



Pointing People to Christ

ANABAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Fall 2014

Volume XIV Issue 3

JOINING THE AIM BOARD

Two board members recently completed five-year terms and are leaving the board. We thank Nathan Miller and Dennis Weaver for their service on the board. Shannon Lehman and Craig Wenger have joined the board. We welcome them to the board and anticipate the contributions they will make.

New Board Member Profiles

SHANNON & JOELLA LEHMAN



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I live in Guys Mills, PA and attend Shalom Mennonite (Cochranton, PA). I work in the construction trade doing framing and general carpentry.

Why did you accept the invitation to join the AIM board?

I accepted the request to join the AIM board because I have already invested lots of time and energy in Poland and consider it a privilege to do all I can to support my brothers and sisters who have committed themselves to living there. I have many current relationships in Poland and so being on the board is personal to me and I hope it is personal to my friends over there too.

*Why do you care about the work in Poland?
What do you hope to see happen?*

My dad talked about the "open door" in Europe after the Iron Curtain fell in 1989. I have seen many people take up this vision and make it a reality in Poland today. Each person who is faithful in prayer, service, and giving of time becomes part of the growth and success of the church in Poland. As a board member I want to stand and do each small task in this specific time that will grow and strengthen our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe.

CRAIG & BRENDA WENGER



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a computer technician at Home Wood Furniture in Meadville, PA. My wife and I attend Pleasant View Mennonite Church in Cochranton, PA.

Why did you accept the invitation to join the AIM board?

I have known about AIM for about seven years now. I see this invitation as a way to broaden my knowledge of the work in Poland and to hopefully assist in seeing God's kingdom expanded there.

*Why do you care about the work in Poland?
What do you hope to see happen?*

As was mentioned above, I am glad God has opened the door for me to see the Kingdom expand in Poland. It would be exciting to see the work get to the place where it can be turned over to local people.

SHARING JESUS AT DAY CAMP

Day Camps, new to the AIM program were from July 7-18.

Shannon Lehman, Nate Waldron, and Atlee Graybill helped with the camps and here share about their experience.



I am excited about this opportunity to initiate Day Camps in Poland because of three specific factors: First, there is a vision for working together across denominational lines. It is rewarding to serve and worship together and then experience God's presence in cultural and denominational diversity. Second, we want this VBS to be sustainable and reproducible for the Polish church. The American team leads the "partnership" with the local church the first summer. The Polish church takes the lead and Americans take a lesser role the second year. At the conclusion of two years of Day Camp, the Polish church "graduates" takes full responsibility for the min-

istry. Tom Baker is the president of Across Ministries and he partnered with us in producing resources which are adaptable, sustainable, and reproducible! The third motivation was the special privilege of having my friend, Atlee Graybill, join the team as the English activity leader. Not only did this lighten my load as team leader, but it simply made the trip much better because we had served in Poland together in the days when AIM was first being established. We recognize our wives for their dedication to our homes and children in our absence.

After two weeks of Day Camp we were exhausted, but praise God, our hearts were full of praise and a sense

that God was blessing us and calling us to continue this work next year. As a combined team we experienced God in and through each other. I cannot say thank you enough to the staff for your patience with me. I have seen bravery and resolve displayed in ways that have given me a fresh hope and energy to engage in the battle for God's Kingdom! The seed has been sown and as it takes root God will raise up those who will nurture and disciple these tender plants.

Shannon Lehman



Reflecting on Bible Class

Nate Waldron

It was exciting to me that I was asked to teach the Bible lesson to the oldest students. I found that the students were very willing to participate in any activities I could come up with. As a teacher, I like to interact with my students, but that was a challenge because of the language barrier. A huge factor in getting all of my energy to the students was having a vivacious translator, which I was indeed blessed with. I tried to ask as many questions as I could in the midst of my stories about Peter. The lessons progressed through concepts about sin, salvation, and forgiveness using examples such as Peter's denial of Jesus, Jesus' reinstating Peter, and Peter's healing of a lame man.

Something intrigued me about the choice of stories and putting the focus on Peter. Poland is a very Catholic-influenced society, and Peter is a very important saint in their tradition.

To varying degrees, the children were already familiar with the Bible stories, and with basic concepts about Jesus. Most of my questions, then, they had some answers. Both weeks, though, different students gave very Catholic answers to the question of how to make your heart clean: do good things, and go to confession. I tried to gently make it clear that Jesus alone is the way to a clean heart.

I got the students out of their seats as much as I could - up on the tables during the storm that Peter walked on the water and walking past a dirty beggar as we went to the hour of prayer at the temple. They paid good attention, knew the answers to my questions, and made the time fun for me.

The Long Term View

Atlee Graybill

In the eleven years since I have lived in Poland, much has changed, yet some things remain the same. During my recent 2 ½-week mission trip to the country, I saw firsthand how this country and the AIM mission have developed during those years.

When I first set eyes on this land in July 2001, Poland was only twelve years removed from the domineering grip of Soviet control. The architecture was unimaginative; most buildings were square or rectangular and gray in color. Roads were in poor repair.

Today, many old buildings have been brightly painted, and new ones are being built. Modern architecture has certainly found a place to flourish in this land of gray squares. New divided highways, which they proudly call "autostrada," are being constructed.

The most remarkable of all changes are the ones evident in the AIM mission itself. A bustling English school that employs at least six mission workers and even a few Polish people, has taken shape. Polish personnel answer the phones and take care of student registrations, giving a Polish "face" to the school, which helps students feel comfortable in attending.

The mission church has come so far since the early days, when three of four Polish people would come to a mission family's house for a service with the American team of fourteen. Now, eleven years later, the church has more Polish people on the average Sunday, than it does Americans. The singing and preaching is mostly in Polish. Polish people often lead worship, teach Sunday school, moderate the service, and even preach the sermon.

In the end, I experienced a Poland that is physically different than it was eleven years ago, yet remains filled with people who have a great need to know Jesus in a personal way.



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AIM Financial Report
April 1, 2014—June 30, 2014

Available balance April 1, 2014 \$28,347

Income

Unrestricted donations..... \$42,147
 Restricted donations \$7,033
 English lessons..... \$6,593
 Other Income \$59
 Total income \$55,832

Expenses

Labor \$21,168
 Administrative \$192
 Facilities..... \$2,241
 Personnel..... \$12,276
 Public relations \$1,024
 Publications \$5,639
 Supplies \$1,888
 Transportation \$1,439
 Utilities \$1,049
 Other expenses \$82
 Total expenses \$46,998

Net profit (loss)..... \$8,834

Assets released from restriction \$7,033

Restricted funds June 30, 2014 \$0

Available unrestricted funds \$37,181

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