



New Life News



A Prayer Letter from Brent and Jennie Smith

August-October 2006

Welcome to Oberursel, Germany!

“So what do you do for a living,” asked the Enterprise rental truck attendant in Oberursel, Germany. “Well, I go around Eurasia telling people about a person named Jesus...I work with the Lutheran church.”

“Oh really...so are there any Lutherans in Germany?”

It has been an amazing last two months as we get settled here in Oberusel, Germany. Some unexpected responses have given opportunity for personal witness even here in the land where the Reformation began. On the family front, we have much to praise God for as always: Zachary and Katelyn started German schools. Katelyn is in preschool and Zachary started the first grade in a



German bilingual school that will teach him subjects in both English and German. Dinner conversation usually involves listening to the new words that were picked up during the week. Sophia adds smiles that show off her first three teeth. Jennie is keeping more than busy with the kids and taking German language lessons four times a week. **Pray for** the missionary team here to quickly learn the German language and culture. **Pray also** that the millions of Lutherans and other Christians in Germany will boldly tell people about Jesus. Oberursel is a cornfield or two away from Frankfurt, Germany (pictured on right). The seminary of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), an LCMS partner church, is also located in Oberursel.



Missionaries in Slovakia and Beyond

Part of the delay in sending this prayer letter has been an abundant amount of travel the past three months. Additionally, it has been a challenge to choose what to write because of the tremendous amount of mission activity and so little space on this page.



One of the special trips in September was to visit Tisovec, Slovakia. Missionary Rob Lindsey and I drove 4 hours from Bratislava to the small town of around 4000 people. Missionaries



Lori Lenz and David and Radka Fiala are teaching English at the boarding high school to approximately 300 students. **Please pray** for these missionaries as they challenge these students, most of which return home to various cities on the weekends, to share Jesus with 5 people every weekend. **Pray also** for the other 11 English language teaching missionaries as they do similar work in Slovakia, Hungary, England, Lithuania, and Poland. **Pictured Left:** Brent in Tisovec, Slovakia with the Director of the school where missionaries David Fiala and Lori Lenz are teaching. Volunteer coordinator Rob Lindsey is also

pictured. Pictured Right: Brent with Pastor Saulius Juozaitis of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania and missionary Joanna Henderson who is teaching English in Kaunas, Lithuania.

200,000 More Gospel Touch Opportunities in Latvia

In a recent census, 500,000 people of the 2.6 million people in Latvia said they were Lutheran. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, an LCMS partner church, has 300,000 baptized in their official books and around 50,000 in weekly worship. What could the statistics be telling us? As the country builds its democracy after being part of the Soviet Union from 1944-91, there is a trend to identify with the Lutheran heritage that has existed in the area since the



reformation in the 16th century. But what about all the people who appear to be uncommitted to weekly worship? In our meeting earlier in September Archbishop Janis Vanags agreed that this is a call to mission, a call to touch these people again and again with the Gospel so they realize that *reconnection* to Lutheran heritage is really being in *relationship* with Jesus Christ. **Pray** for God to call an **LCMS missionary team** to join these partners in the mission movement in these Baltic countries.

Left: Brent reads the official newspaper of the Lutheran Church in Latvia with the general editor and her assistant. This weekly newspaper is the oldest newspaper in Latvia. Right: Diaconal (Human Care) Center workers

One Message, One Mission!

Most of my time is spent in mission or with missionaries. Recently however, I spent Sept. 26-29 in Lithuania as the LCMS guest at a Lutheran World Federation conference for the Baltic and Russian countries. Much debate between the members took place over the new blessing of same sex unions by the Lutheran Church in Sweden and in north Germany. **Pray that** all Christians would proclaim the one true message in mission.

Additional Prayers

Praise God for missionary Amy Kashenov who has recovered from surgery and has returned to work in Kazakhstan.

Pray for missionary Dan Forehand who has had to end his term of service in Kazakhstan early and return home for health reasons.

Pray for Mike and Ann Wade who will be joining the Eurasia team later in the year. They will serve as Agricultural missionaries in Kyrgyzstan.

Pray for Larry and Priscilla Ogg who also have settled in Oberursel, Germany. Larry is the new and only Eurasia Business Manager.

Pray also for God to raise up more workers to fill openings in Kazakhstan and other positions that may be possible in Eurasia.

Praise God for Morris and Jean Olson serving in Kazakhstan as Morris completed a Director of Christian Outreach degree earlier this year!

Pray for Tim and Rita Nickel as Tim was asked to be the field leader for Kazakhstan beginning July 15, 2006. Tim will now lead the missionaries and work in both Central Asia fields of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Pray for the current prayer and planning/budgeting process that is taking place now for 2007-2008. **Pray God** will provide the people, positions, places, and support partners to accomplish what He would have us do in the upcoming year.

LCMS World Mission In Eurasia ~ Brent and Jennie Smith ~ LTHH, Altkonigstr. 150, Oberursel, Germany 61440 ~ Phone: 011-49-6171-883-752 ~

Email: Brent.Smith@LCMS.org ~ Website: <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=5880> or www.lcmsrussia.org .

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