

Autumn 2011



Greetings from Evangelical School of Theology.

We wish you could be with us in Wroclaw as we experience warmer than usual temperatures and enjoy beautiful fall colors of red, orange and yellow. The past several months have provided EST staff, faculty and students with opportunities to see God open doors and guide us in new directions.

Mission Possible (July 2011). This was a unique project that included a group of young people and three adults from White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. The participants learned about Polish history and culture through lectures and several practical activities. The objective of the project was to show young people the development of ministry and reconciliation in Wroclaw and its relation to the present mission of EST. There were tours to the White Stork Synagogue in Wroclaw as well as Auschwitz and Krakow.

The group took part in workshops on the history and ministry of EST, missions, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and intercultural communication as well as practical training and service. Together with Polish volunteers and EST staff, the group cleaned a section of a Jewish cemetery in Wroclaw. Photo right: Group at Jewish cemetery in Wroclaw. Also, in cooperation with members of Second Baptist Church, the group provided activities and games for neighborhood children. The group also visited the Center for Psychiatry



and Speech Disorders of Children and Youth. On Sunday, the tour members were divided into three groups and attended various churches in Wroclaw (Baptist, Lutheran and Pentecostal). Through conversations with church members the groups learned about the social and missionary activities of these churches.

Even though there was an intense plan for the week there was also time to relax and have fun (sightseeing and rope climbing), which helped to develop good relations between the group, Polish volunteers and EST staff. All of these activities made a big impression on the group members as they were moved by what they saw and this contributed to reflection and discussions between the participants and volunteers. Several young people said they wanted to come back but stay longer next time.



EST in Transition. The first change is the sale of the EST building. A great deal of time, prayer, discussion and consideration went into this decision by the EST board. The good news is that EST faculty, administrative staff and library will remain in the EST building for at least the next 10 years as part of an agreement with the new owner. This change gives us flexibility and opportunities to focus on the goal of EST, which is to strengthen the Evangelical movement in

Poland by equipping Christians for effective ministry. We are encouraged by the number of new students beginning this fall, especially in the BA program and the School of Biblical Languages. Please pray for the School of Leaders and for God to lead men and women to be a part of the specialized training offered in this program. Other programs and courses include opening an additional center of Open Theological Academy in Glogow, which is about two hours NW of Wroclaw. Also, we are working on a new course geared to high school students.



Conferences. We have organized two conferences so far this academic year. The most recent conference was at the end of October and connected with the Days of Reformation Series that began in 2009. A Catholic priest-professor and a member of the EST faculty were invited to talk about the Reformation from different viewpoints.

Following the lectures there was a concert, during which an EST graduate, with his family, played and sang Luther's songs. The whole event went very well and was attended by both Catholics and Protestants and many stayed long after the concert to talk in a friendly atmosphere.



In a few days EST will host a gospel concert with the title "On the road of eternity". The participants will go from church to church (four all together) and sing Orthodox, Catholic and Lutheran songs. At the end they will come to EST and sing joyful gospel music. We are expecting a good turnout.

In the next newsletter we will share about future ideas, strategies, additional projects and plans for the future. Let's praise the Lord for his blessings and guidance during these times of transition and changes! He gives us strength to continue, develop and dream. Thank you for your prayers and your support. If you have any questions or comments, please, let us know.

Gratefully,

Dr. Wojciech Szczerba, Rector (w.szczerba@ewst.pl) and Marek Kucharski, Chancellor (m.kucharski@ewst.pl)

Evangelical School of Theology needs to raise an additional **\$8,000** a **month** for this ministry. Funds are needed either in one-time gifts or in monthly support.

In the $\overline{\text{US}}$, gifts should be sent to:

Evangelical School of Theology Debra Ferguson, CPA Assistant Treasurer 2495 Barker Road Oxford, NC 27565 USA

Outside of the US, gifts can be sent to:

Unia Ewangelikalna w RP, ul. sw. Jadwigi 12, 50-266 Wroclaw POLAND PL 21 1020 5242 0000 2102 0174 8656 Bank PKO BP S.A. PKO BP S.A III Oddzial Wroclaw ul. Powstancow Sl. 60 53-333 Wroclaw, POLAND SWIFT/BIC: BPKOPLPW