



Evangelical School of Theology – Wrocław, Poland

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March 2014

Greetings from Wrocław,

It seems that here in Poland, summer is coming sooner than usually, but politically winter may be at the door. **I think you are all aware of what is going on in Ukraine.** I need to confess that we, in Poland and post-communist countries, are concerned and closely watching the situation on our eastern border. It is very difficult and complicated and, unfortunately, very close to Poland. Who could expect even a few weeks ago that the situation would turn out this way and Ukraine would lose Crimea? As Poles we don't trust Russia and Putin – too many wars, aggression, threats and deaths going back many centuries.

As members of NATO and the European Union, I do not think Poland is really in danger of imminent military aggression, but it seems that the situation will get even more complicated than it is now. Russia still dominates Europe with oil and gas, plus it is a huge market where many countries sell their goods. I am not sure if the European Union is ready for serious sanctions. **In the meantime, some of the EST students go often to Ukraine and Moldavia and serve there,** trying to help people who are really hurting. This is what we can do practically. I am so pleased with our students, who cross the eastern border of Poland and serve with Christians in Ukraine and Moldavia. Please, keep them in your prayers.

Below is a 2013 report from two EST students who live in Poland but travel regularly to Ukraine and Moldavia where they provide eye and ear exams for those who can't afford them, teach about God's love and give practical help to the people there.

In 2013, we worked in Moldavia and in Ukraine. In Moldavia, there were two medical mission trips that focused on optometry and audiology - with a team of three people (between May and October). In Ukraine, the emphasis was medical missions but we also did evangelism during the summer months (*Holidays with Jesus*). The Ukraine team included nine missionaries all together divided into three/four people and four trips (between April and August). The evangelistic mission outreaches included 150 people, mainly children. We co-operated with the local church – Church of the Living God.

Statistics related to our mission trips: The medical mission trip in Moldavia provided over 820 consultations, issued over 1100 glasses and 17 hearing aids. In 2013, we sent to Moldavia altogether 1590 glasses, 215 of which were made by the two EST students. In Ukraine we saw approximately 310 patients and provided about 325 glasses and six hearing aids. We work alone, i.e. without support of churches or organizations. We are helped by regular people, mainly believers but also others. They collect glass frames, hearing aids, clothes and evangelistic materials. Recently, the Biblical Missions Association and Children's Friends Mission have offered patronage for our collecting efforts. In 2014, we will have the tenth anniversary of our operation.

Studies at EST emphasize practical preparation for ministry. The student practice is not only an educational requirement but a real adventure in every dimension - spiritually, physically and intellectually.



Currently, **there is a team of EST students preparing for a mission trip to Ukraine.** In a few months they will personally experience the work of God among the Ukrainian Roma and assist them in the hardships of everyday life that is often poor. One aspect of preparation was a training retreat in January/February 2014 when the team went to the mountains to pray, build relationships and prepare for the conditions they will experience on the mission field.

Prayer requests for:

- Students who will be going on the mission trip to Ukraine to minister to the Roma/Gypsies. As a school we support them financially and spiritually.
- The official opening of the Evangelical School of Theology Educational Center and re-branding ceremony (new logo, colors, etc.) on April 12, 2014.
- New centers of Open Academy of Theology are growing and developing as planned and EST is quite busy managing them.
- The beginning of the EST recruitment campaign and that we will have as many students in October 2014 as we had for the 2013-2014 academic year.
- Workshops/conferences scheduled in May and June.
- Time spent building and strengthening relationships with church and university leaders and city officials in Wroclaw. Recently, we were invited to give a short lecture and report to the Wroclaw City Board about our school and our relationships with international organizations.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for this ministry.

Yours in Christ,
 Dr. Wojciech Szczerba, Rector
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Evangelical School of Theology. Funds are needed either in one-time gifts or in monthly support.		
<p>In the US gifts should be sent to:</p> <p>Debra Ferguson, CPA Assistant Treasurer 2495 Barker Road Oxford, NC 27565 USA</p>	<p>Outside of the US gifts can be sent to:</p> <p>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</p>	<p>In Canada make checks payable to:</p> <p>reSource Leadership Intl. #200 - 5726 Minoru Boulevard Richmond, BC V6X 2A9 CANADA</p> <p>Indicate that funds are for Evangelical School of Theology in Poland.</p>