

LCMS World Mission in Eurasia

A Prayer Letter From Brent & Jennie Smith - November-December 2006

"So when we get done telling all the people about Jesus, then what are we going to do?"



Zachary had his first break from 1st grade and so he went with me to visit LCMS missionaries who are serving in the south-eastern part of the Czech Republic and western part of Poland.

As we boarded an overnight train and got settled in I briefed Zach on the itinerary of the trip, namely, that we were going to tell people about Jesus and encourage missionaries like Jodi Rolf and Jonathan and Jordan Benning who are teaching English for one to two years and reaching young people with the Gospel at Liceum Ogólnokształcące Towarzystwa Ewangelickiego (LOTE), which is an elementary, middle, and high school.

After settling into his favorite spot on the top bunk in the train car his six year old face looked at me and asked, "So when we get done telling all the people about Jesus, then what are we going to do?"



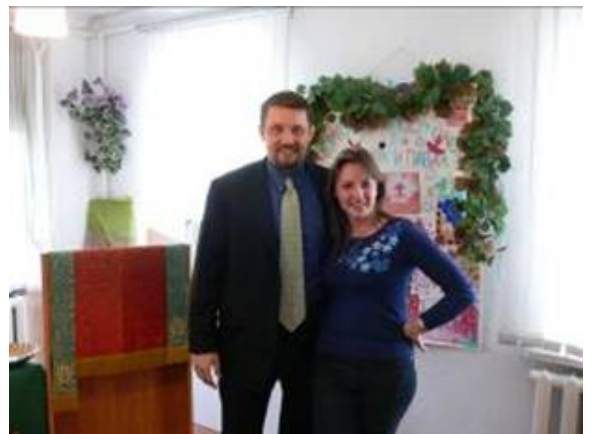
My late night answer must have set his mind to thinking until he fell asleep. I asked, "Do you really think we will really finish telling all the people?"

During this time of year, where we thank God for the blessings

of the past year at Thanksgiving and prepare to celebrate the first coming of Christ who was born to save all people from their sins (Matt 1.21), we may be focusing more on beginnings than endings. However Christmas is also increasing our anticipation of Jesus' second advent to end this fallen order and usher in the new one in all its fullness. In the mean time we have a lot of work to do. Pray that people in the Czech Republic, who experts say is the most atheistic country in eastern Europe, will have their eyes opened to the truth of the Gospel. Pray for Jodi and the Bennings (pictured above) who daily bring us one step closer to getting the job done.

12 Years Later : The Mission Expands in Kazakhstan

It is not everyday that you get to revisit people with whom you had the privilege of sharing Jesus. But this past month missionary Larry Ogg and I visited Almaty, Kazakhstan which was the first location the church sent me to as a single missionary in 1995. The mobile medical clinic continues to address human care needs and make inroads into this Muslim country as it treated over 10,000 women and children last year. Determined and dedicated missionaries like Amy (Hartwig) Kashenov, who has been in country since 1994, continue to work at telling all the people about Jesus. New missionaries like David Baker are finding new opportunities as he was featured on local T.V. playing the Dombra (to see him in



action, click [here](#)) a Kazakh folk instrument. What was once the People of God Lutheran Seminary in Almaty is now expanding with Lutherans in Kyrgyzstan to become the Central Asian Lutheran Seminary. They will receive their first international student from Mongolia next fall. It was exciting to encourage the other missionaries and see the leaders of the puppet ministry which reached 6000 children in the last year but a highlight was listening to the testimony, faith and life of youth group members. Twelve years ago Tanya (pictured at right) would travel approximately two hours on a bus to youth group. God used her to bring her mother into the church as well as an uncle who is now a pastor. Tanya works as a sports reporter for the main Kazakh sports channel and drives her car back to her home village where there is a Lutheran house church.

Praise God with us that His Word does its work in bringing people to faith in the Christ child. Pray for all the work in Eurasia so that God will provide the people, positions, places, support and partners to accomplish what He would have us do in the upcoming year.

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