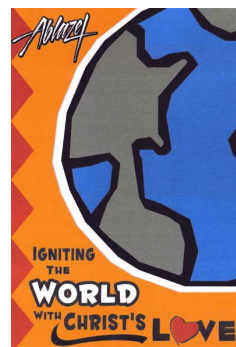


***"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." – Ecclesiastes 4:12***



Dear Friends in Christ,

It was great to see many of you over this past summer, but boy was it hot. We thank you for all of the encouraging words and occasional food that you gave to us while we were back in the States. We were able to visit several churches, but the time went very quickly and we were unable to see all of our friends and supporters. Thank you to the churches and congregations that allowed us to come and share and experiences. We are grateful and touched at how supportive everyone was to us. Thank you.

Rainbow Harvest Camp

This August when we returned to Cieszyn, we had the opportunity to participate in an English language summer camp for children ages 13-16. We had a great time at this camp and were able to make many new friends, both campers and counselors. This Rainbow Harvest Camp was first organized by Jasia Gazda ten years ago. It is now run by her former campers (now in college) who have taken up the task of evangelizing to the current campers, with the support of a few native English speakers (us and five other Americans). The native English speakers help the campers practice their English, make craft projects, and instruct in small groups. The focus of this camp was God's love for us. We had a great time at this camp and were impressed with the faith and curiousness of the campers. We made a lot of friends. We would encourage anyone to come and participate in these camps. If anyone is interested please let us know and we will get you more information. In some cases, churches have organized volunteers for the camps for many years in a row.

Polish Class

Also, when we returned to Poland, we had the opportunity to attend a Polish language class for four weeks. It was a very intense introduction to Polish grammar. And it already seems to be coming in helpful in our understanding and communicating at school. We hope to find a weekly tutor so that we can continue and refresh all of what we learned during the class. Our teachers were very nice and helpful and we got a couple invitations for Christmas break. It is amazing when people you have only known for a week invite you over for Christmas. We are thankful for being able to take this class and look forward to using our new knowledge throughout the year.

Our New Accomplice

We are happy to report that our new friend and volunteer is getting along nicely. Jodi Rolf grew up in Michigan, went to school in Seward, Nebraska, and her family lives in Colorado. It has been fun getting to know her and showing her around our little town of Cieszyn. She has adapted quickly to the "Polish" lifestyle, and appears to have no trouble getting used to life here. We are eager to learn more about Jodi, and to work with her during the coming year.

First Days of School

We started school this year with a chapel service on September 4. It feels very nice to get back to the schools. The students seem to remember us and seem a little

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!





RAINBOW HARVEST CAMP PHOTOS

excited to see us. We are eager to reconnect and establish deeper relationships with our students. We have many ideas on how to build on last year's efforts and we are pleased to finally get started. As always, please keep us and Jodi in your prayers as we share our faith in the Lord at our schools.

Getting Involved

If you are interested in ways to contribute to the Lord's work here in Poland, we have several ideas. This year we will again collect books for the schools in which we are teaching. Last year we received about 400 books from churches and individuals, and we passed them on to the schools for their libraries and to our students. We are in need of beginner reading books for the elementary students, and more advanced novels and classics for the high school students. Jordan is working on organizing a small English library for the high school students. This is a good way to get Christ centered books to students who are eager to read.

Another opportunity to give is to become a volunteer for one of Jasia Gazda's English camps. She has many more applicants for her camps than she has places. She is looking to start more camps in the coming year, and she needs English speakers. The camps are a gratifying way to witness and help children come to know Jesus as their Savior. The camps mostly occur in the summer, but there are some throughout the year. If you have about 10 days free and want to come to Poland, please contact us.

Also, for the coming year of work we are in the need of some additional prayers and support. We still need about \$1,300 for our work this year. 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.

Prayers and Praises

- * For a safe trip back to Poland at the end of July
- * For a great Polish language class that is already coming in useful
- * For the first weeks of class and being able to reconnect with the students
- * For the week we were at the Rainbow Harvest Camp and the opportunities to discuss our faith with such inquisitive campers
- * For Jodi Rolf, our fellow volunteer, and all of the gifts and enthusiasm that she brings to the work here in Cieszyn
- * For our close friend, Rev. E Lee Jones (he married us and Jon's other brothers). On August 29, he suddenly left us and went to be with our Lord and Savior. We are thankful for the many blessings and kind humor he brought to our lives and even though he is in a much better place now, in Heaven, we miss him.
- * For a restful visit back in the States
- * For Jon's brother, David, who was recently married and is starting his studies at the Seminary in St. Louis

We continue to thank all of you for your gracious support and prayers. Without your help none of the accomplishments of the past year would have been possible. We are honored to be able to serve the Lord here in Poland. Thank you.

Jonathan and Jordan Benning

Photos: (page 1) Jordan and her Polish language certificate, Slovak dancing, Turkish dancing in front of our favorite pizza place, international festivities (page 2) first day of school chapel, medieval days at a castle, our new French friends at the language school, Schindler's (List) factory in Krakow, Schindler poster.



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