

December 2013

CentralEurasian
partners



Newsletter



The Christian Educational Association Arka

Camp Arka

Camp Arka coordinators are busy planning and searching for native speakers for this year's summer camps. The 2013 camps were a huge success and they are praying 2014 will be even better! Please pray for native speakers, campers, and staff.

If you are willing to participate in Camp Arka 2014, PLEASE let us know!!!



YFC-POLAND NEWS



- **On** the 23rd November we organized a conference „Lo..Lo..Love” in Wrocław. We invited young people who are in relationship, think of getting married or are single. We wanted to use this conference as a launching tool for a series of workshops on singleness, dating, marriage in the context of biblical teaching. Over 90 people of different age and from different towns and churches came. There were three testimonies shared and a main seminar by one of the pastors and his wife. Here is what one of the participants wrote to Bartek and Aga, the conference organizers:

“God used this conference as a tool to show me one key thing: That despite my service to God, or my sacrifice of time, energy and commitment to serving other people, God is still not my „Number One”.. and that before I decide to deal with other issues in my life, this one has to come first and become a permanent change in my life :) The conference pointed this out to me beautifully – I don't mean nicely, but.. with God's Spirit and encouragement :) ”

The community centre in the slums area in Wroclaw

has just finished its year-long program. We wanted to show the parents the progress of the children who participated in English language


workshops. So we prepared a program

and presented it on the playground. To our delight there were about 40 people from the area watching it. Then we organized a Royal rap concert done by young Christian rappers. We had planned to organize it for two years but God had his own timing. Our children were able to listen to remarkable testimonies of how God saves people from hopeless situations, addiction, depression, and how He can take people off their criminal path and put them on His one, full of freedom, love and acceptance. In December one of the workshop leaders prepared with a group of children and teens a Christmas performance which was first presented to the parents and friends of those children and this coming Monday it will be presented to elderly people in a nursing home in Wroclaw.



2013 was the last year for Ewa as the program's coordinator. Ewa decided to give up her role as the main director of the centre but she does not give up on the children from this poor area. She still wants to minister to them in a more informal way. Bartek has taken over Ewa's role as coordinator, for which we are very grateful to him and God

Our **1 to 1 Contacts** volunteers are brave women. For many years, they have accompanied children and teenagers from dysfunctional families. We have two pairs who have been in the program for the last 7 years. One of the mentors has been taking care of two girls simultaneously. I highly admire our volunteers' perseverance and I bless them with all my heart. They leave a beautiful trace in the hearts of the mentored girls ... We pray that it will have a lasting effect that will bear fruit in girls' lives changed by Jesus.

A stylized logo for '1 to 1 Contacts' is positioned on the left side of the page. It features a large, bold, black '1' on the left, followed by a 'to' in a smaller font, and another large, bold, black '1' on the right. The letters are thick and blocky. The logo is set against a white background that is tilted slightly to the right.

From the 29th December to the 1st January, the second edition of the New Year's youth conference "The Beginning" takes place in Wrocław. Last year the event brought together more than 230 young people from different places in Poland. We gathered together in order to worship God and thank Him for His presence in our lives throughout the year. This year again the Beginning is another dose of experiencing God's dream for us being fulfilled, and God's miracles being done. We know today that this year we will have more participants at the conference. The programme is full of great seminars, workshops, worship, two music concerts. Getting the venue for the event was quite a challenge. Eventually, we booked a conference centre which can take over 340 people. It is a pretty expensive venue but God is providing funds in a miraculous way. Please pray for this Beginning so that it is a time of lives being changed, hearts being encouraged and God's will for the young generation of Poland being discovered.



We are launching a new Christmas campaign to raise money for clean water for children's projects in Kenya. You can take a look at the animation we are using in our fundraising at www.integra.sk

Our fair trade macadamia factory in Kenya is moving this month to a new location which is double the size and

which will be able to help an additional 2000 farmers. Pray for God's provision for the funds to be able to complete the set up.

We are looking at a few new community partnerships in rural areas of Kenya, and would like to ask for wisdom in selecting the right group to partner with.

PARAKLETOS

Conference in Bulgaria

Bulgarian Navigators invited us to speak at their annual conference which had the theme of Discipleship Marriage. We talked about the area of emotions both in our individual lives and in marriage. It was a new experience for us with Bulgarian culture. We found both similarities because it is a Slavic nation with recent history of communist rule like Czechs, and differences because Bulgarians tend to express their emotions more spontaneously than Czechs. We came there with great humility realizing that we will learn about a completely new context. But gradually we felt that we were able to communicate. Quite a few couples asked for individual meetings during breaks. This is the response of one of the participants:

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing your time, heart and life with us at the conference. Many of the concepts and ideas you shared were profound. I keep thinking about them and discussing them with my husband."

Economically the struggles of Bulgarians are, probably, harder than in our country. In many ways we felt like being back in the Czech Republic in the 1990's. But we were touched by their honest desire to grow. One night one group of participants asked Julka and me to sit with them and they asked many honest questions. They were keen to learn. After we left, those dear brothers and sisters have been deeply in our hearts.



PARAKLETOS

family Conference



We spoke at our 12th Family Conference in a small town in the east of the country. We have already previously been invited five times to speak at those conferences and we have had a very close ongoing relationship with the organizers of the conference. The conference is supposed to be an encouragement to marriages and families. It is organized by a very evangelical Czech Lutheran denomination.

The theme this year was

Adversaries Into Allies which is the title of Pavel's book about marital conflict. We were asked to do the book on a bit more popular level. With the help of the organizers we even produced an introductory video clip for the beginning of each of the lectures. It was a lot of fun.

Apart from the main lectures we also had seminars. Particularly successful was the seminar *The Heart of A Woman* which Julka had for ladies, even though several men also participated. There was lively discussion and many women responded very positively.

D3 GENERATIONS ASSOCIATION



We started this academic year with a fresh group of 25 volunteers, both high school and university students. We first went for a tour through the homes where we volunteer (one home for children with disabilities and one for children with problems in their families). For many of the volunteers this first impact is quite an experience! We also had our first training day. With the volunteers we talked about communication and we did a lot of icebreakers and get-to-know-each-other games. The atmosphere was really good and people already felt like being part of a family. At the moment everybody is busy collecting money for buying Christmas presents for the children. Some volunteers even donate blood, so that they can get some tickets that we can use to buy food. Great!

It is very encouraging to see how God is working and we are looking forward to see what He's going to do this year!





Territory 2.2


Ukraine

7th – 19th
December

Our new NGO "Territory 2.2., participated in a charity event "A letter to St. Nicholas". The purpose of the event was to find enough Christmas gifts for the children lacking love and attention in an orphanage in a nearby village, Ivanychi.

9th – 12th January 2014

A conference for the staff of Be smart language school, one of the initiatives of our new NGO "Territory 2.2., will take place in Wrocław, Poland. The purpose of the conference is training in creativity, HR management, teacher's training, sharing of experience, learning from Arka teachers, learning integrity as a team and broadening our worldview. Please pray for safe travel on wintry roads!



*Partnering with you only because of
God's grace expressed in leaving heaven
to live...and die...amongst us...😊*

Malcolm / Marek Clegg