



# mail

from

# MED

## December 2010

*I want to thank you Lord, I want to thank you, for you are holy...* These are words from one of my favorite songs. We do thank the Lord for his holiness, and in light of the previous year, we – His servants in MED – also thank Him for our **Friends and Partners** in the ministry who pray for us, financially support our ministry, and help us with their personal involvement in many practical ways. Thanks to you, the MED ministry is able to continue with the means to maintain our office, to meet the current administrative costs, to pay the worker's wages, and to fund our teacher training ministry, our summer camps, and the publishing of our materials.

We also identify with the next line of the song: *The weak will say, I have your power, the poor will say I have everything, because you, O Lord, gave me all...* When we stood against new challenges, when we undertook difficult tasks, when we took steps of faith, and when we solved difficult problems, we felt very weak! But when we turned our eyes towards our holy God we experienced His power! He is the source of our strength, He gives us zeal, and He sustains our faith in order that we may plan our next activities. Next year we plan to publish new Bible lessons for preschoolers and school age children, we again will prepare our summer camps for children and teenagers in Wista, and we will add for the first time a camp in northern Poland.

Before us there are conferences and training courses for teachers and parents in Poland and a continuation of teacher training in Dublin, Ireland. New people are preparing to begin working for MED. Thanks to our joint efforts and partnerships with churches, other Christian organizations, and individuals more children will hear the Gospel and be taught the Word of God. Of course we want God to lead our steps, to adjust our plans according to His will, to prosper them, and to meet the needs for their realization. God can use you to meet the needs of prayer, finances, and practical help. Please pray concerning your involvement in our MED ministry!

*Dasia Abramovich*

### How Quickly it Passed By...

I can hardly believe that the teacher training is already behind us! It seems like yesterday when I was making arrangements to start the training courses. I asked myself what will it be like and what will we gain from the training. Some teachers from nearby Głogów whom I didn't know were to join us. There were many question marks ... and I waited anxiously for September 10 when the Intensive Teacher Training (ITT) for Sunday school workers will begin in our church in Polkowice.

Now I can say that it was a really wonderful time! The age of the participants was from 15 years of age to 50+, but this was no problem. We learned together how to prepare a Bible lesson for children, how to present the Wordless Book, and how to teach Bible verses, songs, etc. The way that we were able to min-

ister to one another was just incredible. Together we created new things and our common desire was to serve children for God's glory. Through the teaching of Danuta Pustówka, Joanna Pilch-Lewicka and



Dasia Abramovich we understand how big the task is in front of us, and that teaching children is reaching souls for God, for His glory, and for their eternal salvation. This is simply wonderful!

During the teacher training new relationships were begun. Though we met for the first time, it seemed like we had always known each other. It was good to get to know our sisters from the church in Głogów. They are already “ours” because we share the common desire to serve children in the places where God has put us. The day quickly approached when we were to complete the course and present the Bible lesson that each of us had prepared. There was a lot of joy and laughter, but also stress. After all, it was an exam! Each of us presented our lesson in front of the whole group, which gave us an opportunity to learn from one another, to overcome our nervousness, and to convince us that we will later do it standing in front of a group of children.

At the closing of the ITT on November 6 we were presented with our diplomas! That last evening was touching as we shared what we gained through the courses. Then we prayed for one another. We felt the seriousness of that moment when we were sent out to minister. I thank God that He was present with us and that He planned this time in our lives. I thank the MED workers for well-prepared training, the sisters from Głogów for being with us, and all of the “girls” from our church, young and older, who sacrificed their time to study and to prepare for the ministry to which God has called us.

I would encourage everyone to take this training course. It is well WORTH IT!

*Joanna Ćwian, Polkowice*

This year the conference took place on November 20 in Ozorków and included a celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MED’s cooperation with churches and individuals from the Łódź region. We chose this town because it was here 20 years ago that our MED full-time workers and volunteers came to lead Holiday Bible Clubs in cooperation with the local Lutheran church. MED also has a full time worker, Monika Stępień, in Ozorków, and the ministry is still carried on there to this day.

In addition to hearing about being a servant and a friend of God, we had good singing led by a family from Łódź who are friends of MED. We also shared testimonies and memories from the children’s meetings, teacher training courses, and conferences over the past years. We watched a presentation about the children’s work in Zelów, Zgierz and Ozorków that brought tears to many eyes. A group of former participants in the children’s meetings took part in the conference and in its preparations, reminding us of the fruit of the ministry! The conference was also an opportunity to meet years later to thank God together for His guidance, for using us, for meeting our needs, for sending workers to us, and for helping us to reach many children with the message of the Gospel and God’s Word. We hope that the meeting was a challenge to persevere and an encouragement to further faithful ministry! During the meal we talked with others about continued cooperation and future plans. We thank all those who had part in preparing the conference, and those who came from near and far to participate in it. Most of all, we thank our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

*Dasia Abramovich*

## The XV-th Regional Conference for Children’s Workers

PS. We are sorry that many volunteers from all over Poland who had come to Ozorków and Zgierz for many years to minister to the children could not join us at the conference ☹. Some of them, like Piotr



Jokiel, now even live abroad. Piotr writes in this issue of "Mail from MED" about the path that led him to MED.

## A Group With Great Potential

This is the group of children with whom I meet in the Bible Club in Cieszyn. The group is special because it consists of 5 boys and 1 girl, in whom I see great potential for leadership. The parents of these children are believers and actively involved in God's work in their churches. Some of them are Bible teachers or leaders, and others are pastors. The children have heard God's Word from the cradle, and they have a chance to observe the lives and ministry of their parents. I know that some of them have been included in the ministry activities of their parents from a very young age, such as singing with them or participating in short dramas during evangelistic events. In thinking about each child in the group I desire that each one of them grow up to be a wise, righteous, God-fearing adult who will develop their leadership potential. This is why John and I have chosen a program that will help them to become good leaders in their future families and in their churches. At the same time we don't forget about those who have not yet committed their lives to the Lord Jesus, and we want to help them to make this first step towards being a godly leader. Please pray with me for this special group of children, that they will grow for God's glory and to bless others, and that He will provide for John and I wisdom in teaching and leading these children.

Lidia Króliczek

## Going Back to the Summer

Our Holiday Bible Club in Sosnowiec entitled "The Great Egyptian Adventure" gave us one very busy week, and passed very quickly. We experienced a lot of joy and satisfaction as we proclaimed the Gospel, as God took care of us and protected us. We had about 30-32 kids each day, including 17 children from my street. For them, we hired a mini bus. Most of them come from dysfunctional families where there is alcohol and poverty. For most of them, the club was their only attraction during the summer holidays. We were glad for the children who came to the meetings for the very first time. One of the new boys wrote in a questionnaire that there wasn't enough food at the meetings... We later learned that some of the children came to the club at 10 AM without break-

fast! We decided that next year, the first thing that we need to do is to meet their physical needs and satisfy their hunger. Twenty-one children took part in our Bible quiz and it moved us to see the children eagerly memorizing Bible verses.

It wasn't an easy week because we had only three leaders. I provided the food and taught the Bible lessons, Bible verses, songs etc. We were tired, but we praise the Lord that the Word was sown. We hope that it will bring fruit in the future. Perhaps we will be privileged to see the fruit. The children need salvation and we must show them where to look for it. I reassured myself again that this work makes great sense and that the fruit will last for eternity.

I often ask myself questions about how to prepare a Bible lesson in such a way that it will be attractive to children so that they will enthusiastically wait for the Bible lesson. I spend much time preparing the lesson, but then I find out that the children want to listen only to the story and are not so interested in listening to the application in order to be more like the Lord Jesus. I think that it might help if MED checked my Bible lessons ☺.

Getting back to the holiday club, we built good relationships with the children. I am glad that they come just to get a hug and to talk with us. In November we plan to resume our regular Bible club. This ministry gives us a lot of joy. We see that children want to be better and that they want to follow the Lord Jesus. They don't have good role models in their homes, but they want to come to the club to get to know God and to learn more. God's Word will bring fruit in their lives at the right time.

There are times in the ministry when we face difficulties and problems. Maybe you also ask yourself the question, "Is it worth it? So much time is sacrificed in preparations..." Maybe people discourage you by saying, "It's only children's work." Don't believe it! Don't get discouraged! It is an important ministry because God's Word can reach the children's hearts, and it has the power to change their lives. Difficulties also teach us something when we realize that it is worth it to do our tasks with our whole heart – *as for the Lord and not for people*. And with this I encourage you to press on.

Grażyna Janik, Sosnowiec

## He Wants to Study...

This is one of the characteristics of a good teacher: Where can Bible teachers of children gain new knowledge or deepen it? Of course, among others at conferences for children's workers. Such a conference

was organized by the Brethren Church in Piasek (Upper Silesia) on September 11. The main topic of the conference was ways to have preschool, school-age and teen-age children develop skills in studying the Bible. Representatives of three children's missions were invited to share their experiences in working with children in Bible clubs, Sunday schools, and camps. I was invited as an MED worker to share my experience and practical ideas about working with preschool children. I also had the possibility to share how to involve a small child in prayer. I think that our time at the conference was used effectively and that it met the expectations of the participants. In talking with some of them I learned that they appreciated the practical ideas that I shared, that they were new and valuable for them, and that they were encouraged to deepen their knowledge about working with preschool child.

Conferences are good opportunities to meet with others with whom we share the same passion, to listen to the testimonies of other teachers, to share our experiences, to fellowship, to encourage one another in ministry, and to correct mistakes that we might make in children's work. The list of benefits can be long. This is why we should use every opportunity that is prepared for us, for it will become a great blessing for us and through us to others.

Lidia Króliczek

## Club „Smile”

Is this a new club? No, it's only a new name for an "old" club, an idea that came from one of the clubbers who smiles very often. On October 11 we resumed our Bible club in Golezów for another school year. Unfortunately my great helper Ala had to give up because of her many responsibilities in school. I hope that this isn't forever. I can see that God is interested



in this club because He sends us both the clubbers and the helpers. Dasia and I are glad that two new girls responded to our invitation and joined the club. We first met Nikola and Klaudia at our MED camp this past summer. The younger sister of Ola also joined us and so we now have 9 clubbers – all of them girls!!! One more person joined us, but this time an adult. It is our volunteer worker Ela. I am glad that she is helping me. She has already taught the Bible lesson a few times!

We now teach a series of lessons about the Bible. How I wish that the Bible would become special to these children and that they will desire to read it and obey what God tells them in His Word. **Please pray for all of the girls, as well as for us who teach this club, that God will deeply write on their hearts what we teach them and help it to produce fruit in their lives.**

Danuta Plinta

## Stopped

This morning before driving to work I prayed: *Lord of life and death, protect us during this ride.* The Lord of life and death took my prayer into consideration. The car that hit the left side of my car only scratched it and bent it a little bit, and I continued driving on the empty (praise the Lord!) pavement to avoid a collision. When I stopped, my 4 year old son asked with curiosity, "Mum, why did we stop?"



I already stopped a few times in my life. In October of this year I noticed that I haven't got time for God, for my family, and for myself. It wasn't supposed to be like this. I had moved from Warsaw to Gdańsk six years before and planned to get involved in mission work. Warsaw was an ideal place for me to live – busy, and with something going on all the time. This is what I like. What I liked most was my work in an advertising agency. But I liked it too much. I resigned and moved to Gdańsk. My small church was just organizing a Bible club for children so I joined in. I got married, had a baby, later we adopted an older brother for our younger son, and got a job. The reason I had come to Gdańsk

## A Little World

laid fallow in my heart as there were more and more things I wanted to do, believing that they are from God. "But how, God?" I told Him. "I have no time for this!" It took eight months for the One I call Lord to convince me to leave the job that took up my entire time. If you have ever worked in real estate, you know what I mean. Soon a new opportunity presented itself – working with an autistic child. This way I would have more time and I can do what I thought about for a long time.

I got involved in the Christmas Surprise project in my village. Our old printer will be busy, but I want many people to learn through this project what Christmas is all about and that needy children will get presents. I also got involved with programs in schools where we can warn children about making bad choices in their lives. Together with friends I want to start a *Royal Rangers* group in our city, so we are asking questions of those who know more about this organization. This is a Christian scout organization that helps children and young people develop in every aspect of their lives. I am also writing a book about Creation for children. I feel an urgent need to write a book supporting the Biblical creation of a young earth. This is my priority. I have already started writing a book for school age children, and later I will write one for preschoolers. I have more ideas of what I would like to do. I am aware that God has gifted me in the area of giving a clear presentation of information in speech and writing, and I want to use it. I have many ideas for articles, training materials, and Bible lessons. Each day I try to find the time to write them down, but I can't find it. However I know that the *Gospel is God's power to salvation of those who believe* and I can't imagine keeping this only for myself. How can people, including children, believe if you won't tell them how wonderful God is?

Going against my carefully hidden shyness, I want to tell children and those who have contact with them how wonderful God is! I want to do this as a full-time MED worker, and that is why I ask individuals, fellowship groups, and churches to prayerfully consider supporting me in areas where missionaries need help – prayer, finances, and personal participation.

In closing I wish to say that we attach too much importance to our abilities and talents, putting our faith in what we can see. But every man will do only as much as God will allow him to do (see I Corinthians 3:5).

*Ilona Kaczeńska, Gdańsk*

Perhaps you have had the feeling that "the world is small" because in some distant place you met some friends. We experienced this recently in Dublin, Ireland, where I went with another MED worker, Danuta Plinta to conduct teacher training courses for Polish people who now live there. They emigrated as young couples and now when they are having children there is a natural need to deepen their knowledge about



how to bring them up and teach in the church. This is why they felt that they needed training. We were invited by former students of MED teacher training who had been our MED volunteers for some time. Eight people gathered in the home of Piotr and Jagoda November 4-6 to get some training on how to teach Sunday school classes in their fellowship. We shared with them how to teach Bible lessons, what are the truths of the Gospel, how to use the Wordless Book, and why we should use visual aids when working with children. After the training was over the students said that it also helped them in their spiritual growth and broadened their perspective of children's work. Not only were they encouraged, but for us teachers it was a special time. We saw how much God wants children to know Him, and that He wants adults to make this possible for them. We thank God for Piotr and Jagoda, for their sensitivity to the spiritual needs of the children. If God's will it we will continue the training next spring.

*Joanna Pilch-Lewicka*

## Regional Conference in Studzionka

Living in a hurry under constant pressure often makes us forget what is most important. We lack moments alone with God, and we have not enough time to develop our relationship with other believers. We seldom meet with the people with whom we used to be friends or with whom we shared common activities and goals. Corresponding with others is also our weak point, and so we concentrate on things to do, all the while being discouraged, disappointed, and lonely.

God however wants something different for us. He desires believers to be close with one another, to support one another, and to encourage one another in daily life. With this in mind on October 23 we organized a conference in Studzionka for friends and co-workers from Upper Silesia. It was a good time to stop and think about what is important in our relationship with God and in our ministry to children. It was also a good opportunity to meet with people whom we haven't seen for a few years. We listened carefully while Pastor Bogdan Sokół from Polkowice shared God's Word with us, and we also heard greetings from Uncle Sam (Sam Doherty). For many of us it was a nice surprise because no one expected Uncle Sam in Studzionka. It didn't matter that we met him only through a pre-recorded DVD. His words brought some tears, and those who knew Uncle Sam felt like they were back in time 20 years ago when they had personally listened to his teaching.

It was quite an intensive time, but we also had a long break for conversation. For many of us this was very important and encouraging. In saying 'good bye' many of the participants said that they would come again. If it is also God's will, may we meet again soon.

*Ewa Mertens*



## My Path to MED

The need for missions has been with me since my conversion. I was convinced about the necessity of telling others about God, but I soon discovered that except for a joyful testimony I had nothing more to say about my faith. Teacher Training courses for children's workers was an answer to my prayers. During the courses in 1994 I learned about the fundamentals of my faith and the basics of Christian theology. During the courses I also met Jadwiga Mariańczyk (who liked to be called Jagoda) and six years later we were married. I don't need to elaborate how the teacher training was especially important for me!

In the summer of 1995 I took part in one of the street evangelistic programs in my city of Gdynia. At that time my room looked like an evangelistic agency – flyers from MED, Bible lessons from MED, books from MED – everything was MED ☺!

Later my contact with MED lapsed. In 2005 we left Poland and moved to Dublin, Ireland, where we met people from the Polish Christian Fellowship that meets in St. Mark's Church. The group was growing, new children were being born, but Sunday school practically did not exist.

We felt a need to train people to work in Sunday school. The leaders of our fellowship said that this would answer their prayer as well. Therefore, we invited two MED workers, Joanna Pilch-Lewicka and Danuta Plinta to lead Intensive Teacher Training (ITT) for eight people from our church.

I believe that this teacher training in Ireland fulfills the words of a well-known Irish teacher named Sam Doherty who often repeated at our training back in the 1990's – "One day maybe you will preach the Gospel to the children in Ireland". These words came true and I am thrilled to see God's faithfulness as He leads us to evangelize children.

One of the participants of our recent course said, "No one has ever told me about God in such a simple way". For many participants of the course, the old well known truths became known in a new light. As a church we also got to know each other better thanks to the teacher training courses. We hope to continue the courses in May of 2011.

*Piotr Jokiel, Dublin*

## A Sandwich for Teenager

The teenage age years are a time of many tough questions, doubts, and sometimes rebellion against many things. Some parents have problems managing their teenage child. Many of them ask what they can do. Unfortunately there is no ready recipe for how to get through this time without problems. The best thing parents can do is to pray, to genuinely listen to their teenager, and to encourage (not force) them to read God's Word. If a young person is very close with his computer, parents can suggest to him to subscribe to the Bible Sandwich for Teenagers. It is good for your child to read the devotions and to encourage him or her to comment or ask questions. It can help a lot. Many young people in Poland already use this website. I am sure there are Christian web-sites in other languages. May your teenager try them!

Ewa Mertens

PS. We at MED are glad that Ewa has been writing the texts for the Bible Sandwich for a few years. **Please pray that God will guide her, encourage her, and give her new and fresh ideas so that the sandwich will not only be tasty, but also nutritious.**

## The 20th Annual MED Winter Conference

Preparations are being made for our Jubilee MED Conference that will take place in Wisła February 8-12, 2011. **We need your prayers as we prepare and organize the program.** We would like this conference to be special in many ways, but most of all that God will be glorified by it. We invite all of our prayer partners and friends to participate.

## New Layout

The MED website now has a new layout thanks to a lot of volunteer work by one of our friends, to whom we are very thankful. His help is priceless. We want our website to be not only attractive but also useful. We have started publishing articles for parents and teachers of all age groups. We invite you to visit our website at: [www.med.org.pl](http://www.med.org.pl)

Before we finished this issue of Mail from MED we received a letter from someone who visited the web site and commented on it. *"I like it very much.*

*I especially like the MED materials that you offer. Your ministry is wonderful. Praise the Lord for your faithfulness and obedience. Tom and I are now in the States. We believe that God sent us here to minister in a different way. However, we come to Poland every summer and bring teams to Polish churches where we lead Day Camps for children ages 5-13. Last summer we had four different groups, one each in Tarnów, Katowice, Opole and Krynica. We now encourage the churches to take charge of the Day Camps, and we will help them. Here is where MED is very helpful, because we encourage the churches to order your materials for children's work, especially the programs for camps. We send warm greetings, and may God bless you and enlarge your territory even more."*

Tom & Beata Barker, Kentucky, USA  
[www.acrosspl.org](http://www.acrosspl.org)

## The Door Is Always Open

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them (Luke 2:7).

The decree of Caesar Augustus to take a census of the entire Roman world led Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they reached their destination they looked for a place to stay. It became obvious that the genealogical roots of many people were bound to this little town. All they could find was a stable in a shepherd's farm, perhaps not far from the place where King David wrote Psalm 23. The Lord about whom David wrote was born in a stable because there was no room for him in the house. Many centuries later Darby wrote these words: *"Jesus started in a manger and finished at the cross. During His life he didn't have a place to rest His head. For Himself and for the Gospel there was simply no place. Not in society, and not among His own earthly family."*

Though the traditions of Christmas have survived, the truth of the Gospel has little influence on our daily life. Our societies lack not the homeless. We often hide from one another. Many adults show no interest in their children. There are churches that lack children's workers. We lack those who would go to the streets of the cities and villages and proclaim the Gospel.

Dr Thomas Barnardo was converted to Christ at the age of 17. Four years later as a medical student he planned that after he graduates he will go to China as a missionary. However, God had other plans for him, and put into his heart a concern for the children living in poverty and without the Gospel. In 1870 Barnardo

established in London the first house for these children, and then in the next 40 years sixty such homes were founded.

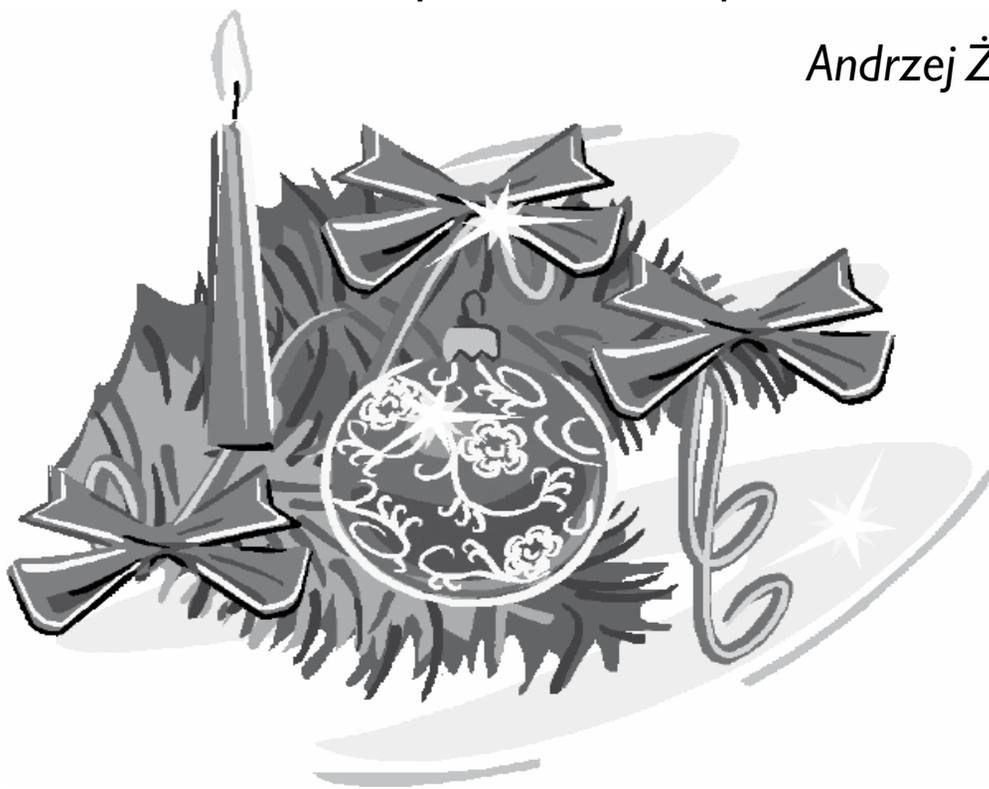
However the sacrificial ministry of Thomas Barnardo had a dramatic beginning. Among the little boys living on the street was a 11 year old who, because of his red hair, was called Carrot. One night Barnardo had chosen five boys to place in his home. Carrot wanted to go as well, but Barnardo didn't have space for him. A few days later when the night watchman

moved an empty sugar barrel he found that two boys had been sleeping in it. One of them immediately run away, but the second one was already dead. It was Carrot who had died from starvation. His death burnt a painful mark on Barnardo's life. From that day he changed the signboards at all of his houses to read "The Door is always Open".

Today, will people find the *door open* in our hearts, in our lives, and in our homes for the Lord, and for others who need our help?

Another Christmas where we remember the birth of the Lord Jesus is approaching. I wish God's blessing, His wisdom, and His provision to all of the recipients of "Mail from MED", our Prayer Partners, our supporters, our workers and our volunteers. May the joy of this Christmas season find a place in your daily lives, and may this become the bridge to those hearts and lives that are still far away from the Gospel.

Andrzej Żydek



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