

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



LCMS WORLD MISSION

Jon & Jordan Benning * Cieszyn, Poland

July 2005

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Dear Friends in Christ,

We have been truly blessed by your prayers and partnership as we have prepared ourselves for upcoming missionary work in Poland. In an effort to keep connected to you throughout our year of service, this is the first of several newsletters we will send. We will share prayer requests as we encounter new challenges and accomplishments, and we ask that you share your requests with us as well so that we can lift them up in prayer.

Thankfully, technology allows us to share this information immediately and inexpensively via email. If you would be willing to receive this newsletter by email, please send your address to us at polishpioneers@yahoo.com. In general, this will be a good way to correspond with us. If you are interested in communicating through the mail, you can reach us through Jon & folks at 325 Cartwright Dr. * Springfield, IL 62704. Alternatively, if you prefer the adventure of mailing internationally, you can reach us at LOTE School * ul. Sienkiewicza 2 * 43-400 Cieszyn * Poland. Also, please feel free to let us know if you would no longer like to receive our newsletter.

Moving

In the past couple of months, we have been moved in more ways than one. During Missionary Orientation in St. Paul, MN, we were able to spend two weeks in Bible study, worship, fellowship with past and future missionaries, and preparation for teaching English as a Foreign Language. It was especially fun to meet some of the people who will be serving in Eurasia. For example, we met Harriet Newman who will be serving in Poland about 45 minutes away from us. We were also able to reconnect with Jon and Julie Muhly - former missionaries in Cieszyn who continue to help and encourage us even as they prepare for a vicarage in Russia.

Orientation was a moving and meaningful experience that allowed us to prepare spiritually and emotionally for the time ahead. It was such an encouragement for us to be surrounded by so many who have chosen to venture away from their comfort zones to serve the Lord. I know that the relationships formed there will continue to be a blessing as each of us departs for and begins our respective journeys.

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!





We have also moved from our home in St. Louis. We already miss our cute little house. It was difficult to leave - not just because of the years of stuff we've accumulated since we've been married. We will miss our church home in St. Louis as well, and we are very grateful for the commissioning service and unending support provided by our congregation at St. Johns.

One area that isn't moving quite as quickly as planned is our departure from the U.S. Due to delays with our visas, our departure date has been postponed until July 30th. In the meantime, we're hanging out in Springfield, IL and waiting for the word that we can take off. Though we are very eager to begin our time in Poland, we have enjoyed spending additional time with family before we leave.

Financial Support

The Lord has blessed us with all of the finances we will need for one year of missionary service in Cieszyn, Poland. We are so grateful for everyone who has partnered with us and for how generous people have been in prayer and financial support. Since we are fully funded for one year, any additional funds will be put into our account for a second year or provided to support LCMS should we not extend our term of service. Some people have requested updates regarding future opportunities to meet the needs of our ministry in Poland, and we will be sure to keep you informed as these needs arise. Even though we are fully funded for next year, there are other missionaries in Eurasia who are still in need of financial support. If the Lord leads you to support them, donations can be sent to LCMS Mission Senders * 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd. * St. Louis, MO 63122 * with "Poland missionaries" in the memo line.

Note: Gifts sent to us for personal use are not tax deductible and do not need to go through LCMS.

Prayer and Praises

- * That we will grow in faith, knowledge, and wisdom as we strive to do God's will through this mission
- * For the 50+ new LCMS missionaries who are entering their mission fields around the world
- * That our visas and passports will be returned this week so we can depart on Friday as planned
- * For safe travels to our destination and an easy adjustment to our new surroundings

- * For our families, friends, and congregations who have given us a solid foundation and unending encouragement
- * For the many partners and friends we made as we shared the news of our mission
- * For full funding for one year of service, allowing us to focus on other goals and preparations

Thank you again for all of your support and encouragement.

Jon & Jordan Benning

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