – Cyprus

Family English Camp has renewed my hope for the people in my life who have not yet put their trust in Jesus. The camp continues year after year to invest in nonbelievers and to share the Good News with love—some say yes to Jesus the first year, some the eighth year, and some never do. I never know who in my life will put their trust in Jesus the next time they hear the Gospel. Just like at camp, I only need to continue inviting, continue sharing, and continue loving. Sara – Poland

Blind Camp

The distance from our heads to our hearts can be overwhelming. As I watched many making that journey this past summer, I saw many turn blind. Spending two weeks engaging 70 and then 25 mostly unbelievers in conversations, games, and Bible lessons along the Dnieper River was (and is always) a highlight of my year. In July God brought us two astonishing evangelistic conversational English camps. International Messengers designs these camps so as we love and serve the campers—by Wednesday most of them are ready to dig into the Gospel and by Friday evening almost everyone knows the Gospel. These two camps were no exception. The exception was **blindness**, spiritual blindness.

Jesus encountered this same blindness (Jewish leaders, Nicodemus, Samaritan woman, His disciples...), so **it should not surprise us**, but it still breaks my heart to see so many, who have become my friends, reject God's gift of salvation. Many of our campers could describe the Gospel better than most American evangelical church-goers, but they rejected it. **My heart breaks** for them.

After 70 years of atheism, the **former Soviet Union** is still a hard, often God-forsaken land. I don't know if many of these campers will have a chance to hear the Gospel again. Some of them came literally from the middle of our war here in Ukraine and had never



Mark Huffman

Mark (above right) with some campers from this summer. Mark and Kim live in Odessa, Ukraine. Mark is director of Seaside Missionary Training Center and a church planter/pastor at Living Hope Church, in Odessa.

heard the Gospel before. We saw staunch atheists become believers in a creator God, but who will lead them the rest of the way to the cross? There is one little Gospel-preaching church in their city of 30,000. Will they hear the Gospel again? Will the seeds we have sown take root?

We need your help! Will you please **join us** this coming summer for an amazing **ten days** with wonderful, spiritually hungry, spiritually blind, former Soviet Union people? Why just stay for ten days? We need Christ-loving, English speakers for up to **90 days** in March–May and September–November. Join us!

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:13-15

I was reminded over and over again that God is not just a God of America, but truly a God of every tribe and every nation, as people in Egypt were alive with the Holy Spirit. Also, I was able to have some very serious conversations with one particular student, and every time God put the words in my mouth to help me work through the conversations. Just getting to see how God provides in so many situations was the highlight of my experiences on this trip. Troy – Egypt

SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTE

A New Savior in Ukraine

In August I attended a missions conference in Kiev—Ukraine's capital city. The conference was held where the **2014 Ukraine Revolution** started. **75 people were killed**, mostly protestors and some riot police, in February 2014, on the street next to where we met. This was only the start of the revolution—the hope that real change would come to Ukraine. It is sad to see the memorials that line the street and think that even though all of these people died, little has changed and little has improved. Corruption continues to be rampant, political leaders continue to plunder the country and the economy continues to sink. The 75 deaths followed by **another 10,000 deaths** in the ensuing war with Russian-led terrorist groups have **not** been sufficient to save Ukraine. It's also significant to note the 20,000 injured, the 1.8 million forced to leave their homes, and significant loss of territory to Russia. The war continues. The search for salvation continues.



Ukraine is looking for a **new savior**. The war quietly continues to our east, yet no one else needs to die. It is sad that so few Ukrainians know their **Savior already came** and already died for them. The peace and rest their souls long for is already available. We have shared the Gospel with SO many, it is tiring to think about. PLEASE pray that God would remove their blinders and give more Ukrainians REAL, ETERNAL hope and REAL, ETERNAL salvation through the Gospel. Better yet, please come and help us! **We need Christ loving, English speakers for up to 90 days in March-May and September-November—join us!**

Mark Huffman

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

So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:28

SHORT- TERMER QUOTES

I have benefited from this trip to Ukraine, in confirming my sensing God's calling on my life to reach others outside of the USA. I have also learned more clearly what is expected and less of what I imagined. I appreciated the knowledge and experience that God used me to help others to understand the Gospel. Mike - Ukraine

I have learned to trust God with all the little things and the big things. I have found Him completely trustworthy. I feel so safe with Him. I always want to do things God's way because I know that that is where the real joy of life is. Kathryn - Romania



Father's Heart Equine Ministry

A recent Saturday was one of the best days ever! In some ways it was very ordinary; I got up, opened my eyes with a cup of coffee, fed the dogs, and prepared the saddles and tack for the kids coming for morning riding classes. Nika and Emily were there to help—Nika to lead the riding classes and Emily to assist where needed.

It was so great to see the kids who had attended our July ranch camp during the first riding lesson. Our friend Martina came with her daughter and young friends for the next intermediate class. Martina and I were visiting while holding Princess, a young mare who had a break between lessons, when Deedee and her family came. Deedee, who has some limitations due to cerebral palsy, comes regularly to spend time around the horses, getting used to them and sometimes venturing to feed a carrot or two. She is so happy around the horses, but still hesitant to approach them. In the meantime Deedee's younger brother and mother have been enjoying learning to ride. While working with this happy group, I noticed another family coming across the field with their children. Oh my, how many children? Our friends, who just moved here from Bratislava, were coming to visit with their four children, plus friends and their two children. Right on their heels were four more young children and their houseparent from a nearby foster home. I checked with my helpers to see if they still had energy, and we gave rides to the ten children who had joined our group. I observed as fathers, grandmothers, and helpers worked together enjoying the children and each other.

Standing on our field, with the river running beside us, I basked in the joy of all these dear children, horses, and friends interacting together at our little ranch. I felt God's peace and joy as well as the fulfillment of a dream to minister to children with varying special needs.

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before you. How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! Oh Lord, they walk in the light of Your countenance.” Psalm 89:14-15



Laura Stein

Laura and Bevan live on a ranch in Turciansky Michal, Slovakia. Their desire is to encourage and support a missions movement from Slovakia that will reach those who are marginalized not just by society but by the church such as: abused, abandoned, orphaned and handicapped children, as well as other groups who are overlooked by the church in its outreach.

I Don't See Any Obstacles

At the beginning of this year two men joined our Monday's Bible group in Katowice—Thomas and Kamil. We got to know them much better during a weekend retreat, where we studied Galatians. Since neither of them can drive a car, they arrived there late. Several buses and interchanges did not discourage them, they were full of enthusiasm. Their joy and profound observations during the study were a surprise to us. In the evening we played a concert on the piano using four hands. We asked them later if they could help us in the translation of songs from English to Polish. They agreed without hesitation. Not only that—they

rejoiced about it. "I don't see any obstacles," said Tom. "I would love to do something handy for God." We all laughed out loud—Thomas and Kamil are both blind and they really don't see any obstacles. Their openness to new things, to initiate, to fight against adversity, and their

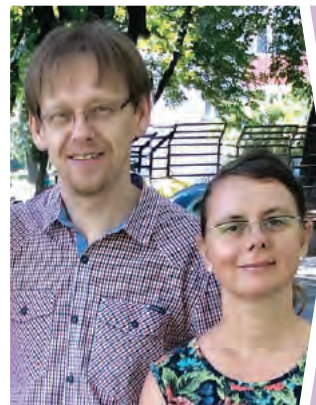


willingness to ask for help and their dependence on God ashamed every one of us during those few days.

When God called Moses, he tried as hard as he could to evade the task. He saw only obstacles. Who am I to talk? Who are you? They wouldn't believe me. I cannot speak (Exodus 3-4). And when God answered his doubts, Moses summed it up by saying, "Please, Lord, send someone else." Exodus 4:13.



Even if we thought that something in us is missing to complete the mission God gave us—to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20), the example of Kamil and Thomas shows us that this is just an excuse. Like Moses, we want to avoid difficulties. If it is true that He is always with us, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20) as God was with Moses, we can do everything we are told. Where others would see problems, we can see the possibility of bringing Him glory because our strength is in Him and not in our abilities.



Bogdan and Johanka Pszczola

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

SHORT- TERMER QUOTES

First of all, I saw God in each step while I was in Poland. I felt the most incredible love of God coming through the wonderful people I met and served at our camp. I can sum up my experience in Poland as nothing less than a sweet gift from God. Judy - Poland

It was great getting to know the Polish people, making friends with them, while exercising the spiritual gifts God has given me. Michael - Poland

TRUSTING GOD

“God will ask something of you that will not make sense to the world, but it makes perfect sense for His will in your life – you need to trust Him and follow Him.” I used to tell this to my youth groups often in my many years as a youth pastor. Then came a day that I needed to practice what I was preaching. I was on a transition leave at the church I was serving; I was going from youth ministry to adult ministry and had a two-month leave. During that time God began to lay upon my heart and my wife Linda’s heart that He had something else for us. After much prayer and seeking God’s will for our future—He revealed to us that the transition was going from church ministry to ministry with International Messengers. But did this make sense? I served many years at the church—with a salary and with health insurance... to changing to a new career at the age of 59 - needing to raise support, and no health insurance. By the way of the world it may not have made a lot of sense, but to God—it was His perfect timing in our lives, leading us to a wonderful opportunity to minister with IM.

After beginning with IM in January, I have had the opportunity to travel to Uganda and Egypt twice, and once to Jordan, Hungary, and Romania. I have been so blessed to work with amazing missionaries that serve with passion; I have been able to work alongside committed short-termers who shared the Gospel with love and grace; and we have experienced God’s goodness that has truly enhanced our lives. Trusting God is not always the easy road—for too often we want to lead and control, but it is always the best road for our lives.



Training in Jordan with the church there



Uganda Camp

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6



Randy Vaage

Randy and Linda live in Clear Lake, Iowa. Randy’s ministry focus is training/leading youth and adult teams, recruiting for the ministry needs of IM, and working with and encouraging youth pastors.



EMERGENCY!

This past summer IM staff serving in the Middle East had a scare from government authorities that are opposed to the Gospel work we are doing there. One family was quickly evacuated and our ministry plans there are being completely revised.

We must continue to take steps to make disciples in the Middle East and North Africa, but even with precautions, the work in that region contains risks that can't be controlled.

As a result of this recent experience, IM is seeking to raise finances for a fund that would be in place when costly evacuations and urgent interventions become necessary.

For more information, please contact Brent Howland at 641-357-6700 or brent@im-usa.org. If you would like to contribute to IM's Emergency Fund, visit www.im-usa.org/donate. If giving by check, indicate *Emergency Fund* on a separate note. For Network for Good, indicate *Emergency Fund* in the gift designation area; for JustGive, choose *Emergency Fund* in the Program drop-down menu.

DONOR'S BILL OF RIGHTS

When you give, be sure your selected charity employs standards and policies that assure you of a "bill of rights" as a donor.

You have the right to:

Know how the funds of an organization are being spent.

Know what the programs you support are accomplishing.

Know that the organization complies with federal, state, and municipal laws.

Restrict or designate your gifts to a particular project within the organization's mission objectives.

A timely and courteous response to your inquiries about finances and programs.

Give cheerfully without being pressured by the organization.

Obtain a copy of the organization's most recent audited financial statements

Know that there is a responsible governing board providing oversight to the organization's mission.

Know that all appeals for funds are truthful and accurate.



International Messengers is accredited by the ECFA. For more information visit: www.ecfa.org

- ☐ I/we would like more information about IM's ministries planned in 2017.
- ☐ 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 2017:



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 or more of these areas, we will send you a link to download and print a card to give to the recipient 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:

- ☐ A hot meal for the homeless in Radom, Poland (\$10)
- ☐ Arabic Bibles and chocolates as Christmas gifts in the Middle-East (\$15)
- ☐ School fees and supplies for needy children at River of Life Care Home in Romania (\$25)
- ☐ Tuition for one school-term for orphans in Gulu, Uganda (\$50)
- ☐ Scholarships (\$50 each) to help HIV-infected children and families attend a Joshua Project camp next summer in Romania

Amount for hot meals \$ _____

Amount for Arabic Bibles/Chocolates \$ _____

Amount for school fees and supplies \$ _____

Amount for tuition for orphans in Uganda \$ _____

Amount for Joshua Project 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



PO Box 11022 • 1945 McCallum Road
Abbotsford, BC V2S 0E4



Enhancing Trust

2016 Short-Term Ministries Report



God accomplishes much through the willingness and hearts of our staff and short-termers. From fall 2015–summer 2016, we sent a total of 324 short-term workers to serve at a variety of outreaches (see list at right). We also conducted 27 trainings in 11 states/provinces.

The average age of our short-termers was 47 years old, and 68% of our short-termers were alumni. Our oldest short-termer was 89 and our youngest was 7-years-old.

We give God all the glory for another blessed year!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 College Internship | 1 Leadership Training |
| 2 Construction Ministries | 2 Marriage Seminars |
| 4 Discipleship Camps | 1 Professional English Camp (Business) |
| 1 Evangelistic Community Outreach | 2 Redeem the Summer Internships |
| 2 Evangelistic Youth Camps | 4 ROL Care Home Ministries |
| 1 Evangelistic English Day Camp | 1 Sewing Ministry |
| 6 Evangelistic English Camps | 19 Staff Care or Teaching Ministries |
| 2 Evangelistic Softball/English Day Camps | 2 Teaching ministries (3 mos.) at EWAY English School in Odessa |
| 1 Evangelistic Hiking Camp | 1 University English Class Outreach |
| 10 Family Evangelistic English Camps | 1 Youth with HIV/AIDS Camp |
| 2 Homeless/Addicted Outreaches | 1 VBS Camp |
| 1 Horse Camp for Disabled Children | |
| 1 House Parent Ministry for IM's Training Center in Ukraine | |
| 1 IM Staff Conference | |