



Ministry Report from Poland

The scene depicted above is only a small part of a relief painted on a wall in downtown Warsaw. It portrays the Warsaw Uprising that took place from August to October of 1944. Although the Nazis were defeated and in retreat and the Russians advancing, the Polish resistance was crushed and the city destroyed because resistance fighters trusted allied leaders who failed to keep their promises. Some of the Polish teens said, "We learned that you cannot trust political leaders, even when they call themselves your allies. Our heroes died because of secret deals our 'allies' made with Stalin." Some of the Ukrainian teens agreed and said, "We learned that lesson in our country too." Such a moment tends to give us pause and keep us humble. It made us glad that we were not there to serve in the name of any political leaders, but in the name of Jesus and His gospel.

"For whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." —Romans 10:11 (NKJV)



New Hope for Seeking Hearts

A summer focused on refugees. . . moms and kids displaced by war, needing hope and encouragement for their twisting, winding journey. Every morning as the sun rose over the Polish cities and plains, we recalled the promises of Lamentations 3:22-23 -- "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning.... The Lord is my portion...therefore I hope in Him."

Indeed, He was our hope through the weeks of travel into unfamiliar territory and day after day of unexpected circumstances. We felt the prayers of supportive friends around the globe as we stood before searching faces of children and teens who could hardly understand our language. We realized the power of those prayers as we entered the world of moms and dads who desperately hope for an end to the war that has thrust them out of their comfortable former lives.

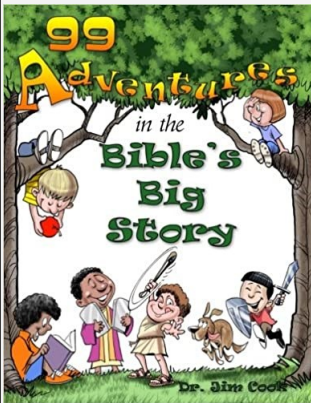
Though we are now back in the place we call home, our hearts and minds still drift to the other side of the Atlantic. Ukrainian and Polish names and faces fill our thoughts; we wonder how our precious new friends are managing daily life as the uncertainty and upheaval drags on. We pray that the Gospel messages, songs, and testimonies that they heard will continue to draw them to the One who offers real, eternal hope and peace.



... New Hope for Seeking Hearts cont.

Now our part is to pray for each one we met. Two teenage boys stand out in our memories: Stepan, from Ukraine, and Tad, from Poland. They gave us a tiny glimpse into their searching hearts. Stepan openly expressed his skepticism during English class with a handwritten sentence: "I don't believe in the God." Though we can't know the reason for his doubts, we pray that the love of God which he observed during camp will lead him to seek the Savior who loves him unconditionally. Tad participated enthusiastically in all the activities but expressed more of his seeking heart after we Americans left. In a conversation with the Polish youth leader who had coordinated everything, he begged, "Please, can we have this very same English camp next year?!" Then he began probing with deeper questions about faith. Pray with us for his inner searching to lead to investigating the truth of God's Word and realizing that a relationship with Jesus is the answer to his spiritual restlessness.

Others expressed deep interest in spiritual matters and responded appreciatively to prayers and Scripture. We thank the Lord for accomplishing His purposes in each life, whether we are able to see the results or not. The seeds of truth have been planted, and we leave the outcome in His hands.



Recently we came to an agreement with the author of 99 Adventures in the Bible's Big Story, Dr. Jim Cook, and with our partners in Poland regarding the urgent need for a Bible teaching tool for both Polish and Ukrainian children. There is nothing like it available with lesson plans designed for children.

The cost of translating this 500 page resource into both languages will be about \$24,000.00 USD. As soon as we have 50% of the funds raised, we will launch the translation teams to get this project underway. Our target deadline is March 1, 2023. When finished it will be available completely free to these children. Let us know if you want to help.

For donations to this project, a check may be sent to the address below, or online gifts may be sent using the following link:

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/DNAGlobalNetworkInc/99Adventures>

In July and August our teams in Krakow and Warsaw taught English and the story of Jesus to both Ukrainian and Polish children. The pastors of partner churches stated that we left them on a stronger footing for future ministry to these children and their families. Moms and dads expressed special words of gratitude for this ministry and the children and teens shed tears when the camps were over. The question they asked was, "Will you come back next year?" Without your prayers and financial support, none of this would have been possible. Thanks again for your caring partnership with us!



Serving those in need together with you,

Michael & Jo Beth Loftis