



Pointing People to Christ

# ANABAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Summer 2013

Volume XIII Issue 3

## BETTER TOGETHER

*Anita Yoder reflects on the year at Gateway to English*

We started this school year wanting to implement two new goals:

- 1 Do team teaching
- 2 Build community around the coffee bar

Even for teachers experienced in the classroom, it can be hard to find our way in the different context of teaching English as a second language. Suddenly, the words we used to communicate don't work anymore. We have to shift gears and find other ways of communicating and teaching. Team teaching helps this problem because a new teacher can be paired with a teacher with more experience. This allows the new teacher to learn as they observe and assist.

We've discovered that we love team teaching! Since two heads are better than one, team teaching is half the work but brings twice the energy in the classroom. Team teaching gives students more chances to interact with a native speaker and get personal

coaching and listening practice.

It also lets the students to observe how the teachers communicate and relate among themselves. An atmosphere of respect and fun teaches them more than just English vocabulary and grammar. It is this secondary education which the students receive that we're really after, even though speaking English is valuable.

The coffee bar offers drinks and snacks to buy. Round tables and chairs offer an area for siblings, children, and parents to wait for the students. It's a place for students to do homework, make a phone call, or

socialize. Coffee or tea during lesson breaks helps students to relax and feel more energy for the next grammar exercise. The rich aroma of coffee gives a welcoming atmosphere to the school.

We would have liked to have more interaction and activities happen at the coffee bar, but it was hard to implement all our goals. Ideally, we would have a staff member on the floor 20 minutes before each class and during every break in order to facilitate mingling between students and staff.

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### I Like GTE for

*A student speaks*

- flexible lesson time
- kind, very nice and professional staff
- good location of school
- the opportunity to talk only in english
- small groups
- no obligatory homework

# Bible Conference

*by Lavern Hershberger*

Carolyn's parents, Jason and Melody Kauffman, and four siblings came for a visit in May. During this time, the church planned its biennial conference with Jason being the main speaker. The theme was *Changed into Glory*. Before the conference, invitations had been distributed with Seed of Truth magazines. More than 100 people attended. It was a wonderful weekend of instruction and fellowship with

kindred believers. Our new friends asked us to plan to have this twice a year! We're thinking once a year may be a more sustainable pace.

This conference brought us into contact with a number of serious believers who are not part of the mainline denominations in Poland. They worship in small groups like house churches. These believers are often quite alone, giving an excellent

opportunity for ministry among them. Many of them invited us to visit them and we hope to be able to do that. We're glad to see this fruit coming from over 3 years of publishing Seed of Truth in Poland. Most of these people we didn't know, but because they've been receiving and reading Seed of Truth on a monthly basis for several years, they felt they could trust us and appreciate our teaching. The Seed is bearing fruit!



*There were many conversations at the conference. The 70 year old man on the right was a pastor most of his life.*



*Jason Speaking at the Conference with Krzysztof providing translation*



*Jason with Krzysztof and Szymon, who translated at the conference.*



*Singing at the conference*

## Wrapping Things Up

by Lavern Hershberger

School's out for the summer! Gateway to English ran until the end of June, following the Polish public school calendar. We held our end of the year party at the end of May, well before the school year actually ended. We reasoned that holding the party early would beat the attendance drop off due to trips and general loss of interest because of summer activities. We had originally planned to host the party at our house, but because of rainy weather we had it at the school.

We were able to have some activities outside, such as a lively water balloon toss, a riveting box-glove-candy game, and a hilarious round of cow and pig. Later, Nate treated us to a quiz-show style game which included questions about Gateway to English staff. He asked questions like: "Which teacher has published a book? Who at GTE is not from the U.S.?" It turned out that the students know their teachers well.

The month of June was a bit anticlimactic. Attendance dropped off and private students cancelled lessons, so the school is quieter and more relaxing until fall.

It was a good year. Attendance held steady between 90 and 100 students most of the year. It was good to see each teacher find their own ways to reach out to their students and share the great news of God's love.

Relationships were built, hearts and lives were touched. We heard many comments from students. Often we hear appreciation for the friendly, open atmosphere. Students tell us they have studied English for years in other schools but have never been able to overcome the barrier of fear of speaking until they attended Gateway to English.

## Better Together

continued from page one

We feel positive about the direction we're going by providing this central area where students can interact and relax. Even if classes didn't mingle with other classes as we envisioned, the coffee bar helped to create a non-threatening atmosphere among each class by itself. It was a place where students could have conversations with teachers outside of the classroom setting. We value this interaction highly.

We have students who say they are coming back next year because they like the atmosphere here. Maybe it came from the coffee they smelled, the little children they visited with, the laughter they heard, or the way their teacher loved them and believed in them. Our students come with the goal of learning English but our goal is that they stay for reasons beyond that.

## Personnel Needs

We are seeking a family or couple to serve a five-year term as business administrator in Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland. The business administrator is responsible to manage mission finances, to give oversight to the English school, and to coordinate operational aspects of the mission's activity. This position is currently unfilled; we are looking for someone to begin in late summer 2013.

We are seeking two single men to teach English in Poland, starting in September 2013. This is a volunteer position. Housing and travel are provided by AIM, as well as a small monthly stipend. A two-year commitment is required.

For more information about these opportunities, contact Matthew Mast at 814-789-4394 or [homeoffice@aimpoland.org](mailto:homeoffice@aimpoland.org).

## Hope Singers 2014

Registration is open for Hope Singers 2014! Would you or someone you know be interested in singing quality choral music all across Poland? Tour dates are scheduled for July 28 – August 19, 2014. This includes the travel days. Registration is closing on September 30, 2013. The roster will be announced a few weeks after that.

email: [hopesingers@aimpoland.org](mailto:hopesingers@aimpoland.org)

phone: (717) 222-4467

Look us up on Facebook 

[www.hopesingers.com](http://www.hopesingers.com)



*The 2012 Hope Singers*

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 Note on your check specifically what your donation is for.

AIM Financial Report  
 April 1, 2013—June 31, 2013

Available balance April 1, 2013 .....\$2,635

**Income**

Unrestricted donations.....\$17,974  
 Restricted donations .....\$8,586  
 English lessons.....\$10,165  
 Total income .....\$36,725

**Expenses**

Labor .....\$17,016  
 Administrative .....\$93  
 Facilities.....\$5,708  
 Personnel.....\$3,281  
 Public relations.....\$1,525  
 Publications .....\$2,927  
 Supplies .....\$638  
 Utilities .....\$1,921  
 Other expenses .....\$587  
 Total expenses .....\$33,696

Net profit (loss).....\$(3,029)

Assets released from restriction.....\$12,740  
 Restricted funds March 31, 2013 .....\$2,568  
 Available unrestricted funds  
 March 31, 2013 .....\$9,818

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