

FALL 2017



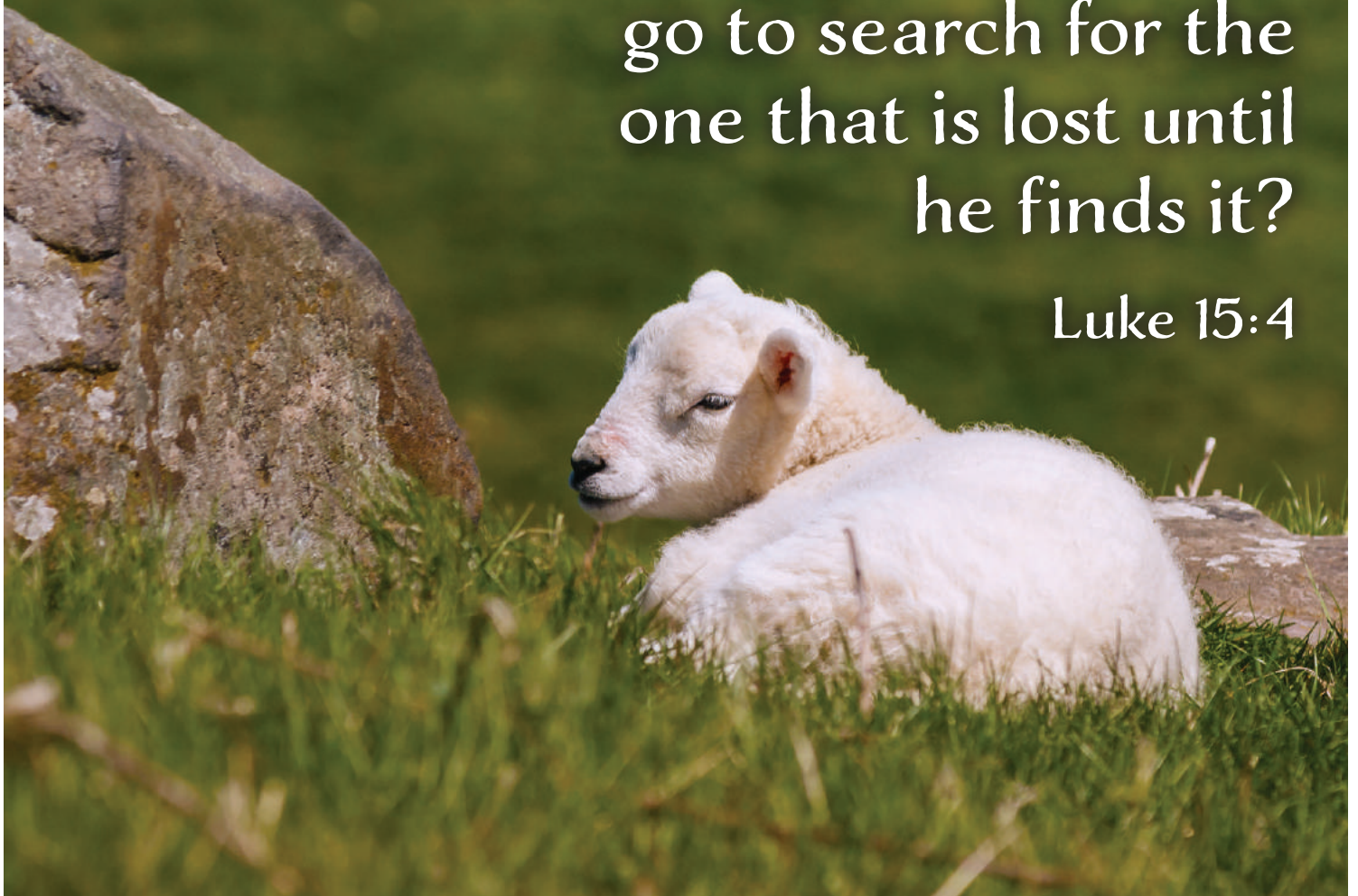
International Messengers **GOOD NEWS**

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

If a man has a hundred
sheep and one of them gets
lost, what will he do?

Won't he leave the
ninety-nine others
in the wilderness and
go to search for the
one that is lost until
he finds it?

Luke 15:4



INSIDE

He Counts By Ones!	3
A Mother's Love...And God's	4
How Good is Good Enough?	5
Standing Firm	6
The Beam of Light	7
Higher Than Us	8
Teaching From the Heart	9
Ministry on Pine Ridge	10
What Has a Decade of English Camps Accomplished?	11
God is My Business Partner.....	12
Change Comes From the Lord	13
God's Transforming Power At Work in Gulu, Uganda.	14
Do You Want to See Lives Being Transformed?	15
Taken From Hell	16
I Can't Teach English	17
What's Your Passion?	18
Missionaries Do Great Things... ..	19
Camp Schedule	20
Serving Refugees in Odessa, Ukraine . .	21
Called to the Sikhs	22
Intersecting Paths	23
Why an IM Camp?	24
The Lord is Faithful	25
Working to Make a Difference – Father's Heart	26
Jesus Loves You!	27
First Big Victory	28
The Lord's Ministry in Hungary	29
Blessed by <i>Those</i> Kids	31
Missions' Impact on Students	32
Stepping Out in Faith	33
Why do these people mean so much to us?	34
Trinity Video Seminary	35
Summer Harvest	36
The Race	36
Friendship House - Radom, Poland	37
Will That be Enough?	38
Psalms to Dispel Darkness	38
Christmas Gift Alternatives	39

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visit: www.im-usa.org/donate**

BOOK REVIEW

*Where spiritual conversations
happen naturally.*

This book has been a significant help to me because I'm interested in building relationships with those who don't yet know Jesus, and I struggle with how to include God in my conversation with them. Just because I'm a missionary doesn't exempt me from this struggle. My heart desperately wants to share the Gospel but my mind stumbles with all kinds of excuses.

This battle between my heart and my mind has sent me on a quest to obey my heart and overcome the excuses of my mind. Elvis Filote, my close Romanian friend, in the ministry he is involved with in Romania has struggled with this same issue. The methods they had used for 25 years were seeing little or no results. At Elvis' leading this summer they chose to retrain their workers and volunteers based on principles and truth that were presented in this book. The publishing house that I'm a part of translated and printed the book for them in Romanian.

Excerpt: "You've felt that tug..."

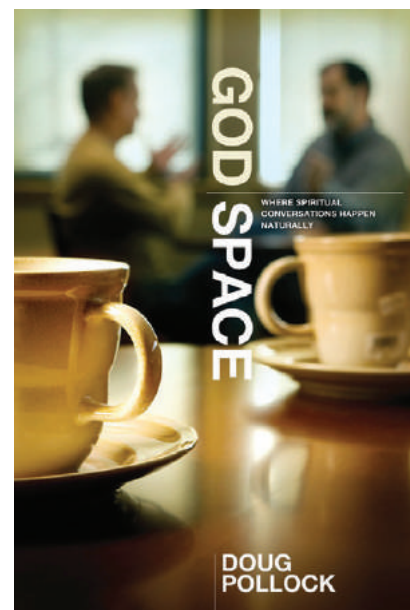
A friend, coworker, family member or someone you just met is talking—and you sense God nudging you to say something. But what do you say? What don't you say? How can you bring God into the conversation without shutting it down?

Welcome to God Space

Where the Holy Spirit can do amazing things through everyday conversations. Where honesty and transparency allow for discovery and deep connection. Where lives are challenged and changed.

Connect with these real-life stories of ordinary people who learned how to engage others in rich spiritual conversations that open doors instead of slamming them."

You will find the book is very, very practical; I did. It is filled with story after story of how others have had God-centered conversations and how we can have similar experiences.



Tom Clark

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

HE COUNTS BY ONES!



Darwin Anderson

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

In the parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15, there is an intimate look at God's great heart, pointed at those who represent Him, to instruct them that He counts by ones. In this parable, the shepherd leaves the 99 who aren't lost and goes out and searches the places that lost sheep go, to find the one that is lost. What a comfort, but also a challenge, to look at our own understanding of Him. Where am I going to look for lost people? How am I praying to find them? Do I mirror His heart?

This past summer, at the Jordan Family English Camp, my men's small group was quieted by the way Jesus attracted and held the attention of famous sinners. Why? What must He have been like to do that? What do we need to watch for in ourselves to follow Him accurately? Do we have God's heart for lost "ones"?

After the camp, the elders of this small evangelical church, just 60 miles from Syria, asked us about follow-up of the new believers: "We have to go to them, don't we?" This was the first time I had been asked that question in 27 years of evangelistic camp ministry! It's interesting that when the shepherd discovered the lost sheep, He joyfully picked it up and carried it on His shoulders back to the flock and safety! He didn't lead, pull, or chase the sheep, but instead carried this lost one back. God not only counts by ones but sets the example for us about doing the heavy lifting of discipleship and continuity of relationship.

Their next question was, "How long do we persist in chasing these new believers? Do we concern ourselves about possibly wasting time that could be better spent somewhere else?" I simply asked, "How long has God been pursuing you every day?" And I wanted to ask, "How efficient has that been for Him?" The act of carrying the sheep back to the fold is done from deep concern and compassion, not efficiency. Remember God loves us faithfully as His own, but not over and above the lives of each of the lost around us.

And then there is the celebration over "just" one in this passage, a celebration not only by God but by the heavenly hosts. Imagine the ongoing party around the throne at the saving of each soul. He even celebrates by "ones."

How are we doing as churches in going after the lost "ones?" Are we functioning more as a gathered church than a scattered church? Are we expecting them to come to us? Are we on our faces regularly as leaders, begging the Lord of the Harvest to show us where to look and how to find them? This is the heart of our sovereignly-loving God. He longs for the lost ones to turn and be found. He longs to send us to find them, with Him. Is this the God we are worshipping Sunday mornings? The One who counts by "ones"?

A MOTHER'S LOVE... AND GOD'S!

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Isaiah 49:15



Evangelistic English Camp in Romania was scheduled for the first week in July, 2017. And God was faithful to bring people to fill the camp. God supplied a great American team from Iowa and Michigan to serve at camp. Many youth attended who were not yet believers. A young teen came whose parents are believers and she knew that she was not. She was so anxious about her own salvation that she cried each time she spoke of it. She wanted to trust Christ, but knew she wasn't ready. (She did trust Christ a few weeks after camp through the ministry of one of our missionary wives who connected with her at camp.) Young men came who also had heard of Jesus, but were still captivated by the world's siren song. But this story is about mothers, not just one, but two who were marvelously (miraculously?) brought to camp by God.

One mother was praying for the salvation of her children, a girl age 21, and a son age 24. Romania was her home, but she had moved to Germany with her husband and children some 14 years ago. She and her husband attend a Bible-believing church in Germany, but their children remain unsaved. This family visited Romania just days before the camp. In a church this mother saw a poster about the camp. Even though she and her two children would know no one else at camp, she signed up to attend and brought her children that they might hear of Christ and be saved. What love! This was an opportunity from the Lord and she did not want to miss it. This mom, son, and daughter stayed all week with us. We are praying for the salvation of her children. Praise God for camp and for the clear message of God's love!

God brought another mother to camp for the first time, not from Germany this time, but from America. This mother is a school teacher who came on our team to share Christ with Romanian young people. And, oh, she has a heart for young

people! At camp she had special delight in teaching one of our English classes. Day after day she shared her testimony of being a homely kid growing up in rural America and not feeling special to anyone. She shared how cancer took one of her eyes, but God sustained her. She shared how she and her husband trusted Christ and built a life, not around the American dream, but on the solid rock of obedience to Christ as their Lord and Savior. She shared how, after a long career of teaching languages in the public school, she and her husband retired and served as missionaries in China for eight years. She has taken part in mission trips all over the world. But this was her first trip to Romania, and it was to serve at an English Language Camp. Do you get it? What doors God opens to share His magnificent love through English Camp!

Well, do you think the young people listened to her? Oh yes! She knew that God used her last summer - it was obvious to all of us - and she is eager to return this coming summer and bring more team members with her. Even now she is praying for these young people by name that God might save them through the Gospel of His love in Christ.

Along with this dear mother, we can't wait for English Camp next summer!



Kent & Sue Wagner

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

How Good is Good Enough?



As parents, we are desperate for our boys to trust and follow Christ; nothing in life concerns us more. We have great kids, but there are days—no, seasons—in our home when it seems like Satan is winning. Caleb, our 14-year-old, went with me to Uganda this summer, and in the days before we left, things were so chaotic that I wasn't sure why I ever thought this crazy trip was a good idea! We had no idea that God would show us such an amazing miracle.

Lumala was a Muslim and a single mom. She said, "Allah requires us to be good to go to heaven." When I gently asked, "How good is good enough?" she looked at the ground and was silent. So we shared with her about God's grace and about what Jesus' death on the cross means for us. She had never heard anything like that, and she asked "What does Jesus require?" We shared that He wants a relationship with us where we trust Him completely—where we surrender ourselves to Him and trust Him to be in charge of our lives. He wants us to be willing to let Him love us. Then He will come and live in us and make us a part of His own family. When we asked her if she was ready for that kind of life-changing step she said, "So Very Ready."

Meanwhile, the other guys were sharing with a small group nearby and a teenager was arguing with them about God. Then suddenly, his countenance changed and he started asking good,

sincere questions. He ended up asking if he could trust in Christ also. Later we learned that the teenager was Lumala's oldest son!

Before we left, Lumala asked us to pray for her children, so of course we prayed that they would know Christ. That was the exact time when her son did the 180 and started to listen and respond to the Good News! So mother and son both received Christ as their Savior on the same day within about 100 feet of each other, without even knowing that the other one was having those conversations!

This trip certainly didn't cure all the things that we struggle with at home. But Caleb and I are deeply thankful that we were first-hand witnesses to God's amazing work. We know God has changed us. He has given us a fresh perspective on what truly matters (and what doesn't) in this life.



Brent Howland

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

Standing Firm



Sometimes I see reminders of God's faithfulness in the most unexpected places. Just a few weeks after we arrived back from our summer travels, we went through a series of problems.

It began on a Wednesday with my oldest son getting a rusty nail in his knee during recess; three stitches. That same afternoon, my five-year-old son fell off the monkey bars and broke his wrist. Since we live in such an isolated place, this meant my husband had to catch a flight with him out to the nearest town so that he could take him to the ER. Thankfully, they were able to get on a plane that same night. On Saturday night, just before starting our prep for church the following morning, we discovered that my daughter had lice. Then on Tuesday we found out our youngest son had parasites. All this in the space of one week.

I've learned over the years that there is no such thing as coincidence. In a way, when things like this happen, we take it as encouragement. As a friend of ours put it, "Well, at least they know they're in God's will, otherwise the enemy would leave them alone!" In the middle of all this happening I was praying and asking that obvious question: "God, WHAT is going ON?" Then this verse from John 17 came to my mind, part of Jesus' prayer for the saints: *"I do not pray that you would take them out of the world, but that you would protect them from the evil one."*

For some reason, I have always taken that to mean that God would protect us from things like this happening at all. But then I remember; *"In this*

world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) So I think it has more to do with what it says in Ephesians 6:13, *"...so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."* So here we are, by His grace, still standing.



Katie Larsh

Jon and Katie Larsh currently serve in Cat Lake, a fly-in only First Nation reserve in Northern Ontario (a community of about 500 people). They went to Cat Lake to establish a Christian School (ACE - Accelerated Christian Education curriculum), at the request of the Chief and Council in Cat Lake, in January 2011.

THE BEAM OF LIGHT



It's late morning, the third day of our evangelistic business camp. I am sitting in the class. A group is sitting around a large square table. On my left, there is Diane who is leading the Bible reading time. I was praying in my spirit and watching the students. Looking at the students' sheets I saw that they had done their homework. All of them had read the Bible text printed on the Bible study sheets for the day and I noticed they had made lots of notes along individual lines of the text. It was clear they had studied and translated every single word of the Bible text and got ready for the lesson. They were participating and thinking about what they were reading and some of them even made very interesting comments and shared spiritually deep thoughts. They were thinking deeply and asking good questions. However, I just could not overlook this young tall man, who was different from the rest of the group. His name was Tony. He didn't make any notes, he didn't want to answer any questions, he didn't want to look at us, he was just sitting there completely "frozen," showing no sign of cooperation. He was a nice and friendly man during the day, but it was just the Bible reading time when he got so strange. On that day we were reading the text about the prodigal son and the father patiently waiting for his son to return home.

It is a moving story showing who our God is. For the prodigal son it was a moment when he experienced and fully realized who his Father is! But on that morning, it was a great moment for Tony. Since that moment, reading this story, his attitude changed. We even saw a smile on his face and he started to participate in our Bible reading lessons until the end of the camp. Later we learned that he came to the camp as a follower of Buddha and had absolutely no intentions to read the Bible. But the Word of God is like a beam of light that suddenly penetrates the darkness and reveals the Truth. I don't know, but I hope that Tony came to the camp as a Buddhist and left as a seeker of the True Living God.



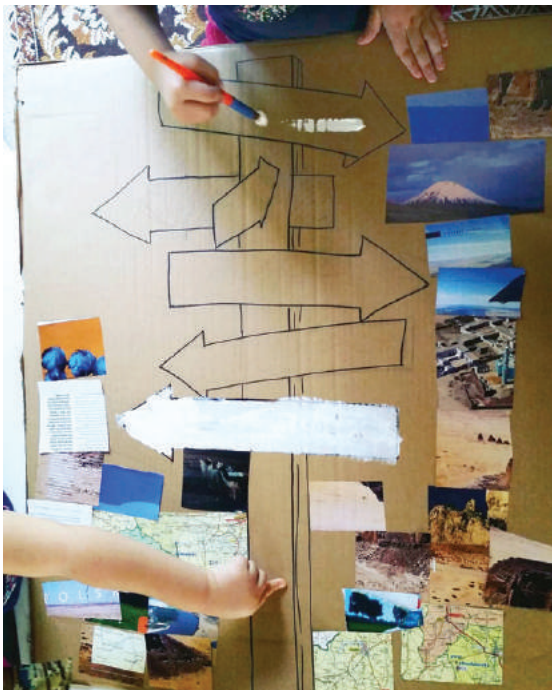
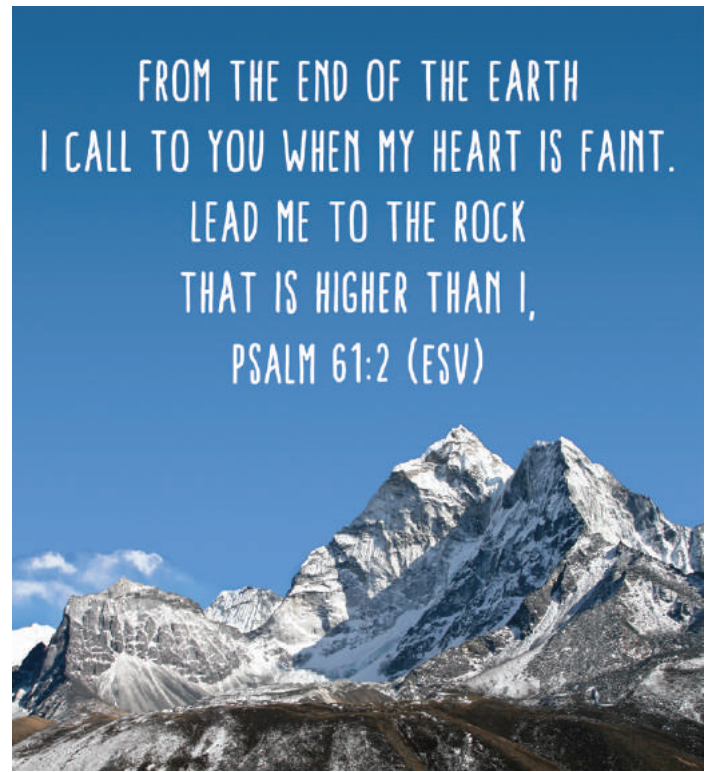
Bronislav Lipus

Bronislav 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.

Higher Than Us

Where? What? When? Oh, how I need to hold on to the hand that is stronger than I... (*Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.* Psalm 61:2). I'm not sure about too many wheres...that makes me overwhelmed and discouraged but then I can be sure that God will fill me with His peace and give me a perspective that is bigger than I. As I picture myself standing on the rock, I think of courage and hope...not to give up on being faithful to the heavenly calling. We arrived in Minsk three years ago to assist a group of Syrian refugees that arrived here and we wanted to help host them; however they left after only three weeks. Poland remains closed to refugees, especially people from the Arabic culture. Well, God gave us compassion for that group and we're still seeking God's leading about what that means for us. Meanwhile we want to be present where God has placed us and use tools we're equipped with, which means teaching English and Art. We understand our family is the greatest treasured tool. These are ways we take to reach out to the community. In February this year we started "Lighthouse World of English" and we're learning how to combine business and ministry. Discipleship is a precious but long journey, and we experience God's grace as we grow oh so slowly together with our friends.

Another "big" decision was to start the process of applying for foster family status. Our dream is to start a Christian Centre where we could DO CHURCH and BE CHURCH. Our precious friends, we ask you to be in prayer for: Darek and Ewa Choszcz with their children Kuba and Maja—young believers searching for understanding of a developing new identity in Christ; Staszek and family—a man in a wheelchair who had a challenging past, but who has a heart for the homeless and alcoholic; and Ola Olewinska—our young friend from Ukraine who lived in our town and is now a connection in Paris among refugees.



LeRoy Schwartz

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

TEACHING FROM THE HEART

“The weeks there are always the highlight of my year!” These words were spoken by one of our beloved teachers, also a college professor, who regularly gives up his spring and fall breaks to come to Mountainside Ministry Training Center (MMT).

MMT exists to prepare missionaries for ministry and acclimate them to the International Messengers (IM) family. Missionary trainees learn by living in community for 3.5 months, taking classes, and praying weekly for all missionaries and support staff in IM. We're thankful for our instructors who volunteer one week (sometimes two) each semester to teach discipleship, cultural adaptation, evangelism, inductive Bible study, spiritual warfare, church planting, prayer, support raising, or conflict management. For most, it's more than a one-week investment. The teachers often pray for their students before they meet them and then keep in touch after the class is done.

Some of the best learning and relationship-building happens outside the classroom. During the week, teachers (and sometimes, their spouses) live at the Training Center with the students. After class they are available for prayer, visiting, counseling, playing games with kids, going on hikes, or treating students to dinner or ice cream.

MMT's instructors come from different backgrounds and life experiences, with unique personalities and gifts, but it's what they have in common that matters most to us. They love our students and freely give themselves to the task of sending out missionaries who are well-prepared. For that we are very grateful.



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:



- **Tablecloths** **4@ \$10.00 = \$40.00**

Fellowship around the table is an essential part of ministering to the missionary students.



- **Cookware Set** **\$225.00**

Our cookware gets a lot of good use, and it's time for a new set.



- **Play Structure** **\$1,095**

With your donations last year, we erected a sturdy fence, creating an area for our MKs to play. This year, please help us purchase a play structure for the kids.

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 • andrea@im-usa.org • Ph: 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

Ministry on Pine Ridge



Blessings from Pine Ridge, South Dakota! God is at work and it is being seen throughout the Reservation! During the second week of September a group of men and women following the prompting of the Holy Spirit, went out and carried a ten-foot cross 55 miles across the Pine Ridge Reservation From Kyle to Pine Ridge Village. Many souls were touched by this week-long journey. George Dreamer Jr., the young man who received the vision from God around Easter time, received a ton of positive feedback and from the sounds of it, some people that may have been on the fence with Christianity and traditions, when they saw the cross being carried, they put their trust in Christ. A newspaper journalist did a story about the journey and it made the front page of the Native Sun News Today newspaper. He is looking to come back out to do a story on the positive outlook on Christianity on the Reservation. This has never been done. Praise God!

We have started a small motocross camp where we have youth from the community come out to learn about the Gospel and who Jesus really is. Along

with this, they learn how to ride dirt bikes, how to fix them, and learn other life skills as well.

Door-to-door ministry has been fruitful as well. God has granted us boldness and strength to go out into one of the most dangerous areas in the United States and proclaim the Good News of Jesus! Our family is doing well! With ups and downs along the way. Homeschool is going well, it is so neat to be able to see the progression in the education of our children! Heidi is able to read to her brothers and sisters, and the boys are learning the same material as Stacey teaches them preschool. Please continue to pray for us as a family and for our team—Jackson and Reinell Helstad and their children, and Melissa Pranke. Also pray for our church congregation.



Josh Lease

Josh and Stacey are serving on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the southwest corner of South Dakota. They work with other missionaries and with two churches that have been planted within the past couple of years—one near the city of Pine Ridge and the other near the city of Kyle. Their desire is to build relationships with individuals on the reservation to further the Gospel and make disciples who make disciples.

WHAT HAS A DECADE OF *English Camps Accomplished?*

Last summer celebrated the tenth consecutive English Camp to partner with the Gorzow Baptist Church (GBC) in Poland. Every camp has left me encouraged and inspired by seeing God draw people into a new or deeper relationship with Himself.

Take Magda, for instance. Tears welled in her eyes on the second day of camp during the discussion about Jesus forgiving a paralyzed man's sin and dining with sinners (Mark 2:1-17). She said, "Now I understand. The church and its traditions have been a wall between me and God. He brought me here because He wants me to understand the truth—He loves me and wants relationship with me."

This year brought an extra dose of encouragement through a slide show containing pictures from the past ten years of camps. Reflecting on the past helped me to realize the growth in many campers' lives, and that brought tears to my eyes.

Rizick and Carolina were a young couple with two children at the first camp. Having grown up in very difficult situations, they were struggling with marriage, parenting, and unemployment. They lived in an old one-room apartment in the back yard of GBC. Despite their hardships, they've attended every camp since and are now doing well. Rizick has been employed for five years. They've moved to a three-room apartment, and, with big smiles, they told us, "We even have a dog!" Their deepening love for Jesus is evident in their marriage, their parenting of their three children, and their involvement at GBC.



Pawel grew up in a dysfunctional family but got involved with the GBC youth group. That relationship led him to attend the first family camp, and he's returned every year since. For several years his faith floundered somewhat, but not anymore. Now, in his mid-twenties, he's made a solid adult decision to walk with God and leave his past behind. The last two years he has served on the camp's children's program team.

These are only two examples of the long-term impact of short-term ministry.

The slide show revealed many more. What a blessing to bring God's transformational love and truth through EELC camps.

Gene Fox

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



God is my Business Partner!

When God began leading me to open a ministry-based coffee shop and bakery in Cracow, Poland, I was excited to use my talents in baking in order to reach an entirely new range of people! Students, tourists, business professionals, families, seniors—they all come as customers into our café where we aim to inspire and have a positive influence on each individual; always looking for opportunities to share about how great God is!



Julie Hybel

Julie, Przemek, and their daughter Roksana live in Cracow, Poland. Julie has been serving in Poland for 19 years.

It didn't take long for our food providers, our accountant, and our coffee connections to notice that we run business differently...honestly and with respect towards everyone. It's all because God is my business partner! I know that He is right beside me in every conversation, in every decision, and in every difficulty which keeps me constantly calling upon His wisdom and strength. God loves the hurting people who crave coffee and cupcakes, and I am so thankful to be here to tell them about Him!



Weddings

LANCE WEISSER



ANYA KRASILOVA
married on 10-29-16

Anya is IM staff serving in
Thailand

EMMANUEL SAMUEL
KEWAZA



MEGAN WEINHANDL
married on 10-08-17

Megan is IM staff serving in
Uganda

SHORT- TERM QUOTES

It was an incredible experience you can't put into WORDS. To see the growth and confidence in the students' English throughout the week was so inspiring. They attend for a reason and take the classes real seriously. It was also encouraging to be someone "safe" they could ask any questions regarding the Bible studies, their journeys, and what our churches are like in America.

*Diane - Czech Republic
Business Camp*

CHANGE COMES FROM THE LORD

“If Chris comes home and tells me we are moving to Mangalia, I don’t know what I’m going to do.”

Faith made this statement close to five years ago when we were ministering in Bistrita, Romania. Mangalia is a port city located in southern Romania right on the Black Sea, a ten to twelve hour drive away from the mountainous region of Romania we have grown to love. In 2007 God brought us to Romania to work with orphaned and abandoned children. But in 2012 God made it clear—a change was coming. In the last five years He changed our city, broadened our focus, and led us to International Messengers—but He did not change our love for Romania.

These changes did not happen overnight. God took it step-by-step in closing doors, but opening others. When the Lord closes a door it can be painful, it can bring doubt, it can bring thoughts of, “Did we do something wrong?” All these thoughts are normal, and can even be helpful if we get on our knees and prayerfully evaluate our circumstances. Even though they are painful the Lord is using this time to prepare us and build us up for the open door He has prepared for us. It helps us to evaluate, to redirect, and to pinpoint the calling God has on our lives.

In 2007 I never dreamed of living on the Black Sea, and preparing to plant a church in a spiritually dark region of Romania by ourselves. Thank you God for knowing all this already and preparing us. Thank you God for being there with us each step. And thank you God for promising to be there each step after this one. *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* Isaiah 55:9 (ESV)



Chris Anderson

Chris and Faith live and serve in Mangalia, Romania, along with their six children. Their focus is on church planting.



GOD'S TRANSFORMING POWER

At Work in Gulu, Uganda

Greetings fellow servants of the Most High God, it is such a great pleasure for me to be part of this ministry; I, the worst of all sinners saved by grace.

A month and a half ago, it pleased God that I move to Gulu, in the north part of Uganda, to minister to the community of Pawel Adak. Though it is the same country, it is totally a different culture, lifestyle, and language.

For years, the region was in war between the rebel group called the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and the Government of Uganda. Pawel was one of the centers of fighting—each of the people we are serving alongside have lost at least one person they were close to because of this war. We opened the church there a year ago, and in recent months we have seen a transformation of these people from war lovers and threatened people, to loving and caring people who have the love of Christ inside their hearts.

Peace has prevailed for around five years, though many people are still facing the trauma of the war. But God in His mercies is transforming this region, and this can be seen even in the praise/worship and the testimony full of forgiveness and joy by the elect of Christ here.

Many people here have either little or no education due to the insurgence—only a few can read or write or even speak a little English. The area is faced with rampant early marriages and



low productivity yet with large extended families composed of mostly women and children. Young men and women who are in Christ are zealous to serve the almighty with all they have, and mostly together with the youth of Pawel Adak, *"We are now focusing on being merciful to those who doubt; snatching others from the fire to save them..."* Jude 22-23.

We have not had an English Camp before but I am sure we need it a lot, based on the population composition and our ambitions as some were shown above. This will open our chances to share Christ and also provide an opportunity for evangelism.

I am so thankful for your support and for loving us. May the Almighty God bless you always and abundantly!



Amon Nabasa

Amon recently moved to Gulu, Uganda, where he feels God has called him to serve.

DO YOU WANT TO SEE *Lives Being Transformed?*

Come with us on an imaginary trip to the countries of Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. Jesus is mightily at work in individual lives as well as in the community life of groups and local churches.

God is at work in the hearts of people in Egypt, in the North as well as in the South. Our young Egyptian co-workers reach out to many poor people, also in these extremely needy areas of Upper Egypt in the South. Church and camp work are growing rapidly, also in Alexandria in the North.

Jesus deeply touched and renewed young people during the English Youth Camp near Alexandria last summer, and he did the same kind of revolutionary work in the spirits and souls of young people during our two Jordan camps in July and August. North American short termers worked hand-in-hand with local Christians on behalf of a lot of young Palestinian Jordanians. This kind of ministry opens up the channel for the Spirit of God to change a nation from the inside.

From Egypt and Jordan the Lord has moved us to Lebanon. This fall we do our first Mission Training School for young future leaders on the outskirts of Beirut. The class is the most interesting combination of students we've ever had. There are Lebanese people with Maronite-Catholic background who experienced a mighty breakthrough in their lives, and are now living radical lives for Jesus, going through situations of persecution because of their faith. There are also participants with Muslim background, one of them from Kurdistan. What a mixture in one group! The students are bonding

well with each other. Yet this is not always easy: well-settled Lebanese Christians together with Syrian refugees who have lost everything and need to start in a more or less hostile country from below zero. We pray for unity daily, and God is with us. Our Syrian students have in mind to go back and spread the Gospel among their own people as soon as the doors will open for them. We count it a huge privilege to train believers who will go to a war-torn country.

We are very blessed to support believers of various backgrounds in Lebanon, since this country is a hub for many nations and beliefs. What an exciting time to live in!

Ben & Burgi Oehler

Ben and Burgi focus mainly on the countries in the Middle East/ North Africa. They also coordinate IM's "Desertside Training Center" (DTC).



Taken from Hell

The great command of Jesus to go and make disciples of all the nations is to be accomplished by the family camps. Among us there are many people who do not know they need a Savior. A few years ago an ordinary girl was invited. She attended the camp. She was touched by God's Word, and by testimony. In one of the conversations she was encouraged to read the Gospel of John. At the Bible meetings, after the camp, she gave her life to God. So began her journey and life with God. After years of growth, she got involved in church service and she went to a missionary training center. It is worth investing in people's lives because we never know whether or not someone who preaches the Gospel will become "the apostle Paul." Sometimes our preaching precedes somebody's death. That was seven years ago. After years of encouraging my dad, He came. A few days later, during the

camp, he gave his life to God. And one week later he died. He died, but He lives! Every believer who shares the Gospel has the potential to save souls from hell. Thank you, you who come to share the Gospel, because thanks to you I can see God's work. Only to God be Glory!



Czarek Dabrowski

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

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.



I CAN'T TEACH ENGLISH!

"There is NO WAY I can do this!" My mind wanted to scream as it started whirling like a Ferris wheel. The more Darwin continued to talk through the teaching material for English Class time, the more I wanted to disappear into my seat. I was on the verge of having a meltdown. That was 2008, at the age of 16, preparing for my first short-term trip with IM to Ukraine. Nine years and ten camps later, I realize how the Lord used that camp to start me down the long road of trusting Him.

In 2014, I embarked on my first trip without any of my family members. At this English day camp in Radom, Poland, I was stretched spiritually but God grew my faith by leaps and bounds. Our Father is drawn to a heart that is needy for Him. There was a young man at that camp who claimed to be an atheist but he kept asking questions and each time, the Lord gave me an answer in some form. One year later, this young man decided to give his life to the Lord and now he is presently attending one of the IM ministry training centers. There are no words to express the AWE I feel when God uses me, an imperfect vessel. At the same time, I realized He has helped me to take steps forward on the road of trusting Him.

So you don't think you can teach English very well...or at all? God doesn't see your inability to teach English or anything else, as a road block. His vision in how He has uniquely created you is much greater than that. "Yes, but you don't understand. I'm not (insert whatever)." God is amazingly creative and refuses to work out of the little box that the human mind tends to put Him in. Ask Him how He wants to use you, and maybe your family, this next summer to reach out to your neighborhood and abroad. What does that look like? I'm sure God has some pretty good ideas for you! Take a chance. Start your journey on the road of trusting God, then stand back and see what awesome things our God can do in and through you.



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

This experience really challenged me...one night in worship all the power went out but the national team didn't even skip a beat, and kept leading us in worship for another 20 minutes or so and then we just continued on with our regular evening program. I don't think most churches I've been to would be able to do that without a second thought. But they did and it challenged me to look past "small" obstacles we face in ministry every day, and keep on without pausing to worry about this or that. **Alissa – Egypt Youth Camp**

This camp is a wonderful example of what can be done by prayers and cooperation. There were many occasions when spontaneous prayer was done by teammates facing a difficulty or problem. God was here, working in hearts and strengthening faith in both Polish and American believers. **Karen – Poland Family Camp**

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES**

What's your passion?

All of us are passionate about something! We all have things that we are good at and like to do. Have you ever thought about turning your interests, hobbies, gifts, and passions over to Jesus to let Him use those for His kingdom?

My passion is teaching and training teachers. I do this for my livelihood, but I also do it to help open doors for our International Messengers staff overseas. Offering professional development workshops for free has the ability to open doors into schools, businesses, community centers, social groups, and other places that missionaries might not be invited. So that's what I do—I go where I am invited to help.

“Well I can't do that!!” Well what can you do? Do you sew? Do you nurse? Take care of animals? What is your passion? Do you like children? Fixing things? Offering your skills and making them available to God's Kingdom also helps the Body of Christ, both locally and internationally. Missionaries need practical help as much as they need spiritual encouragement. Did you ever think that your skills might be just what somebody needs?

My challenge to you is *think outside the box!!* Trust God for the results, and watch Him provide the means, if you are willing! Following Jesus is an amazing adventure and it will take you places you never dreamed of going!



Kim Soper

Kim and Loren live in Nebraska. Kim serves IM as a Regional Representative and enjoys serving IM missionaries by providing professional workshops for teachers and others.

Leadership stretched me, and it was uncomfortable, but that's what growth is. Guiding meetings and speaking up front grew me in my assertiveness. I also gained a vision of how necessary that strong leaders are. I grew in my ability to make decisions without worrying about pleasing everyone. I still need to grow in that, but we made strides this week.

Chipper – Jordan Youth Camp

Going on a mission changes you in ways that nothing else can. From fundraising, to travel, to your experience there, you can see how God is paving the road every step of the way. We are all called to go, it's just a question of whether we are willing to or not.

Nancy – Uganda Sewing Ministry

Perhaps the greatest benefit was His affirmation regarding the type of mission work I'm best gifted for. Likewise, Jesus taught me to look for and pray for divinely appointed chats with those who needed encouragement.

Sherry – Romania Family Camp

One word: Energizing! I have a renewed sense of purpose in loving the non-Christians around me here at home and pursuing meaningful conversations with them.

Denise – Poland Family Camp

**SHORT-
TERM
QUOTES**

MISSIONARIES DO GREAT THINGS

Yes, missionaries do great things—well, at least we are supposed to do great things, and we want to do great things. But what are “great things”? Plan a big meeting, preach a great sermon, establish a training program or Bible school? Yes, these things are good; but they are not the main thing. *“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”* (Micah 6:8)

Missionaries really do organize schools, teach the Bible, help the homeless and orphaned, plant churches, train nationals, etc., but we must remember the foundation for all of these things is the love of God. *“If I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”* (2 Corinthians 13) Just like you, we face the challenge of getting too busy, the weight of deadlines, bills to be payed, and people who “rub us the wrong way.” We have heard some say, “But missionaries are ‘different people’, they can handle it, they are super human.” No, we are not, we are absolutely not. We are people who have also failed, who are weak, who struggle sometimes in relationships, who get ill, have surgeries, and wonder how in the world to pay our bills. We are sometimes quite weak, but we have made a very important decision; we have decided to lay everything on the altar, to follow and serve God with our whole hearts. This sounds good, sounds like the perfect first line to a missionary hymn I think, but what do missionaries do with their weaknesses? We can’t run over to our best friend’s home for support, or seek our pastor’s counsel for advice. We are here, alone, and at times very needy, hoping people are praying for us. Small things, little encouragements make such a difference for us—for me.

This summer in the midst of camp season, children coming and going, visitors, and animal care responsibilities, a friend showed up, actually the mother of our friend. She jumped out of her car, came to me with a hug, and a large basket of homemade jams she had made. It was a small gesture of love, but it reminded me that someone was also thinking of me, a little bit like a “hug from

God.” Then just this weekend a friend invited us and a few other English-speaking friends to her home for an absolutely wonderful dinner. Barbara butchered her favorite turkey for us, whom she named Joseph Stalin so she wouldn’t feel so bad when she had to kill it. We felt welcome within the group and thought it was especially nice that Bevan was asked to give the prayer for the meal.

Our camps this summer were filled with wonderful children, times of coming closer to God, and decisions to become believers among children from the children’s home. I am so happy to report these things, but I chose this topic instead, to remind myself, and you, that missionaries are real, and at times needy. Thank you so, so much for your support, for remembering us, and for accepting and understanding our uniqueness, inabilities, and humanness.



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: abused, abandoned, orphaned, and handicapped children, as well as other groups who are overlooked by the church in its outreach.

2018 SHORT-TERM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS (EELC)	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Lebanon (ages 18 - 25)	National Staff	June 15 - 25
	Egypt (ages 15 - 20)	National Staff	June 28 - July 8
	Egypt (ages 15 - 20)	National Staff	July 6 - 16
	Antonovka, Ukraine (HS/College)	Litvak/Winkler	July 15 - 28
	Jordan (ages 15 - 20)	National Staff	July 19 - 30
	Erfurt, Germany (ages 18 - 25)	Oehler	August 3 - 13

FAMILY EVANGELISTIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAMPS	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
	Maroz, Poland	Jachym/Lockrem	July 4 - 16
	Odessa, Ukraine	Naydenov	July 5 - 18
	Boleslawiec, Poland	Genesis Church	July 11 - 23
	Kiczyce, Poland	Pszczola	July 12 - 23
	Szklarska Poręba, Poland	Dabrowski	July 18 - 31
	Garbova, Romania	Droll	August 17 - 29
	Tatranska Strba, Slovakia	Thiessen	July or August*

SPECIALTY CAMP	LOCATION	HOST	TRIP DATES
Discipleship (H.S./College)	Antonovka, Ukraine	Winkler/Litvak	December 31 - January 12
Evangelistic Camp (H.S./College)	Kampala, Uganda	Tustanovskyi	January 5 - 16
Discipleship (adults w/their kids/teens)	Kiczyce, Poland	Pszczola	January 28 - February 6
Workshop and Storage Improvement Project @ IM's Training Center (MMT),	Libby, Montana	MMT Staff	late spring/early summer
Business English Camp (adults and students)	Czech Republic	Lipus	May*
Redeem The Summer 6-week Internship (singles who are college-age; 18-29)	various country options for ministry		Arrive in-country July 1
Kid's Day Camp/VBS (ages 4-12)	Egypt	National Staff	July 13 - 23
Evangelistic Soccer Day Camp (ages 6-17),	Mangalia Romania	Anderson	July 27 - August 5
Joshua Project	Moldova Nouă, Romania	McKnight/Udrea	early July*
Youth English Softball Day Camps**	Zirc/Enc, Hungary	Petrik/Jofoldi	late July/early August*
Evangelistic Camp (ages 16-21)	Kampala, Uganda	Tustanovskyi	July or August*
Teach @ EWay Evangelistic Christian English School	Odessa, Ukraine	Naydenov	September - May
Painting/maintenance/upkeep@ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Minister to moms, kids, elderly @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	Ongoing, anytime
Stoking Woodstoves @ ROL	Cornesti, Romania	Moore	anytime during winter and spring

*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

Serving Refugees IN ODESSA, UKRAINE

My name is Aleksander Litvak. I am the pastor of Christian Light Fellowship Church in Odessa, Ukraine, where I have served as a pastor for ten years. I have a wife and four kids—three girls and one boy. It has been a very good experience for me to serve as a pastor, to learn how to serve other people, and to see how God is bringing new believers into His family, how He is changing lives, and how He is building His kingdom here by using us as His tools.

For the last two years God has put it in our hearts to serve the refugees from Eastern Ukraine who had escaped the war zone and come to Odessa to find shelter. As a church we invited them for an hour every Sunday before the service started for some fellowship—getting to know them and hearing their stories. At the end we had a bag of food for everyone and we invited them to stay for the service. Many refugees faithfully came to church and continue to attend. We are very excited about that, and one of the goals for this year is to start a Bible study to help them (and others) grow stronger in the knowledge of the Bible and become stronger believers.



Ministry with refugees

I am also very happy to share with you about our evangelistic youth English camp that we had last summer. By God's mercy He gave us a very blessed time of sharing the Good News with a lot of unbelievers. There were some challenges, because we had not met many of the youth before. Hearing about God and that a relationship with Him is the most important thing in life, made them think, worry, and consider. They got together in a small groups, where some were open and some were very closed. By the end of the camp we saw people making decisions to trust Christ! It is wonderful to see God work, and to be a part of His work. Praise God! It was all in His hands, not ours, and because of

that we were able to see what He can do, not us.

This year discipleship is our goal. As I said before, we would like to put more emphasis on discipling refugees and some older people in our church, and to do the same among some new people who came to the church after the camp.

The third kind of discipleship that we are praying about right now and trying to develop is discipleship through accountability partners in our church. We deeply believe that it is vital for each person to have someone they can talk to, listen to, pray with, and trust.

These are our goals for this year. We are thankful that it is all in God's hands.

We would be very grateful for your prayers on these matters, and for us as a family to be wise and faithful to do what God wants us to do.



Zhenya—he made a decision for Jesus and is now regularly attending our church



Aleksander (Sasha) Litvak

Sasha and his wife Lena have four children. They live and serve in Odessa, Ukraine, where Sasha is a Pastor. They also host English and Discipleship Camps each year.

Called to the Sikhs

By the time I finished my BA in Christian Studies in 2014 and was considering a new career, I had learned that my gifting was in administration, even though my passion was in discipleship and missions. I determined that the best way to manage that was to get a job in the head office of a mission organization. That way I could be working in the area of my gifting and still fulfill my passion.

However, I discovered that I was not satisfied with just enjoying my passion vicariously through our missionaries, I had to be doing it myself—even if I wasn't good at it! I determined to find people who could train me and I would get better through practice. So that is what I have been doing these last two years.

I began to realize that there are a lot of Sikhs in my city, in fact, about 23% of our population is made up of people who come from the province of Punjab, India! I had been open to discipling/evangelizing whoever I could until about March of 2017. It was then that something happened that caused me to believe God was calling me to focus on reaching

the Sikhs. I met a man who lived in another city who wanted to come one day a week to my city to reach out to Sikhs. He had the same mentality as I did and was open to learning the discipleship multiplication strategy that I had been trained in. So we discussed different strategies to find the person of peace and suddenly I had a thought. Why don't we ask the Holy Spirit what strategy we should use rather than spending a lot of time in trial and error? So we spent the week praying separately and then came together again to see if the Holy Spirit had told both of us the same thing. We discovered that God had given both of us the same location for finding the person of peace! Since then we have been prayer-walking around that area, which has a concentration of Sikhs in it, waiting for the Holy Spirit to make the next move. In the meantime I am learning Punjabi and trying to make friends with them.



Wes Isaak

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

SHORT- TERMER QUOTE

God reminded me that He places a very high value on people. They “cost Jesus” to Him. God showed me that He is faithful. God also impressed upon me the importance of being very clear about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, since there are many false gospels being preached in the world. Diane – Poland Family Camp

It gave me opportunity to see what missionary work long-term would look like, so that I get closer to knowing if that's God's plan for me. Sierra – Romania Family Camp

INTERSECTING PATHS

Yep, we chuckle when we think about the team of 25 Americans who invaded our little village in Romania four or five years ago. Thinking further, we sit humbled before Him as we see how He's let us be in on the fringe of a story that is so much more.

That huge team was planning to do a mission trip in Ukraine before God redirected them to Bircii, Romania. Justin was one of those who spoke at our youth group on their last night there. During the week I'd seen him sweating while mixing concrete, but I'd never heard God's story in his life. Wow, did he have one! Our youth group was riveted, and so were we.

When we heard the next year that some of that same team was coming to Romania again, we hopped in the car to find them. They were on another short-term trip with International Messengers and this time they were serving about 1-1/2 hours from us.

When we saw Justin, we noticed he'd physically matured. He was maturing spiritually, too.

"I'm thinking God may be calling me back to Romania full-time," he said. What sweet words for a missionary's ears.

Later on, Justin committed to go through International Messengers' training center in Libby, Montana, to prepare. He had some stuff to wrap up, but his plan was to get to Mountainside Ministry Training for the Fall 2015 training class.

About that same time, God pulled us back to the States. Our intention was to settle back in the Midwest to help our aging parents. God's intention, once again, was different: He sent us to join the work at International Messengers Mountainside Ministry Training in Libby.



Justin (far right) during a class at MMT



Justin helping with a construction project for an IM missionary family living in Bircii, Romania

When we carried our boxes into those training doors, who did we see? Justin! God had changed Justin's class date and we "happened" to be around for the last of his missionary preparation.

It didn't take long before Justin was back in Romania. Our hearts had to smile some more when we heard that some of his work was (and is!) being done back in "our" village of Bircii.

God used that one team and its seemingly broken direction to start Justin's journey.

We thank God for IM teams, for His continued love for the souls in Bircii, and for the joy of intersecting paths.



Paula Roberts

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

Why an IM Camp?

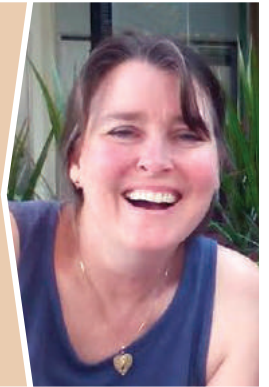
Growing up in Southern California, I was able to go to Mexico on a few short-term mission trips. One week we built an outhouse for a church. We cooked, dug, and attended services as a team. We accomplished our goal and the church had an outhouse when we left...a huge blessing. I appreciate that even more now, as our Slovak Roma church has only an outhouse. There was no translator scheduled that week for outhouse digging. Now that I'm a translator, I understand that. We played with the kids, but didn't have meaningful conversations due to the language barrier. I'm thankful for how that week widened my world, but after a week "in country" I hadn't connected with any of the locals.

Once, as a young teen, I served on a crew that painted a small church on an Indian reservation in Arizona. On that trip I learned the power of working as a team and saw what impact cultural differences have on lifestyle choices. Our relationships with each other grew, we slept on concrete floors—in spite of crawling vermin—had fun, and succeeded in accomplishing our goal. But, I don't remember anyone from that reservation.

Many short-term mission trip options exist today for anyone feeling led to minister somewhere internationally. I've gone on many short-term trips and I've also led many short-termers, all of which has led me to be a strong proponent of IM's English Camp ministry. Why IM? Well...Laco, Valer, Irina, Andrej, Anna, Robo, Viera, Dodo, and many more involved in ministry today here in Slovakia are a result of an English Camp. They came, got to know people who shared their lives and testimonies with them at camp...in English. Relationships matter, and they last.

Karla Thiessen

Karla and Brad lead their English camps in Slovakia, where they have lived since 1991, and have a language school. They are thankful for the opportunity to also serve the Roma believers and they pray God is using them to meet the needs of those in their sphere.



SHORT- TERM QUOTES

My missions experience has allowed me to see the Hand of God at work. This summer I saw how God has plans even when things are not going according to our plans. I saw His direction as He brought my teammate and me from Egypt to Poland to fill out a team needing more staff at a Family English Camp. It was incredible when we got to Poland and in one of the first meetings our leader talked about how he had been praying for 18 Americans for the camp and then finding out that my teammate was number 17 and I was number 18. God does care about numbers! This trip really stretched my faith as I saw God work in so many ways. God supplied so many needs in so many incredible ways. There were so many ways God showed His presence with us from placing Christians next to me on the plane to the songs being played by the musicians as I dragged three suitcases through O'Hare Airport in Chicago. God knew what we needed and provided it.

Doug - Redirected from Egypt to Poland Family Camp

The verse God keeps bringing to mind when I ask how to glorify Him in answer to questions is Jesus' words, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me." I don't know what harvest God will bring from this work, but I know He is honored by our obedience and He will multiply it. Lynn - Romania Family Camp

The Lord is Faithful

During our trip to Odessa, Ukraine, teaching Crown Financial to students at Seaside Missionary Training Center, the Lord showed us once again that He is faithful.

As the students shared their testimonies of how they came to faith in Christ and how the Lord had called them to the training center, one student, Emilia Ceba, from Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland, shared how she had given her life to Christ following an English Camp in 2003. After a few questions we realized it was a team from our church in Minnesota. “Yes, I remember Deloris Zischke,” Emilia said. “She is the one who shared with me about knowing Jesus. Before the English Camp began, I had been praying ‘God, I want to know You.’ But even after the camp, I couldn’t understand the Gospel.”

The short-term team returned to Minnesota and reported that no one had come to Christ that year. The team was faithful in doing their part to go and to sow the seeds of eternal life, and God was faithful.

While at the Camp a Polish pastor encouraged her to read the Gospel of John. Emilia promised him that she would. At first, she did not understand what she was reading but the Holy Spirit made the “Good News” clear to her and she put her faith in Christ several months after the camp.

This fall (2017) we learned from Emilia that not only had she come to know Christ personally, she also has been discipled by two of our IM missionaries, Czarek and Eva Dabrowski, who serve in Gorzów Wielkopolski. She has been growing in Christ, serving in her church, and is now training to become a missionary in Moldova.

Once again, we see the value of a local church engaging in cross-cultural missions by faithfully going to the harvest field to share the Gospel and leaving the results up to the Lord of the Harvest.

**Therefore,
my dear brothers and sisters,
stand firm.
Let nothing move you.
Always give yourselves fully
to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor
in the Lord is not in vain.**

1 Corinthians 15:58



Carroll & Becky Miller

Carroll and Becky with some of the students at SMTC this fall. Emilia is directly behind Becky. Carroll and Becky are part of IM's staff care team, providing care and support to staff in Poland.

I was very ill all during camp, but God enabled me to deliver the business workshop presentations. He also deepened my faith and trust in Him and showed me that He was using the illness to strengthen my faith and dependence on Him and to see that He will use all circumstances, even the painful ones, to make me more like Jesus. This was a profound experience for me. Janet – Czech Republic Business Camp

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES**

Working to Make a Difference

FATHER'S HEART

Sometimes we don't know how much we have touched others' lives or how much we will be missed, nor do we fully realize what spiritual giants we walk among and rub shoulders with. Then they are gone and we suddenly realize. God has his people scattered amongst the crowd and we are some of them ourselves, if we will just allow ourselves to be used by him. We work very hard and believe that we are making a difference in our little part of the world. It doesn't seem heroic but we know that by dedicating each day to God it will be used more than we can imagine.

For example, I have spent weeks moving dirt provided by three large excavating companies agreeing to haul it to me for free. I wake up, throw my clothes on like a fireman and run to my loader, working until I can't see in the dark, hoping to get a new horse corral made before winter. The problem is that it is bordering the river which is prone to flooding. I now have an area about the size of a football field raised shoulder height that is ready for fencing starting next week. Some of the village neighbors who see our tenacity and vision are coming around to respect us. God has used our hardships and witness to turn once adversaries into allies.

Fortunately, I don't just move dirt. Last week I was asked to preach at a church in Kosice that we helped start with two evangelistic outreaches 15 years ago. They were celebrating the completion of their building. I saw friends I hadn't seen in years and was deeply moved by their testimonies of how our life had touched theirs and made a huge impact on them. It was like I got to hear what people were going to say one day when we are gone. The event lasted all day and I was surrounded by many who wouldn't leave until I did. The 17 years we spent there continues to bear fruit in people's lives and in the churches that we helped.

I don't feel much like a hero, especially here in Socovce, pushing dirt around. We have only been here a few years but already a lot of lives have been touched and hearts changed. One sweet girl from an orphanage, with a very difficult past, who was in my small group at camp this summer, gave her heart to Jesus and wants to spend as much time as possible with Laura and learn to ride horses. Janka is one of 14 from that orphanage who is now walking with Jesus following this summer's camps.



Janka, in the foreground

So, tomorrow, I am back on my loader, moving dirt and remembering what we came here for. One day it will come to an end and I can come home. I look forward to that day but it will come far too soon for our Slovak friends who have come to love us as we have them.

Bevan Stein

Bevan and Laura 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: abused, abandoned, orphaned and handicapped children, as well as other groups who are overlooked by the church in its outreach.



Jesus Loves You!

“Jesus loves you!” Whenever I am asked to speak or write I usually think, “I just want them to know that Jesus loves them, that he died and rose again for them.” As I prepared to give my testimony at the end of camp this summer, there was a difference. I knew that all the children and youth had been shown God’s love while we studied through encounters with Jesus from the Bible and while playing softball out on the field. With an American team of four from four different churches, and a Hungarian team from three churches, it was a joy showing love to one another and to the campers. That Friday night, when I shared my story of discovering that Jesus loves me, I hoped the children and the parents were able to understand.

Abby Jóföldi

Abby, Bence, Sara, and Jonathan live in Vác, Hungary. They are involved in ministry to children, youth, engaged couples, and young married couples in an area northeast of Budapest, Hungary.



BIRTHS

TESALYN

born on 12-05-16
to Josh & Stacey Lease

OLIVIA

born on 12-11-16
to Zhenya & Lidiya Bozhetarnik

ELOISE

born on 01-05-17
to Jackson & Reinell Helstad

KAROLINA

born on 02-12-17
to Caleb & Lesya Torres

DANIEL

born on 02-20-17
to Adrian & Elizabeth Biskup

REBECA

born on 05-02-17
to Claudiu & Jennifer Soare



SAVANNAH

born on 06-13-17
to John & Christine Pipes

KALEB

born on 06-23-17
to Vitaliy & Marta Filonov

JOSHUA

born on 07-17-17
to James & Mary Olwenyi

ANNELISE

born on 07-28-17
to Kostya & Bella Tustanovskyi

ALEXANDER

born on 08-01-17
to Artur & Ewa Lyczba

FIRST BIG VICTORY

This year we saw the first-fruits of our work from the pathway that God set us on more than four years ago! In February I opened a Christian Counseling clinic named KUZNIA (www.kuznia.org.pl/en) for men who are struggling with sexuality. It is probably the first place of its kind that offers professional help in Poland that is based on a Biblical process of healing. I am very grateful to God for His help, without which I know I wouldn't be able to write to you today about its opening. Lives are being transformed thanks to the Holy Spirit's work in our group sessions, individual therapy, and also through online meetings via Skype. God has also given me the privilege to share what He has taught me through lectures on discipleship, mentoring, and pornography addiction.

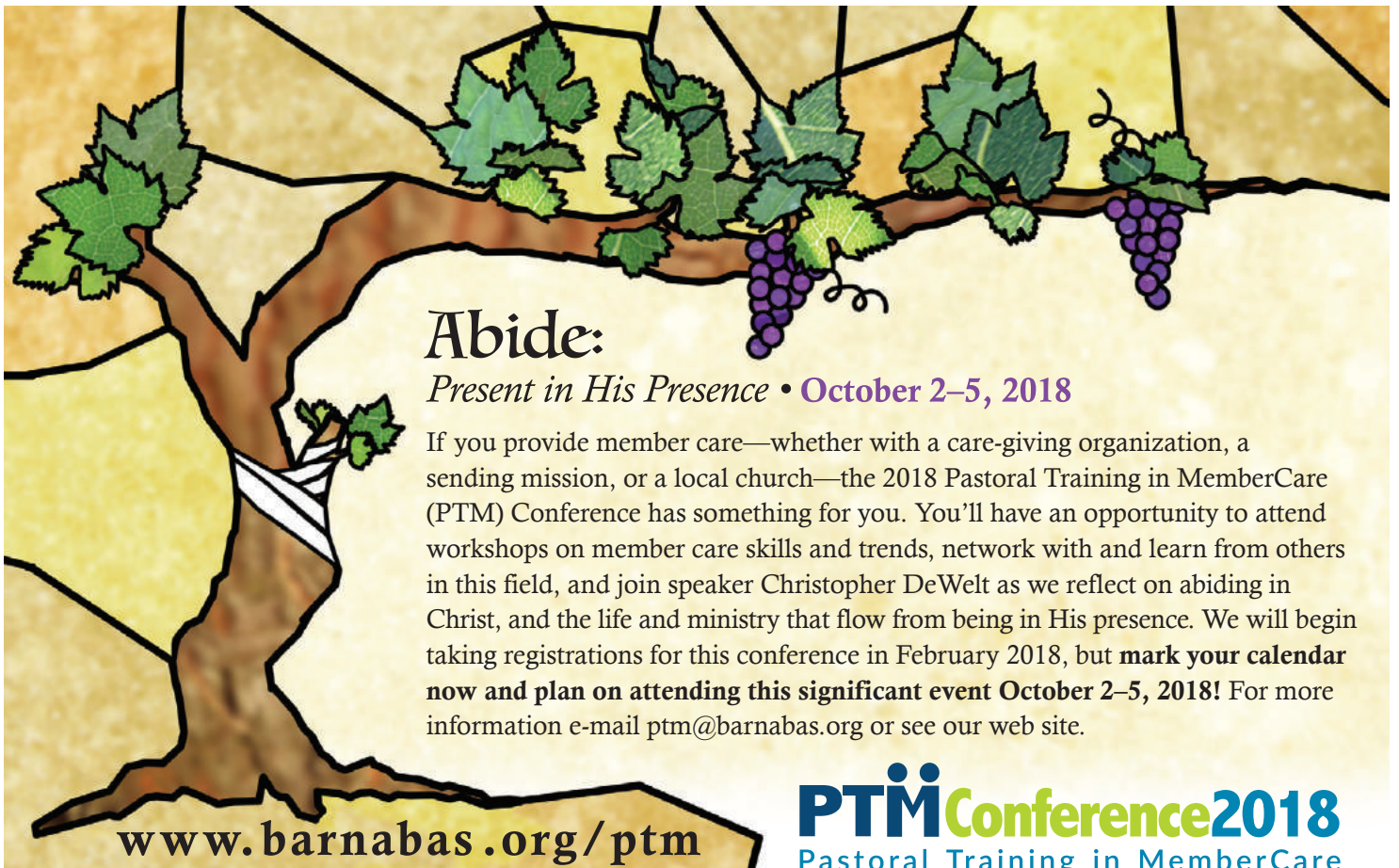
This year we established men's small groups. We organized a cycle of meetings from the Band of Brothers curriculum. We discussed important elements of every man's life—difficulties, challenges, dreams, and purpose that God has given us. As a part of these meetings, we went on an adventure in the mountains, in order to use some physical effort and not only our brains. We also published an eBook about protecting children from pornography.



Piotr Kapera

Piotr lives in Niepolomice, Poland, and desires to raise awareness among men—by using the issue of sexual bondage—about their need to become disciples of Christ. Hoping their transformation will allow them to become spiritual leaders in their own families and to make disciples within the environment where they live.

There are plenty of challenges, therefore I need lots of prayers. Please pray for me and for this ministry, for perseverance in walking with Christ, for God's will in the ministry and in my private life, and for men to have more and more opportunities to experience the transforming grace of God.



Abide:

Present in His Presence • October 2–5, 2018

If you provide member care—whether with a care-giving organization, a sending mission, or a local church—the 2018 Pastoral Training in MemberCare (PTM) Conference has something for you. You'll have an opportunity to attend workshops on member care skills and trends, network with and learn from others in this field, and join speaker Christopher DeWelt as we reflect on abiding in Christ, and the life and ministry that flow from being in His presence. We will begin taking registrations for this conference in February 2018, but **mark your calendar now and plan on attending this significant event October 2–5, 2018!** For more information e-mail ptm@barnabas.org or see our web site.

www.barnabas.org/ptm

PTMConference2018
Pastoral Training in MemberCare

The Lord's Ministry in Hungary

Approaching the half way mark in my 15th year of service to the Lord in Kaposvar, Hungary, I am awestruck at what He is doing. After a couple of years of physical issues (some resulting in surgery), I am on the road to feeling wonderful, with energy to spare, and thanking the Lord for this good time.

I have been volunteering at our local hospital on the oncology floor for five years. My friend who works there visits with me. The object is to build relationships with these people who are suffering and to show them that there is hope in Christ.

For almost 14 years I have been serving with Prison Fellowship in a jail that houses around 250 inmates who are awaiting trial—sometimes they have to wait a year or two before having a trial. We offer English lessons followed by a Bible study and prayer. Until recently mostly men attended, but now women are getting interested as well. In the last year three women have put their trust in Christ during our lessons. This is so exciting for me to see how faithful the Lord is.

I was also asked to mentor and share about my life with a European Union group that invites young people to volunteer and learn about Hungary's culture. Most of them stay for one year, teaching their languages at schools and volunteering their

services for festivals and such. I offer them English classes and invite them to my place for meals and other get-togethers so I can get to know them. From this opportunity, I have three young people to mentor from Lithuania, Germany, and Estonia. I thank the Lord for the opportunities I have had to share my testimony and the gospel along with giving Bibles to them. The program directors have asked me to feel free to share my faith. When I first got involved with this group and they heard me pray at all the functions, I thought I was not going to last—but just the opposite happened. At our last meeting there were 28 young people and every continent was represented—it was a great time! Most of these young people have no church or religious background outside of Islam. So God has opened this door wide and he continues to expand this ministry. Praise His name!



Barb Gorman

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

I prayed that the Lord would minister to me even as I prayed that He would use me as a blessing. My view of Middle Eastern people changed as well as my confidence in God to reach out to them and to change their hearts. I left behind those that I consider more than friends, but family who I love dearly. I am confident that Jesus is reaching out to the Muslim world in ways I never considered before and it is changing my view of the world. As a result of this experience, the Lord met me as I asked and touched my heart to have compassion on the Muslim world. I will never be the same. Larry – Jordan Family Camp

I was encouraged that God is at work in people and how He works in response to our prayers. We don't always see it but we need to trust that it is there and give God opportunity. Cynthia – Ukraine Family Camp

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES**

Homegoing

Mark Henderson

July 8, 1969 – March 22, 2017

Mark went home to be with the Lord on March 22, surrounded by family and friends. A blood clot to his lung took his life, just minutes after they'd been informed that the cancer had spread to his bones, lungs, and elsewhere. The loss is great but Doreen expressed her thankfulness in sparing Mark the long suffering that is normal for this type of cancer. A beautiful celebration service was held on Monday, March 27. Some of us watched it live streamed from the lobby of the staff conference hotel. Please keep Doreen, Michael, and KD, and Mike and Mary Snuffer and their kids, in your prayers as they grieve this huge loss.

Charles "Loyd" Wohlcke

April 2, 1958 – July 7, 2017

In July, we lost a dear friend and Christian brother to a massive stroke. Loyd Wohlcke faithfully volunteered as one of our cooks at MMT in Libby, Montana. Students and staff have been well-fed by Loyd for years! He was famous for his 10-pound meat loaves, homemade BBQ sauce, and other good, comfort-food creations! Thankfully, he knew his Lord and Savior. Loyd will be missed. Please keep his family in your prayers as they mourn his loss.

If you participated in a short-term trip in 2017 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



EMERGENCY!

As you might have heard, our efforts to effectively bring the Gospel to the Middle East and North Africa are expanding. We are excited about how God is opening new doors.

We want to continue to take steps to make disciples there, but even with precautions, the work in that region contains risks that can't be controlled.

Again this last summer we incurred significant cost with an emergency evacuation, therefore, would you consider giving to help us establish an emergency fund for times when costly evacuations and urgent interventions become necessary? We greatly appreciate your help.

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.

BLESSED BY THOSE KIDS

“I didn’t come here to work with THESE kids.” This was a comment by a short-termmer that shocked me a little on a recent mission trip to Estonia. I think we could put that on the list of things for a short-termmer not to say or even think. Along with, “This has been a good vacation.” and “I didn’t spend money for this kind of experience.”

THOSE kids were not the reason that I was in Estonia either. I had come to build relationships with partners of my ministry and to spend time learning more about my new work. I was going to send emails, complete a lot things on my work-to-do list, talk, rest, and enjoy the view. However, there were some children (crazy monkeys!) that belonged to the Lord and He put me in that place to serve them.

The wild monkeys turned out to be nice children who needed to be loved and cared for. They had grown up in an orphanage and had little to no supervision. They didn’t know how old they were, but I guessed around five or six. Young orphans without supervision are expected to be a little wild and often referred to as THOSE kids that no one wants to work with.

At the end of the time, that short-termmer that had a plan for her time there that didn’t include THOSE kids thanked me for serving them. I told her that I was so blessed by my time with them and by seeing how God’s love for them transformed them that I didn’t need to be thanked. I was deeply encouraged and blessed by the Lord as we played, sang, danced, made crafts, picked wild strawberries, and walked along the beach in lion masks.

If you’re considering a short-term trip, be sure to prepare yourself to arrive and have it be entirely not what you planned. Then take a deep breath and thank Him for knowing what you would encounter and that He prepared you to do the work that was set before you for that time. Don’t say, “This is not what I came for,” because you’ll miss out on the blessing.



Laura Rechkemmer

Laura is currently working in partnership with Stoneworks International handling finances, communication, and other administrative tasks. She is based in the US, but assists partners in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Romania, Montenegro, and Estonia. The majority of the work is ministering to orphans living in orphanages or those who have aged out.

Missions' Impact on Students

"We're so grateful for your ministry," a father recently wrote us, "not only for the huge impact it has had on women and children in Romania, but on our kids as well. Our son wrote his college admissions essays about his experiences in Romania, and they have shaped what he wants to do for his future vocation. He wants to pursue international law, specifically defending the rights of children and advocating for them."

When we moved to Romania in 1998 to serve God by ministering to needy Romanian women, children, and elderly, we never expected the impact our obedience to serve our Lord Jesus Christ would have on other Christians' lives, particularly the profound impact on high school and university students at this significantly pivotal stage in their lives. In 2017 alone, approximately 20 university students and 80 high school students have served alongside us here on short-term mission teams. This fall we expect another high school team and church youth group team, both from Vienna, totaling another 40 to 50 students.

One university student who served with us for six weeks this past summer, through the IM Redeem the Summer Internship program, wrote, *"I had such an amazing summer, and God taught me so much. I also loved hearing how God worked in your lives. It has really inspired me to give my whole life to Christ and to listen to His direction. Thank you so much for spending this time with me, I had so much fun and learned a lot! I hope to keep in touch and possibly return next summer with a few more people along with me, God willing."*

We've seen some major U-turns in young people's lives that have come to serve here. It's not about us, or this place in particular; it's about the profound impact that serving the Living God has on someone's life! What an unexpected blessing it has been for us to see and be a part of His work in the lives of these students!



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.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

It's been years now since I went overseas on my first IM summer English camp. As I look back, I realize just HOW MUCH that one experience shaped my life.

I was in my 20s, feeling pretty clueless about my life, yet I had been feeling a nudge from the Lord to step out in faith. Of course, at the time, I didn't know what all of that would mean. I went to a mission's conference and was wandering around the different booths when I came across the International Messengers table. I picked up some information about an evangelistic English camp in Romania. After many excuses... along with much prayer, I was off to camp a few months later. WOW! Even today as I look back on that experience, I remember it being one of the most dynamic experiences of my life. Was I scared about taking that initial step and going? Yes! Was I worried about the money I needed to raise? Yes! Was I nervous about how and IF God would even use me? Yes! Was I worried about how to teach English when I didn't consider myself a teacher? Yes! Those were all valid concerns, but God saw me through them all because ALL He wanted me to do was take a step of faith. He took care of my financial needs, He used me in ways I cannot even begin to express and He gave me such a passion

that I ended up moving to Romania only a short year later!

It's been 17 years since I took that step of faith, and it was because of that trip that God changed the whole trajectory of my life. Today I still serve with International Messengers to care for, counsel and encourage missionaries on the field. You never know what God has in store when He's calling you to take a step of faith. Proverbs 16:9 – “In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”



Lisa Nagel

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

I learned so much more about cross-cultural things. I had never been exposed to that kind of thing before, and I feel like God really used this trip to teach me about different people and loving them unconditionally. Caitlyn – Romania – River of Life Ministries

My benefit from the trip has a lifelong impact. I have learned that there are blessings in obedience. I have learned that if He is calling, He will provide. I have also learned that He hears EVERY prayer. Erika – Jordan Family Camp

I think that Poland showed me that there is hope everywhere for people to draw close to God no matter what culture they come from or background. I believe everyone has a chance to know God. Christina – Poland Family Camp

**SHORT-
TERMER
QUOTES**

Why do these people mean so much to us?

My husband Tom and I thank God for the people in this photo. Our Friday night church small group.



We became aware that we had been missing community in Romania in recent years. So, we chose a new church direction. Loyalty to sameness had blinded us to our isolation and lack of community. We needed to be “loyal” in following the Lord’s redirection. It was a necessary redirection for us. We blessed one another and said goodbye.

Three years later we are thriving in a different church environment with community. In a weekly, loving, healthy Friday night small group we are being changed.

We are thankful for God reinserting into our lives what we didn’t realize we were missing and so

needed. We enjoy worshiping and meeting with the church on Sunday mornings. The Friday night small group is a beneficial place where we connect and share life together. Weekly time spent with other Christ-followers and seekers focused on studying and worshiping, discussing the Bible, laughing, and praying together has brought much healthiness to our souls. The small group is diverse and international in flavor. We miss the group when we are away.

We thank God for this community we have rediscovered in Romania. The truth is that we are richer for being a part of this community. The benefits are innumerable. Just as God intends. Indeed, God created us for community. What does community add to your life? Where am I placing my loyalty? Am I more loyal to “sameness, comfort” or more loyal to listening and yielding to the Lord’s leading? “... that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith...” Romans 1:12



Jill Clark

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

SHORT- TERMER QUOTES

I know you have all heard it said that a mission is a life changing experience; I also heard it from the people that I have supported in the past. Let me confirm that it truly is that!! You will never look at the world the same again. Without willfully doing so you leave part of yourself. Can we do the same thing right where we live? Yes, we can and should be broken hearted for our friends, family and neighbors that do not know the peace of knowing Jesus as Savior. I believe by serving on a foreign mission I will be more aware of the hearts and souls within arm’s length that are lost. Dawn – Poland Family Camp

TRINITY VIDEO SEMINARY

In 1998 my husband and I established Trinity Bible College in Russia. Due to shrinking religious freedoms over the years, we had to abandon the residential program and go underground.

All the while God was using *what was intended for evil, **for good!*** Genesis 50:20
Today **TVS** exists for **you** and **your ministries**; as well as for people all over the world!

TVS is bringing **God's Word** to over **50** different countries; Using **five** different languages (Russian, English, Farsi, Uzbek, and Portuguese); Offering more than **100** different courses and seminars; Partnering with over **200** different Bible Colleges, Seminaries, Missions, Church Associations and other Christian Organizations worldwide!

If you would like to watch any of our courses simply for your own personal growth, or use in your small groups at church, etc. just visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TVSeminary>

Find the icon at the top called Channels and click on it for a choice of languages. Click on TVSeminary English, then on Playlists, and finally click on See More. You will see many courses!

If you are working cross-culturally don't miss: **TVS PT512 Eng Cross-cultural Communications**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpf59FMdbS4JtcLDT79l8K5hyKzDiwbFy>

This course in Islam is being watched both by Muslims and by Christians who want to understand how to lead Muslims to Christ. **A206 Eng Islam**

Anyone with a heart will love this one: **PT233 Eng Untroubled Heart**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCdNJfJncc&index=20&list=UU7BYAAAd1zQqupovkjaz6p1w>

For those who are inspired by what God has created, don't miss this seminar taught by a Christian scientist working at NASA on the Mars project. **SM011 Eng Our Amazing Universe**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gdwx_hHWvQ&list=PLpf59FMdbS4LMtjGXCNdJQJk0QwfxlZ4R

And many, many more courses!

If you want to take courses for credit, or you want your students to: <http://tvseminary.org/>

If you want to make a partnership with your Bible college or seminary, etc. **write to our director:**
Vitaly Petrov at vital.petrov@gmail.com



Lois McNeill

Lois is involved in doing evangelism, teaching evangelism, and mentoring her staff to facilitate the video series Discipleship Courses in Evangelism and a course on Building Great Commission Churches. She established a compassion ministry (for Russia, Uzbekistan persecuted Christians, and Ukrainian refugees) and has a staff of five. God led her and another evangelist to the Roma people. She now mentors a team of two Russian missionaries and four Roma in a ministry in a nearby village where God is bringing adults and youth to Himself as Savior and Lord.

SUMMER HARVEST

The Bible study had just ended and everyone dispersed. I was still sitting in my seat gathering my materials and basically catching a breather. It had been an intense discussion on the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Before I had the chance to stand up and head to my room I was approached by some of the campers. They weren't in my group, but they were relatives of one of the ladies who was. She was standing behind them in tears. "Zofia is ready to accept Christ," one of them said with obvious emotion, "would you be willing to pray with her?" To say the least I was surprised and thrilled at the same time! We all went into another room for more privacy and sat around in a circle. I talked with Zofia and could tell that she was prepared to make the biggest decision anyone could make—to become a follower of Jesus. She prayed, and when we were finished there was hardly a dry eye in the room. Hers were beaming with joy.

This beautiful event was one of the highlights of my summer. It took place at a family camp in southern Poland in mid-July. It is a perfect example of how such camps are used by God in a powerful way to complement the ministry that goes on the rest of the year. You see, Zofia had been attending a Bible study with an IM missionary in her town for over six months. During that time the Word of God was doing its work in her heart, softening the soil, so that by the time the camp came around she was the good, fertile earth that was ready for the Gospel.

What makes the camps so effective? I think it's because we're all in one place for a week, without any distractions. In "normal life" everyone is so busy that it's hard to get together, whereas the camps provide many opportunities for conversation. It's as if friendship evangelism is set to "turbo power." Some of the people who attend are like Zofia, ready to make a commitment to the Lord. Others are further away, like Mathew, a self-declared agnostic who was in my English class. But regardless of where anyone is in relation to the Lord, everyone is touched by God's love, and that is the power of the camps.



Carol Schlorff

Carol serves with the Second Baptist Church in Krakow. She teaches English to adults three evenings a week, helps lead worship at church, and helps with Evangelistic English Family Camps in the summer. She is also involved with other outreach opportunities.



I want to thank everyone who took the step of faith and got out of their comfort zone to go on a short-term trip. For me, living full-time in a culture that is not my homeland comes with many highs and lows. It's like running a marathon—I start out strong and with so much passion. Then the longer the race takes, the more tired I get, and words of doubt set in, saying, "You're not strong, you're not making a change in this world; just end your life and call it quits before you mess up."

When I hear a lie enough times, I start to believe it. But in a marathon race there are water stands with people giving out water, saying, "Keep running, you got this." Short-term teams are the water stands for us who are living overseas. They are that ice-cold water on a hot day—refreshing and renewing to the soul.

Thanks go to a handful of obedient people, from all walks of life, who went on a mission trip, ready to change the world. God used them to breathe life, truth, joy, laughter, and a hunger to keep running my race. If God has put a country and ministry on your heart, GO! Don't go with your list of what you want God to do, but go with GOD's list, saying "I hear You calling and I will go." Because the life you touch might be a "tired marathon runner."



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.

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE – RADOM, POLAND

Friendship House is a ministry dedicated to reaching the homeless and addicted of Radom, Poland. It has just passed its five-year anniversary.

Radom is a city of about 250,000 people and the unemployment here is around 25%—this is much better than before. We continue to reach out to the people of the street with a many-faceted approach. We have the direct approach when we visit the “underpass” located near us. We bring with us coffee, tea, and sandwiches and visit with whoever will come. Generally we serve 40 - 50 people every Sunday night. This is where we meet “new” people and begin the slow process of starting a relationship. Eventually they begin to trust us.

At this point we invite them to come to the Friendship House for a meeting and soup supper every Tuesday. This meeting is designed to present who we are (believers and followers of Jesus Christ) and who we represent (Jesus Christ). Although this is a “Christian” country—it is a mystery to them when we present the Gospel and talk about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. After a “short” message (no longer than 20 minutes) we serve a hearty soup along with bread, and we encourage conversation. We average around 30 people at these meetings.

At the Tuesday meetings we also offer physical help for them such as coffee and tea, conversation, clothing of all kinds, showers, minor medical treatment, a 12-step addiction program, and therapy programs at rehabilitation centers. Friendship house is designed to house men and women who are committed to going to rehabilitation and can stay with us until a place opens. If the person completes the 18-month

rehab program, he/she will be invited to come back to Friendship House and we will help them to find work, to find a place to live, and to put their finances together.

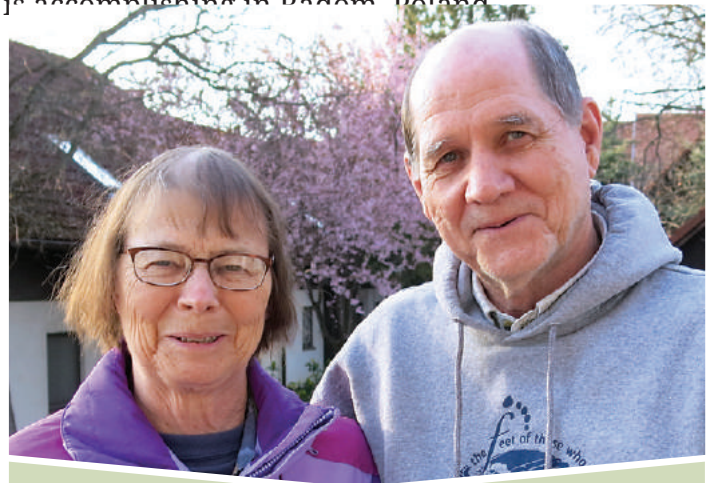
We host internships and really enjoy sharing this ministry with other believers who desire to go “ON THE FIELD”!

We are currently looking for a couple to help us with the ministry and eventually replace us here at Friendship House. We have both recently celebrated our 70th birthdays. God has really blessed us with good enough health and strength over the past years and we are so thankful—but we are NOT spring chickens ☺. We ask for prayer that God will lead this couple to us soon!



Our friends from the street at a Kielbasa Fry and Concert held at Friendship House.

Through every turn, trial, bout with depression, frustration, and general confusion, God has sustained us! He moves this ministry forward in spite of our shortcomings. Every now and then we are blessed by a glimpse into the mighty work He is accomplishing in Radom, Poland.



Bob and Vera Hageman

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

WILL THAT BE ENOUGH?

It's cloudy today here in Oradea, Romania. It's been raining off and on since morning but in my heart today there's no less than a bright joy that could not be dampened, no matter how dark the sky turns.



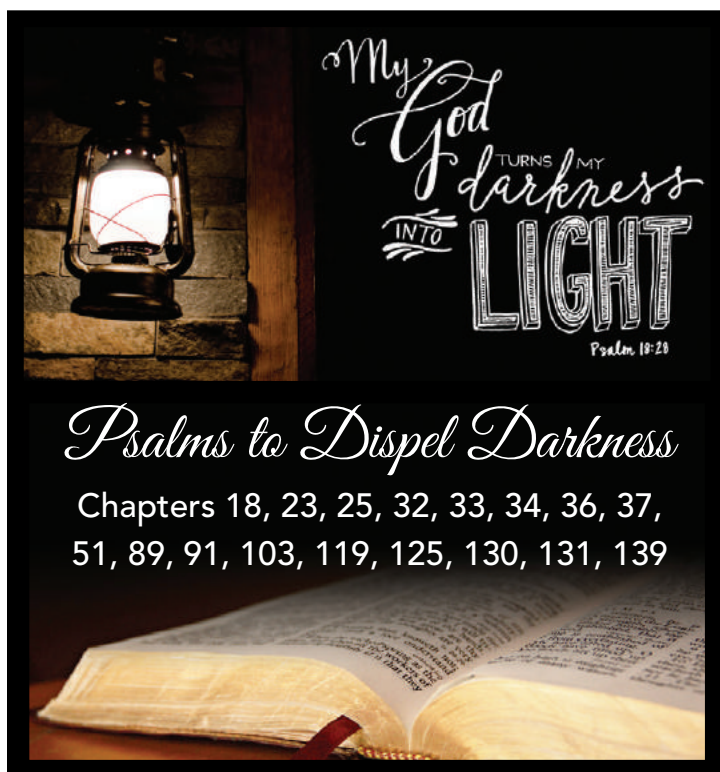
Oradea, Romania

My work here in Oradea is more relational than anything else. It will surely prove to be a marathon rather than a quick jaunt. After finishing my internship, God led me here to a new city. Instead of caring for children full-time I've now been spending my days (and late nights) building relationships, leading Bible studies and outings with women who have aged out of the orphanage, as well as spending afternoons playing games and sharing Bible stories with kids still stuck behind the walls of a damp orphanage.

I showed a video for the women in Bible study and they balked at the idea that Jesus changes everything when we give our lives over to Him. You see—to them, they don't believe this because they say that when they have tried to trust God, He didn't change the fact that they are without a family, a house, a job, etc. So we talked about how salvation is the ultimate gift He gives; that He doesn't promise us "things" but rather Himself, forgiveness of sins, salvation, hope of Heaven, a new life purposed for His glory, etc.

Still their hearts were hardened to the truth. So I asked them this question—if you pray and pray to God for something and the only thing you receive is a deeper relationship with Him and a deeper understanding of grace, will that be enough for you? ... It's a challenging question even for me and I hope the Holy Spirit will stir their hearts to fully put their trust in Him.

It's a daily investment, one that does not always appear fruitful. But then at a night of worship one gal asks if I will walk down with her and suddenly all the late nights, the preparing, mornings of prayer and endless conversations have a greater purpose than anything else in the world.



Alissa Foreman

Alissa (second from left) and a few of the girls on a road trip to a Billy Graham event.

- ☐ I/we would like more information about IM's ministries planned in 2018.
- ☐ 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 2018:



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 they may be returned or short-lived, and sometimes we're even afraid 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)
- ☐ Scholarship to help a refugee attend an Evangelistic English Camp to hear the Gospel (\$100)
- ☐ 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 Refugee scholarship \$ _____

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



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Enhancing Trust

2017 Short-Term Ministries Report

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 Construction/Maintenance Ministries | 1 Pastor/Elder Retreat |
| 2 Discipleship Camps | 1 Professional English Camp (Business) |
| 2 Evangelistic Community Outreaches | 4 Redeem the Summer Internships |
| 1 Evangelistic Youth Camp | 9 ROL Care Home Ministries |
| 5 Evangelistic English Camps | 1 Sewing Ministry |
| 2 Evangelistic Softball/English Day Camps | 13 Staff Care or Teaching Ministries |
| 9 Family Counseling Seminar | 1 Teaching Discipleship Seminar |
| 9 Family Evangelistic English Camps | 1 Teacher Workshop |
| 1 House Parent Ministry for IM's Training Center in Ukraine | 1 Women's Retreat |
| 1 IM Staff Conference | 1 VBS Camp |
| 3 Orphan Ministries | |



God accomplishes much through the willingness and hearts of our staff and short-termers. From fall 2016 – summer 2017, we sent a total of 314 short-term workers to serve at a variety of outreaches (see list at left). We also conducted 25 trainings in 12 states/provinces.

The average age of our short-termers was 45 years old, and 62% of our short-termers were alumni. Our oldest short-termers was 83 and our youngest was 3 years old.

We give God all the glory for another blessed year!