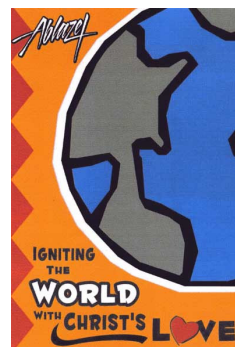


***"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." – Ecclesiastes 4:12***



Dear Friends in Christ,

Well, 2007 got off to an interesting start. As many of you read in our email, Jon was sick for a while – so much so that he had to be admitted to the hospital here. It was quite an adventure to say the least, but with your prayers, the help of our friends, and God's grace, we were able to survive this trial.

Life in a Polish Hospital

It all started the day after Christmas, Jon did not feel great. As the days passed to New Year's Jon felt more pain and had more trouble breathing. Then on New Year's Eve we went to the hospital for tests and an EKG. They found his heart to be ok, but he had high blood pressure. We got medication and that helped the breathing, but then Jon started getting a sharp pain in his stomach. This continued and got worse for several days until he went back for more tests and was admitted to the hospital. There was not much English spoken in the hospital and it was a little scary at the time, but we were blessed to have two extremely nice doctor friends who went out of their ways to walk us through the Polish hospital system and to act as our translators. Without their help it would have been much more difficult. It is amazing how God provides for us in times of need.

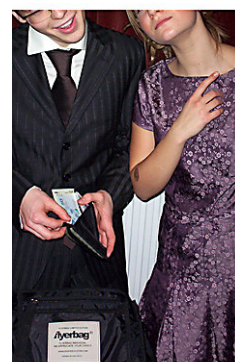
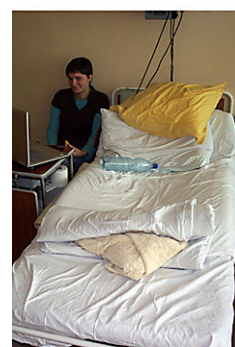
Jon spent five nights in the hospital, as the doctors did tests, including an endoscopy to determine what was wrong. In Polish hospitals they give very little information to the patients, so you can imagine how much they give to a non-Polish speaking patient. Fortunately, we had Kasia and her husband, Zdzislaw, and they kept us informed and watched over the work being done on Jon. The equipment (x-ray machines, etc.) in the hospital for doctors, looked quite new, but rooms and furniture for patients were something you might find in the U.S. fifty years ago. The old steel hospital beds were not comfortable and there was no cable (or even regular) TV, but the conditions were not terrible. After a couple days they found that Jon had an inflammation in his small intestine. This was treated with medicine and Jon has been feeling a lot better since. **We thank you all for your prayers, concerns, and help while Jon was sick and while he was recovering. We are blessed to have so many looking out for our well-being. We also thank those at World Mission for your prayers and for the help with all of the logistics of getting medical help in a foreign land.**

Studniowka (Polish Prom – Sort of)

Jon's return to health was definitely a reason to celebrate. Another reason to celebrate was the annual Studniowka, a formal dance honoring the seniors and their homeroom teachers. This special event marks a big countdown for them – just 100 days left until their final exams! This is a wonderful group of students, and we have truly enjoyed getting to know them over these two years. **Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for stressful exams and as they embark upon life after high school - may they put their faith in God and walk closer with Him.**

Olympics

Another exciting school event was the "Olympics". Each year, the students have an athletic competition as a way to fulfill their physical education requirement and as a way to build school spirit – and, boy, were the classes spirited! They wore costumes, made posters, and cheered for their teammates til their voices were hoarse. Class 2A asked Jordan to be on their team, and they had a great time – it didn't hurt that they won the entire competition. ☺ It was fun to see the students outside of class and to watch them encourage and cooperate with one another. **Praise God for these times of fun and fellowship!**





English Worship

English worship continues to be a blessing to us as we serve here in Cieszyn. Church services are rarely translated for us, and the English Worship Service provides a rare and treasured time to glorify God in English with other English speakers. Another recent blessing is that one of my (Jordan's) private students, the doctor who was so instrumental in securing quality care for Jon during his illness, has started attending. And she loves it! **Please pray that God would use this time to draw Kasia nearer to Him. Also, please thank God for the ministry of Tim and Renata Hinrichs, the individuals who put together this vital monthly meeting.**

Eurasian Invasion

Another exciting opportunity for fellowship and renewal took place in the middle of February at our yearly missionary retreat. Volunteers from Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, England and Lithuania joined together in Bratislava to share how God has been using them in their respective mission fields. Despite (and through) challenges in each site, God truly seems to be inspiring and empowering His servants as they strive to spread the Good News. **May God continue to open all of our eyes to the opportunities for ministering to the people in our various areas of the world.**

Generous Supporters

In prayer and thanksgiving we have great news to share with all of you. The students, parents and members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School in Springfield, IL, have made a very generous financial contribution to our work and to our students. With their financial gift we will be able to give to many accomplish many things here. We were able to get a washing machine for our apartment. We were also able to buy and mail books and worship DVDs for the English library. We will pass on some of the money to our principal, so that she can use it for the needs of the school, and we will pass on some of the money to Jasia Gazda, so that she can support the training of leaders who will run her English language Bible camps this summer. We are also planning on using some of the money to take students on a trip to work with a Polish Habitat for Humanity organization in a city a couple hours away from us. We graciously thank Our Savior's and all the people and organizations who have supported us these last two years. **Without your help we would not have been able to serve as long or accomplish as much. The causes and people that will benefit because of your kindness and charity here in Poland, we are sure, also, thank you.**

Prayers and Praises

In addition to the prayers and praises listed earlier, we would also like to lift up:

- * the amazing ways in which God is working around our area and around the world
- * all those working to share Christ, especially those who are working in isolated situations
- * easy transitions for those entering new positions, particularly the Fialas in Slovakia
- * the generous supporters of God's work around the world

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) Jon's Hospital Room, Jordan in Jon's Room with Computer, Studniowka, Jordan and Jon at Studniowka (page 2) Inflatable Duck at Olympics, Olympic Swimming, Valentine Cookies with Students, The Mighty English Library, Traditional Polish Folk Music Concert



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