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September 2012

A Look at Lodz

A look back from team member Tom Georges:

What an experience this was. There were times of prayer, times of hard work, lots of hard work, lots of walking, times of fun and laughter, of making new friends from across the globe, playing music in trendy clubs, in the public square, and in the dusty courtyards of century-old tenements, and lots of trying to talk to local Polish people without knowing the language. I learned that, in Poland, most buildings are not air conditioned, that when you ask for ice in your drink you get three cubes and that's it, that water from coolers is not much cooler than room temperature, that speed limits are just "suggestions," and that you pay 1 zl (about 33 cents) to use public toilets. I also learned that the Polish people are warm, kind, tireless, and eager to serve when they are served...I was able to demonstrate the love of Christ in a tangible way, building on work being done right now by ministries in the area, such as the group that brought us over - [PROeM](#).



Andrew dancing

Kevin (Wygład) and I decided to join the Irish team in the apartment courtyards to play music while they engaged the children there in face painting and other games and activities. Kevin borrowed fellow Atlanta team member Madison's guitar, and I took the cajon (a wooden percussion instrument) and we took the bus to the century-old Poznanski apartment complex. Our playing attracted quite a crowd, including an older gentleman named Andrew who couldn't help himself and had to dance....Both the Atlanta and Ireland team gathered children to do games and face-painting. That afternoon we also met Matthew, who professed Christianity as his faith (Verna: although later we found out that he was only a cultural Christian-he did not have a personal relationship with Christ.) He spoke English very slowly, yet was quite good at it. He brought our group nectarines, and backed his car up to where the group (was working) for music from the



Face (and body) painting by Madi

stereo. Someone else brought many of us glasses and filled them with bottled water, since it was getting quite hot that day. We were very struck by the generosity of Matthew and others. A comment by one of those in attendance: "You have brought such joy to a place that has known much darkness." This is why we were there, and our prayer is that people like Matthew will continue the spirit of giving and love without us there.

Update: We connected Mathew with Rafal, the pastor from Proem, and are praying that Mathew gets involved in the church plant and comes to understand who Christ is, becomes a follower and disciple, sharing Christ with those in his sphere of influence.



Mathew and nephew

An Open Door for our Message

"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...." Colossians 4:3

We ask you to pray for us as we ask God where to concentrate our efforts in the coming year. Pray for Worship For Youth 2013, coming next fall.

Our immediate need for prayer is for Prison Ministry. We are going into Atlanta area prisons on Sept. 22 and the weekend of Oct. 19, taking a live band both to entertain inmates and to inspire and soften hearts to listen to the Gospel message.

I Left My Heart in....Rome?

Is there a song about leaving your heart in Rome like there is about San Francisco? RoPM didn't go to Rome this summer. The missionaries there were blessed with other churches who came and shared their gifts in music and arts. But we were able to talk with Mary and Joe Sirico, our GEM contacts, while they were in the States and to enjoy Clarissa D'Angelo, one of our students and the daughter of our hearts, for three weeks in our home.



Camille, Clarissa, Meredith

Rome and all of Italy are desperately in need of prayer. We've written before about what a center of the occult Italy is. From Greater Europe Mission's website:

"There is a huge distrust of organized religion among the people and in general Italians believe the Bible has been manipulated and corrupted by human agendas. Christian workers there covet your prayers." Here are some specific things that GEM suggests you can pray for:

- Those whom God is calling to join us in Italy to help us grow His Kingdom.
- Softened hearts and ears to hear His call.
- All the seeds planted during our summer evangelism to grow into new multiplying disciples.
- A strong start in September with an openness

to finding and sharing Jesus.

- That the strongholds of Lust, Pride, Occultism and Religious Tradition will break.

You can join with Greater Europe Mission's prayer initiative on their [website](#), getting regular updates and more information about the growth of the kingdom in Europe. There is a need for people to prayer walk in the city of Rome and partner with local missionaries as they disciple and build small groups using the Creation to Christ story. And while there are other churches in place for the 2013 music and arts camps, we may provide teachers. If you feel called to any of these things, please contact Verna by return email or through information below.



Photo courtesy of gemission.org

In dependence on Him,

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