



# mail from MED

## autumn 2010

For the MED workers, September 1<sup>st</sup> is a special date. On this date 20 years ago we officially began our full-time mission work. I found in our archives the first issue of our newsletter that we sent out in the autumn of 1990. Probably no one has kept a copy of it or remembers what was in it! The newsletter was hand-written and illustrated by Janina, our first leader. It began with a verse from Psalm 59 that 20 years later still encourages us as we continue the MED ministry: *O my Strength, I watch for you; you, O God, are my fortress.*

In that first newsletter we wrote about what was happening prior to September when we and many other volunteers were leading the children's program at the Evangelistic Campaign in Dziegielów, as well as more than 25 Good News Weeks in various parts of Poland. Then we wrote about how "beginning in September our team of 11 full-time workers has met for fellowship every Monday in our office in Ustroń. We talk about what we have accomplished and what we plan for the future." We continue these meetings today, the only difference being in the number of workers. At present MED has 8 ministry workers. We also mentioned in that first newsletter how "the vast majority of Polish children have not heard a clear presentation of the Gospel and so we want to establish and develop a teacher training program for Poland. There is very little Christian literature, so we also want to prepare material and distribute it."

Today we thank God that we were able to accomplish these plans in the previous 20 years. MED has a teacher training program and many children's workers in Poland have been prepared to effectively evangelize and teach children. MED has also published our own Sunday school curriculum and other materials. God has proven faithful and we want to give glory to Him!

In this issue of *Mail from MED* you will find reports from our Summer Bible Camps and other children's meetings that testify to the fact that the Gospel is still reaching Polish children and teenagers through the ministry of MED. You can also read a brief recollection about our beginnings sent to us by Terry & Wilma Flannigan who often visited us and helped us. Not only do we invite you to read this newsletter, but also to pray and support the Lord's work in Poland through the ministry of MED.

Danuta Pustówka



*O my strength, I watch for you; you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God.*  
Psalm 59:9

Dear Friends,

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness... for His power and love and the wonderful way He answers prayer.

**Looking back.....**

On the 18th of March we were able to speak openly about a new mission just being formed.....  
Child Evangelism Mission.

For a country such as Poland this is truly a MIRACLE!  
We are amazed and deeply grateful to the Lord.

Soon after a new office was rented and renovated. By the end of April we were already busy in preparations for summer activities.  
In June all 11 of the full time workers for CEM met together. As we sat in our own little conference room, the reality of all that had happened struck us as a fresh and we found ourselves speechless. The Lord has given us more than we had dared to ask or even imagine.

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us!**  
Eph. 3:20

It is a big step for all of us. In a country such as Poland no mission group independent of church has been permitted during its years under Communism. Full time Christian work therefore is completely unknown to Polish people and the thought of supporting such a work is completely new to them.

For us to leave secure jobs and go into fulltime commitment was a big challenge.

It became all the more difficult when we realized that this mission would be misunderstood and even attacked. Some church leaders to whom an independent mission was so new in concept feared that we were a new denomination. They tried to stop our work. Roman Catholic leaders were not very pleased with our evangelistic approach. All the more therefore, we looked upon the Lord as our fortress where we can find not only support but also safety.

"O Lord, my God, I take refuge in you....."

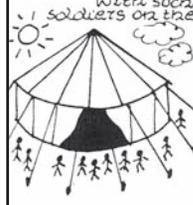
**Did we find it? Oh, YES!.....**

The Lord spoke to us also through Proverbs 27: 23-27. No more doubts... The Lord promised to be our provider, the fortress, strength & guide.

With such a promise we went into the summer work like soldiers on the parade. Oh, how much we would like to thank you for your prayers. The Lord certainly honored them. We had such a special summer.

**The Evangelisation Campaign - 1-8 July**

For the first time we didn't invite any speakers for ourselves. Our young people took the whole responsibility. We met for 4 hours every day for 3 age groups. We were overwhelmed by the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those little ones, who understood the message and responded. Every day there were more and more children committing their lives to Jesus.



## Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

It has been an amazing testimony of God's faithfulness to witness the birth and growth of the MED ministry in Poland. I was there at that special meeting in Dziegielow in October 1990 when eleven young people dedicated themselves to God and the task of evangelising the boys and girls of Poland. There was a real sense of God's calling and a thrill to see these young people willing to forsake all and follow the



Lord. This was the beginning of MED and has resulted in thousands of boys and girls being evangelised all over Poland.

At that time I was the Literature Director for Child Evangelism Fellowship in Poland and involved in many of the training opportunities to help prepare workers to reach the children. In the late 1980's I made several trips to Poland – it was of course the time of communist rule – so we had to be careful in our activities, and sometimes communications were difficult. On one occasion I had travelled all the way from England by car to a town in southern Poland for a weekend conference. When I arrived at the place there was nobody to be found. It took a while to eventually find that the conference had been cancelled. A message had been sent to me but did not arrive. Was this to be a wasted trip? No – soon a class for English conversation was arranged (to provide cover for the police) and of course our conversations were about reaching children with the Gospel.

Both Wilma and I have made several visits in more recent years to give teaching and each time we were blessed as we have enjoyed fellowship with our dear Polish friends. We have seen the workers in action and sensed the real burden they have to reach the children. How thrilling to see children being evangelised in a good Biblical way. We have further helped in

the development of the work through the books published by the CEF Specialized Book Ministry and written by Sam Doherty. Many of these books are available in Polish and used by the MED workers. Times have changed greatly from those early days and now there is much more freedom to reach out with the Gospel.

It is always a blessing to read the prayer letters of the MED workers and to learn of training conferences and new workers being equipped to reach the children. Many and diverse are the activities of these workers as they go into schools to teach the Bible, hold Bible Clubs, and have camps and many other opportunities. Today MED is a work that God is using to bless the nation of Poland. So we send birthday greetings and trust that you will all continue in the good work that God has begun and know God's help and blessing. (Philippians 1:6)

*Terry & Wilma Flannigan*

## Young Explorer's Camps

This past summer for the eighth year in a row, children from all over Poland attended four camps in Wisła Czarne. During the *Great Egyptian Adventure*, 36 volunteers and 4 MED workers took care of 152 campers!

For the seventh year in a row, one of the camps was organized for Special children (those who are mentally handicapped). Thanks to the dedication of Ania Zamkowska and her attractive message that she adapted to the needs and abilities of the campers, they were able to learn Bible truths from the life of Joseph.

In order to bring you closer to what took place during the camps, some of the volunteer workers wrote about their experiences and I encourage you to read their reports and to thank God for their service.





### May they bring fruit...

God gave me a wonderful time at the camps where He revealed the beauty of His creation – in Wisła Czarne there are many charming places and the weather was beautiful – and where He revealed the beauty of the children that He sent to the camps. Thanks to them I realised anew how important it is to preach the Good News to them.

During the school year I teach Sunday School and I see that for many children this is just routine, and the Wordless Book makes no impression on them. However, at the camp I met children who were genuinely fascinated with the story of Joseph. In addition they proved during the evening meetings and other activities that they can put the teaching into practice. May this continue when they go back to their schools and daily activities. May God create from them a generation that is committed to Him. At the evening meetings the children willingly read the Bible and prayed. May their zeal continue, and may they be a good testimony among their peers.

At the last meeting with my group I used the Wordless Book to illustrate the way of salvation. One of the girls later took the Wordless Book from me, looked through it, and asked me questions about the meaning of each colour. Her desire was to have a clean heart and to one day enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I thank God for this and pray that her desire was sincere and will bring abundant fruit in her life.

*Magda Kaleta, Żory*

### A New Experience

This summer my son and I had the privilege to attend for the first time the camp in Wisła Czarne, he as a camper and I as a counsellor. I went there expecting new experiences, but also worrying about whether I will be able to handle the role of a counsellor. Equipped with optimism and aware that many people were praying for us, we started on our 10 hour jour-

ney to the camp. The Lord gave us a good trip and added a nice surprise at the end of it – we met Jaś and his mother who were travelling to the same destination with the same goal that we had. My Mateusz made friends with Jaś and they spent time together before the other children arrived the next day.

From the very beginning the atmosphere of the camp was filled with peace, joy, expectations, and God's presence. We counsellors got to know each other and got along very well. There were no barriers, even though we were from different places and churches. We were bound together with the common goal of serving the Lord and ministering to the children to the best of our ability. I was a little bit frightened after the first staff meeting and I wondered if I will be able to remember all of the details! But the first day with the kids showed that the organization of the camp activities was perfect, there were no problems with discipline, and everyone was very helpful. As a result, all of my anxieties disappeared.

The program of the camp was rich in Bible teaching, and there was a lot of singing, quizzes, and Bible games. The children also had the opportunity (some of them for the very first time) to memorize Bible verses. We also met with a missionary from Africa. One of the attractions was talent night where the children played instruments, danced, sang, or performed in other ways. We also had a testimony night when the children had a chance to tell others about their relationship with the Lord Jesus, or what we can expect from God. There were other attractions such as a horse-cart ride, a visit to Wisła, and swimming. There was no time to be bored! Most important was that all of the children had the opportunity to get to know the Lord Jesus in a personal way.

I am thankful to God for this camp. It was for me a new and wonderful experience.

*Basia Rak, Biłgoraj*



### New Role

This year's Young Explorer's Camp gave me a new role in ministry – the role of camp director. This allowed me to trust God in a special way, and as a result to see anew that there are still people who are committed to ministry and can be relied upon. I can divide the week I spent in Wisła Czarne into three stages: a time of anxiety, a time of trust, and a time of thankfulness. At the start of the camp I wasn't sure if I will be able to handle the tasks. Soon I became confident because the people that I worked with – thanks to the Lord – were fully involved and very responsible in fulfilling their tasks. The last stage was a time of joy and thanking God because the fruit of all of our work in this wonderful ministry was demonstrated in the changed hearts of the children.

*Bartek Nowaczyk-Wyszkowski, Wrocław*

### When Jesus Holds my Hand...

I had a very good time at the camp, and I didn't even think that God could teach me so many things in just one week. I was edified after one of the boys from my group, Karol, said that before the camp he was praying for "uncles" (male counsellors) for the camp, and we had three of them! Another boy, Tomek, was able to minister to all of us with his music talents as he played the keyboard and sang. In addition, his smile was contagious! One morning, Olek – another boy

– woke up from a deep sleep repeating the words: *When Jesus holds my hand...* There are the words that Corrie ten Boom, whose story was told at the camp, often heard from her father.

Every one was so kind at this camp. I haven't been so encouraged by others in such a long time. But most important in all of this was God. My own children who were also campers were changed by God. Now I don't have to persuade them to read the Bible because they themselves want to read it!

*Aneta Sroka, Głogów*

### One week, many memories

Only one week and so many wonderful memories! The Special Young Explorer's Camp and its atmosphere made me feel like I was in a family, although before the camp I didn't know anyone. Why? Because we have the same Father in heaven who gathered us all together! The verse we learned with the children, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10) became alive among us and we all tried to serve one another. The time passed so very quickly because it was well planned – walking, swimming, a horse-cart ride, games, and of course, the most important, the Bible lessons and singing. Mati was singing all the time, and everywhere. Then I remembered these words, that *who sings, prays twice*.

Was everything perfect? Probably not, but I think that the Lord was working where we as people were failing. Probably the most wonderful thing was that we committed the whole camp to Him! I am convinced that it is thanks to Him that we had a good team of counselors and a wonderful group of children who were for us like little rays of sunshine as we sang in one of the songs. It was my first camp of this kind, but if God allows, for sure it will not be the last.

*Joasia Hałat, Ruda Śląska*

### It's a shame I discovered this camp so late

A few weeks have passed since the Special Young Explorer's Camp in Wisła, but it is still very vivid in my mind. I often come back to it. I thought that during this week I will forget about myself as I try to concentrate on the children for whom I would care for. But I soon discovered that I also received a lot. I especially liked the relationships among the counsellors. It was something unusual, and I suppose that it was the result of many prayers before and during the camp. One could feel the support, humility, and willingness to be patient instead of looking out for one's own convenience. I did not think that I would get to like these children so much! Something was breaking inside of me and God gave me warm feeling



towards them. I wanted to understand them better and reach into their world so that they could fully enjoy this camp.

And my thought after the camp? It is a shame that I discovered this camp so late.

*Kasia Stępień, Wrocław*

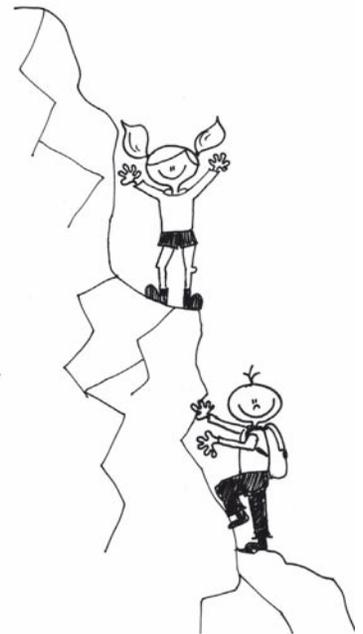
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“I heard about Joseph who dearly loved God...” sung the campers in Wisła Czarne, and you, dear reader, have just now heard about our camps. We hope that your heart rejoices and sings to the Lord out of thankfulness. My heart overflows with gratitude for these unforgettable days with the staff and the campers. It was a GIFT from God Himself! To Him be the glory for every VOLUNTEER that He sent us to serve at the camps, and to help us before and after the camps! We thank God for each CHILD whom He had chosen to participate in our camps, and for every PERSON whose heart He touched and encouraged to financially support this ministry. We thank Him for EVERYONE who prayed for the camps long before they started, while they were going on, and afterwards. We thank Him for the many FRIENDS who support our ministry in different ways, including advertising it and giving a good testimony about it. We also thank God for YOU! Maybe your heart has

already been touched and you already have a part in this ministry. Or perhaps you have just heard about MED and its ministry for the first time and something tells you to take the next step. You are welcome to JOIN US so that you will not have any regrets like Kasia, who said: *It's a shame I discovered this camp so late...*

*Dasia Abramovich*

## WiEC – a Camp for Teenagers



The second half of July has been reserved for our teenager's camp for 9 years. This year was no different. We met in Wisła at the Climbing and English camp that is still very popular among teenagers. This year we ministered to 40 young climbers and 13 who were interested in improving their English. The words of the campers from the evaluation forms tell us that it was a fruitful time. Some of the things that we learned from them:

**What did you like most at the camp?** The people, the atmosphere, the oneness, the people were nice and kind to one another; good relationships among the leaders; the rock face because it was fun to climb it; great climbing instructors; Bible teaching – it brought a lot into my heart...

**What do you plan to apply in your life from this camp?** Quiet time; prayer; I will view heaven differently; I want to be good to others; I want to share Jesus with my friends; I think that I should be more calm with my parents; sexual purity until marriage; to hand over to God my anxieties...

**What important decision did you make during the camp?** That I will come here next year; that I will always smile; I want to be more humble; I discovered that reading the Bible can be nice; that I will faithfully serve the Lord...

**What would you change at the camp?** I wouldn't change anything; the camp was very good, the English was good, and sports, and crafts; that we should have the wake-up call later at 8; we shouldn't have the morning warm-up because we are exhausted and have no strength to get up ☺; that the camp would be also for older teenagers...

## From the diary of a first-time counsellor

- July 17<sup>th</sup>. I leave Lublin and head towards Wisła for the WiEC camp. It's my debut as a counsellor, but I hope for the best. Yes, there is some level of stress but I repeat to myself that if I enjoy working with the kids, I will manage.

- I should be in Wisła at 3 p.m. The trip planned long ago was to go with no problems. The connections were ideal, so here I am, sitting in the train, having a sandwich and feeling as if I myself was going to camp. After a few hours I learn that the train is delayed and I would not catch the next connection. I panicked a little bit as I was stuck in Pszczyna. Next train in 5 hours, and Danusia is not answering her phone. I am trying to get to Wisła but the area is new to me and I have no idea what I can do. At last I miraculously catch Danusia on the phone in the MED office and I get useful instructions how to travel to Wisła by bus. My back pack is getting heavier and heavier, and it's so hot! In Bielsko-Biała I change to the bus to Wisła. I will be late. *Well, it is my first time and I am failing at the very beginning. This camp director, Danusia, will yell at me, I think, and fell asleep.*

- When I finally get to Wisła everything is different. The staff members are already there: Ewa, Danusia (smiling!), two Asias, Bastek, Remik, Agata, John and Rick. Everyone is full of enthusiasm and ready to work. We get to know each other, then we hike to see the rock that the campers will be climbing.

- Every one of us gets some information about his/her group. Ten strange names. Who will they be? What will they be like? Some of them have come to



this camp before so they will probably know more about it than me. How to surprise them? What will interest them? Or maybe just leave the things to run on their own?

- The next day the climbing instructors arrive, and later all of the campers. At first they are kind of shy, quiet, forming groups with friends. *Just average teenagers, I thought with relief.*

- But each day I discovered that they were not just average. Each day we got to know and understand each other better, and to surprise one another in a more positive way. It was an incredible time. On one side we – the counsellors – felt sometimes like campers, and on the other side they – the wonderful group of teenagers – had many good ideas, a lot of energy, and a passion. Between us was the motto of the camp: *Just try it!*

- So we tried different things during these 10 days. It was too short for us – after 10 days we were just starting to unwind and no one wanted to go back home! We were breaking down the barriers and getting to know one another better. Someone was developing his talents, someone was using it for others, for some people it was an occasion to try something new, to be useful.

- It was a lot of laughter but also tears... leading to smile, because in spite of much fun, God taught us a lot and He opened our eyes to many things. We began and closed each day with Him. I am thankful

that He took so good care of us and gave us such an intensive time.

- When I was going back home I felt how tired I was, and also how I missed all those wonderful moments of the camp. And quietly I thought that WiEC must be on the list of God's favourite camps.

*Kasia Jaruga, Lublin*

## In Zelow

I had the privilege to participate in children's meetings July 18-25 that were organized during the 5<sup>th</sup> Evangelistic Campaign in Zelów. Before leaving my home I prayed about this time and God gave us who ministered among the children a deep unity in the Holy Spirit. Although I met some of the co-workers for the first time, I felt that I had known them forever. We prayed every morning, praised the Lord, gave Him the burdens of our hearts, and asked Him to work in us and through us. The Holy Spirit directed our prayers, especially for the children and young people, and also for the others who ministered during this week. We also learned that the church was undergoing some major changes, and I believe that the Lord remembers Zelów and has this place in His plan. A large part of the church congregation is descended from Czech refugees who left their country when they were persecuted for reading the Bible and believing in Jesus Christ. Satan sometimes succeeds in weakening or deceiving us, but he will not hinder God's work in us, because the Lord Jesus Christ is the Victor! Of course, we have to pray...

*Ewa Sopur, Stary Imielnik*



## The end of summer

Another summer holiday has come to an end, and some children are already thinking about school and what awaits them in the new school year. However, not all of them, because in Golasowice the children could still attend a Vacation Bible Club. During this



time they travelled together with shipwrecked Robinson to a desert island where they learned what the result is of sin in our lives, who can save us from eternal punishment, how important it is to fellowship with other Christians, and to be ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ. They also joyfully sang songs to God's glory, memorized Bible verses, and participated in Bible quizzes, games and crafts. The children were incredibly encouraging, which made us want to spend time with them and do something for them, despite the fact that there was a lot of work to be done before and during the program. This year I was surprised by the number of children who came. I thought that we may have 20 of them, but we had almost 40 each day! The Lord God likes to surprise us, and I am thankful to Him for this. I thank Him also for the people who joined me and helped a lot. One or two people would not be able to cope with everything. Therefore, if you ever have time during the summer, I would encourage you to look for those who organize children's meetings and ask if you can help. You don't necessarily have to teach Bible lessons; you can use your voice to sing or your hands to prepare the meeting room, or the snacks, or do the crafts. Perhaps, you can simply pray for those who work with the children. Prayer is needed very much!

My prayer is that these Vacation Bible Clubs were a blessing to each participant, to their families, and to the village that they live in. I hope that God will change the children's hearts, and that they in turn would influence the future of Poland.

*Ewa Mertens*

## I love you very much

Five days in August were spent in Leszna at the Holiday Bible Club meetings. The weather was just like that which one of the boys prayed on the first day: *that it wouldn't rain much...* Thanks to the fact that it only rained briefly during one day of our meetings, we spent more time outside. It was especially good for our kindergarten group in which we had a

record number this year – we even had a set of triplets coming! The nearby playground was used very well, although we had other activities for the children. We had Bible lessons, Bible verses, singing, and some thrilling moments listening to the prayer of a five year old: *Mister God, I love you very much and thank you that you are my best friend...*

We also had a group of school age children plus a few young teenagers who attentively listened to the Bible teaching and diligently memorized the Bible verses. I thought at one point that maybe this time we would skip the traditional memory verse competition, but the children themselves asked about it. We then said that only those who memorized all five verses can participate. However, how can you refuse a child who insists he wants to say just one verse? Finally we squeezed 13 volunteers who wanted to compete into a full program on the last day of our meetings and awarded prizes for their work and enthusiasm.

We believe that two girls joined God's family during this week when they prayed for salvation.

*Danuta Pustówka*



## Gabi is back to the ministry

I am happy to inform you that I rejoined the MED ministry in August. It is a big step of faith, because at the moment there is no financial support for my salary. However, it was the same 20 years ago. We all took a step of faith and gave everything to God – our former careers, our ambitions, and our financial security. God proved to be faithful and through these years we lacked nothing. The decision about coming back wasn't easy. Our kids are still small – Emilka is 5 and Piotruś is 3 years old. They still need a lot of our attention. However, they will attend kindergarten in September, which will enable me to work half-time in MED.

*Gabi Piecha*

## It never returns empty

Teaching the Bible to children from a Jewish background is always a challenge to me. At each camp, in addition to the truths taught in the Bible lessons, I emphasise the importance of memorizing God's Word. I did this in Wisła Malinka this summer with a group of children – descendants of Abraham, Issac and Jakob – from Ukraine. To my great joy 12 out of 21 children memorized all of the Bible verses! Some of the children were only 7 years old! Although for some children the motivation was getting a prize, I strongly believe that God will use His Word in their lives in just the right time, because *So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11).*

*Lidia Króliczek*

## In the near future

The busy summer is already behind us, and in front of us is another school year. In October the MED workers will resume their regular meetings in Sunday Schools, Bible clubs and after school clubs. We are also working on new materials that we plan to reissue or publish soon. It is also time to begin preparing for our jubilee MED conference on February 8-12, 2011.

In addition to our regular meetings we are invited to lead Intensive Teacher Training in Polkowice (September 10-12, October 15-17, November 5-7). We also plan a regional children's workers conferences in Studzionka (October 23) and in Ozorków (November). We would appreciate your prayers for all of the MED activities!

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