

**"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

September 2005

mission.info@lcms.org * www.lcmsworldmission.org



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we write this we are finishing up our third week of classes at the three Lutheran schools here in Cieszyn, Poland. We thank you for your many kind thoughts and prayers. Without them our travel here and our transition would not be going as smoothly as it has been. We pray that the Lord continues to bless all of us as we carry out his work around the world.

First Impressions

The Lord is hard at work here in Poland, and there seems to be evidence of that everywhere you look. Churches, schools, and individuals are all growing with Christ and are in need of help. We are eager to build relationships so that we can be an active part of His work here.

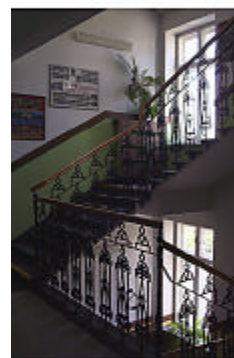
The people here at the school and church have been very kind to us. The director of LOTE (the high school) picked us up from the airport in Krakow and drove us two hours through the beautiful countryside back to Cieszyn. She immediately took us to her house to have our first Polish dinner. That type of kindness has followed us through our first weeks here in Poland.

Our new surroundings have been pleasant as well. The city is picturesque with its busy town square and many small shops. As you leave the city or if you are able to get high enough, you see the mountains that form the border between Poland and the Czech Republic. Also, our apartment is comfortable and gives us a secure base from which to begin our work. We hope to have an internet connection installed soon which will improve our ability to keep in touch and to regularly update our web page.

English Classes

School has begun here, as it has everywhere, and to be honest, it is not much different than any school we have seen in the U. S. For better and for worse, the children in Poland are very similar to children in America. Sometimes they talk too much or show up late to class, but they do homework and are respectful to adults. The day before classes began, we were given a schedule of the classes that we would be teaching. This schedule is still being slightly modified, but we are trying to stay flexible and fight the urge to want to know too many things too far in advance. As one might expect, being in a new culture dictates that we adjust to differences in attitudes and procedures that we have not been accustomed to in St. Louis. These cultural differences - along with the fact that we can't read Polish well (and people sometimes forget this) - occasionally lead to some confusion and frustration that are typical of any cultural adjustment.

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!





BEGINNING POLISH Our limited knowledge of Polish has been incredibly useful for teaching and living here. Some useful words and phrases are:

Hello = Dzień dobry, Cześć

Goodbye = Do widzenia

Please = Proszę

Thank you = Dziękuję

Do you speak English? = Czy pan/pani mówi po angielsku?

I understand a little Polish. = Trochę rozumiem po polsku.

Our students range from the age of seven to the age of nineteen. Jon has most of the classes in the new elementary school. The school is right next to our apartment and was still being painted a cheery yellow, only days before it was to welcome its first students. There are conversational English classes with first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. The elementary school has been an adventure, since the level of English is very low, the classes are a little big, and the children really enjoy talking. Jon also has some middle and high school classes. In the high school the level of English is really rather good, with a few students almost reaching proficiency. Jordan has been enjoying getting to know the students in her middle and high school classes and is busily creating folders and binders and other nerdy stuff with which to organize their work and her lesson plans. (Oh, how she misses Office Max!)

Heather Weiss

We have been very blessed to have Heather here at the schools. She is a returning missionary, having spent her summer at her home in Michigan. She has been very nice to us, and we go to her with every question that we can think of to ask. She has a good reputation with the students and teachers, and we would do well to follow in her footsteps here in Cieszyn. She has already become our personal guide to Polish culture and a good friend.

Prayer and Praises

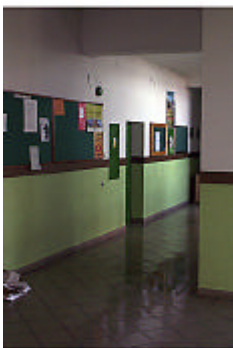
- * For the kindness and support of our hosts and co-workers here
- * For smooth and peaceful adjustments for us and all new volunteers at our respective mission sites
- * That we prayerfully consider each outreach option, using our time and talents wisely and to God's glory

- * For open hearts and minds in our English classes
- * That we may be ready to encourage those who need encouraging, and witness to those who need witnessing.
- * For Heather Weiss, our fellow missionary here in Cieszyn
- * For the victims of the hurricanes that continue to batter the Gulf Coast and their many needs

Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers, and we remain grateful for your kindness and support. Please keep in touch with us.

Jonathan and Jordan Benning

Photos: (page 1) Jesus Church, inside LOTE/GTE, a haystack foundation, our favorite local bakery (page 2) fountain in the town square, our hiking trip with the first year high school students, inside of LOTE/GTE, LOTE/GTE from the outside



Online	Email: polishpioneers@yahoo.com Web: www.geocities.com/polishpioneers	U.S.	325 Cartwright Dr. Springfield, IL 62704	Poland	LOTE School Ul. Sienkiewicza 2 43-400 Cieszyn Poland
---------------	--	-------------	--	---------------	---