

My first intercultural mission trip—Poland

The mission trip to Poland was planned for July 20-29, 2007. We had a delay in Chicago on the way home so we actually got home on July 30th. But that was good. We were safe and God gave us a day in the states as a team to begin our adjustment to the time change to debrief. We are thankful to those that waited in Minneapolis to bring us home!

I am so thankful for the opportunity to have served the Lord in Poland and allow God to change me and deepen my relationship with Him through it as well.

It surprised me how well we got to know the Poles and that no one on our team got sick or was seriously injured in the construction work on the camp. My experience in Poland was a little different from what I anticipated. The roads and vehicles were different than in America. All the vehicles were manual instead of automatic.

The vision of camp H2O is to reach others for Christ as a center for summer camps, conferences, leadership training programs, youth retreats, and English camps. The way that our team fit into H2O's plan is that we seemed to have been put there to encourage Scott and Jan Anderson, the full-time missionaries serving in Poland with Josiah Venture. Visit www.josiahventure.org to learn more about how the Lord is reaching people in Eastern European countries.

The work we did there was mainly demolition of walls which filled a pit and we also poured some cement in a section of basement that we filled up with sand and rubble to work on leveling the floor. Other ministry opportunities were: sharing our testimony, distributing flyers to invite people to the purity talks that we also helped with as a team. I was able to give my testimony at an evening service and I enjoyed helping with the equipment during the purity talks. I longed to be baptized as Jesus was and I asked to be baptized in the camp lake. Sharing my testimony and being the first to be baptized there, it became a dedication as the Lord prepares this camp for exciting ministry for years to come. I pray seeds are planted for a testimony in Christ, obedience to His call, and devotion to reach those that do not yet know the peace in knowing Him!

A typical day: breakfast at 7:30, devotions at 8, work assignments at 8:15, working from 8:30 to noon. Then we had about an hour for lunch and worked again from 1:30 to 4. We had free time from 4 to 6, supper, and then the evening service around the camp fire. Soon it was 11 PM and it was the end of the day.

A humorous story on this trip was when we were on our way to Scott and Jan's and someone forgot to close the back of the van of which resulted in some of the luggage ending up all down the center of the road connecting to the highway.

Prayer was one of the most vital parts of this trip. God answered prayer that the talks would turn out good, that people would consider Christ, safety in the work, keeping healthy, and that the stress level would not be too high on the team. A couple of things that God did in my life on this trip is that He taught me to obey those that are above me and He also helped me with working as a team and that it's not like I have to do things by myself with no help. He also deepened my understanding of missions. I believe God has and will use this experience to prepare me as I go into full-time missions with my family with Wycliffe Bible Translators. I am now excited to learn more about Wycliffe-Poland!

The culture there seems more laid back than in America. The food there is **A LOT** better and really healthy. We had vegetables at every meal-including breakfast and the bread is real bread! They spoke a different language of course but it wasn't hard to pick up some words while we were there. The people were great and it was easy to get to know them.