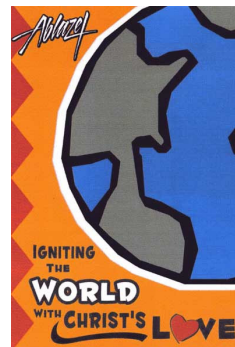


***"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." – Ecclesiastes 4:12***



Dear Friends in Christ,

Hello! We hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the fading of fall and the start of the Christmas season. We can hardly believe that so much time in the school year has passed, and – perhaps more surprising – that we haven't had any substantial amounts of snow yet. This latest newsletter will get you up to date on all that's going on in our relatively (compared to last year) tropical mission field. ☺

An Apple A Day

It's amazing how many apples we saw this fall. Our students ate them during our lessons at the language school. The neighbor kids picked them from the pastor's yard. Our friends donated some to us, and Jodi beautifully transformed them into apple squares – a less healthy but undeniably tasty incarnation. One would think that so much apple ingestion would have thwarted any sickness, but that has not been the case unfortunately.

Many of our coworkers and their children have been fighting colds and other illnesses. One example is Ania, the pastor's daughter and the elementary school English teacher. Due to problems with her tonsils, she was unable to teach for a couple of weeks. Beata, the head English teacher at the high school, was also out of commission for about a week as her son recovered from pneumonia and she battled dental problems. Please keep these people in your prayers as they continue to recover.

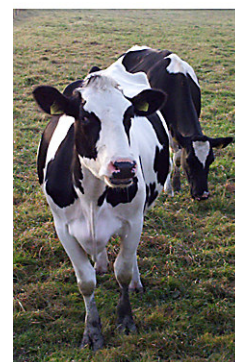
New Ventures

Thankfully, our health is holding out just fine – which is definitely a good thing since we need all of our energy for some of this year's new projects. We're really excited about some of the new activities we have been able to pursue. One of these is a Photo Club that Jon sponsors. He works with the high school students (and his oldest student, Jordan) to improve their photography skills and have fun. He and Jodi also organized an English Club for the 2nd and 3rd graders at the primary school. Since these students don't have conversational English this year, the club provides an opportunity for Jon and Jodi to connect with them and share God's love.

Other new responsibilities include preparing a small group of students for Cambridge ESOL exams and assisting with student writing. We have also devoted some time to the organization and operation of the English library. Between these activities and subbing for sick teachers, we have kept pretty busy this autumn. We're excited to be more engaged this year and to have so many opportunities to help and reach out.

Continuing Work

One of the advantages of living in another culture is to share our American traditions and celebrations. Recent holidays have provided us with a forum in which to speak with students. For example, the junior high school hosted a Halloween party. While not our favorite holiday of all time, it was encouraging that the students and teachers invited us to share about this time in our calendar year. Jodi, in particular, worked very hard to plan activities that would be engaging for the students and that would contribute positively to building relationships with them. There were a few challenges – namely that there were



Through the Ablaze! initiative, LCMS seeks to share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. No matter where we are, each of us has opportunities to share God's love with those around us. What opportunities do you see in your church, workplace, or neighborhood? LCMS also lists opportunities at www.lcmsworldmission.org. Check it out!

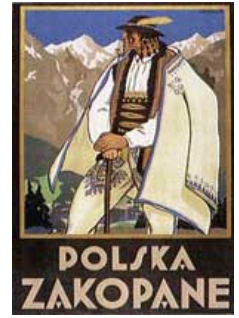


many more students than we had expected in a somewhat small space – but we worked together and created what we hope was a memorable and positive experience.

Getting Involved

We are getting very close to our financial goals for the rest of our year of work here, but we are still in need of some additional prayers and a little support. If the Lord leads you to support us, donations can be sent to LCMS Mission Senders * 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd. * St. Louis, MO 63122 * with "Poland Benning Support" in the memo line.

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we could also still use English materials for the new library (i.e. a big ol' bookshelf in one of the classrooms). Short and adapted novels are of particular need and interest. We are so grateful for all of the materials that have already been sent. So many students are reading! In the past, the high school teachers have developed reading projects for their students, and now junior high school students are getting in on the act. They are using the library and enjoy seeing new titles as they are generously donated. Thank you for helping to foster a love of reading in these students.



Thanksgiving Time in Zakopane

We were blessed to have a wonderful Thanksgiving this year. Even though we missed sharing it with our families and friends in the States, we had a great time in Poland with Jodi and some of the other volunteers in Europe. We were able to put together a pretty good turkey dinner here in Cieszyn after we got done working on Thursday. And then on Friday we went to Zakopane, Poland, to meet with other volunteers from Europe. We had a great weekend in the Tatra Mountains with our friends. Joanna came down from Lithuania to join the party. Anna came up from Hungary. And we went with Jodi and met Harriet from Gliwice, Poland. It was relaxing and in English, and gave us an opportunity to play some Scrabble. We are thankful that so many volunteers were able to meet together. Some people had to travel over 24 hours to attend and we are grateful that everyone was safe.



Prayers and Praises

- * For our kind supporters who mailed us pumpkin, cranberries, sweet potatoes, and fried onions – they made our Thanksgiving even better
- * For all those working to share Christ
- * For great weather this autumn
- * A safe and fun trip to Zakopane, Poland to spend Thanksgiving weekend with other volunteers
- * For our continuing health and for the improved health of our partner teachers
- * That we may see the opportunities to share our love of Christ
- * For Ania, that she may get better quickly as she faces the prospect of surgery
- * For the continued growth of the English library
- * For encouragement for new and long-term volunteers – that they may see how God is using them and wants to keep using them in their respective sites



Thank you for your continued support. Please keep us in your prayers. We are honored to be able to serve the Lord here in Poland and we need your help. Thank you.

Jonathan and Jordan Benning



Photos: (page 1) Eurasian Volunteers in Zakopane, Jodi Rolf – fellow volunteer in Cieszyn, LOTE library cabinet, Polish cows (page 2) Fall wreath of nuts and pine cones, Jon in Czech Republic, Jordan with a LOTE English teacher and friend, Jon, grave marker from Stary Cementarz (old cemetery) in Zakopane

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