

October 1, 2013

Greetings from Radom, Poland

We have just started our second week of helping out here at the Friendship House, in Radom. The Lord has blessed us and provided for us in more ways than we could ever imagine!

After we arrived, on Saturday evening, Sept. 21, we had three days to “learn the ropes” before the missionary couple we were replacing (Bob and Vera Hageman) left for six weeks of rest in the States.

Bob and Vera had not been home for three years – so a break was way overdue!



We have pretty well settled into our routine – making meals for our “street friends”; being sure the coal furnace is working properly; having supplies of soap, shampoo, underwear, etc. available if asked for by the street folks who stop in for their “shower appointment”; and, providing simple first aid to the homeless, who hang-out under the viaduct about two blocks from the Friendship House.

There are two main programs, provided to Radom’s homeless alcoholics. One is the Tuesday night Celebrate Recovery outreach ministry. During this time a simple meal of soup, bread, coffee or tea, is served and a short (20 minute) devotional is given. Also included is an invitation to enter an 18-month long rehabilitation program offered in Krakow. This rehabilitation center ministry is administered by Polish evangelicals as an alcohol and drug addiction recovery program. When folks commit themselves to the program they know it is not a simple “quick fix” for their alcoholism; they also know they will hear the Gospel and be challenged to accept Christ as Savior and Lord. Approximately 60 to 65 people attend weekly.

The second ministry program occurs on Sundays. Around 5 p.m. Sunday afternoon we walk down to the viaduct (where many of the homeless live). We offer simple first aid (for the bumps and bruises often the result of falling while intoxicated) and handout ibuprofen tablets for toothaches, headaches, etc. At 6 p.m. Steve Snyder (another International Messenger missionary serving in Radom) arrives with the back of his station wagon full of hot coffee and tea, as well as sandwiches to be handed out to our street friends. Though we cannot speak Polish, a handshake and smile and a look of concern for their wellbeing, is an international language. Close to 100 homeless men and women visit with us at the viaduct weekly.

Please pray for...

Robert, who was arrested last Friday, here at the Friendship House. We are not sure why the arrest, but now know he will be in jail for 14 months. Robert KNOWS the way of salvation, but so far, has been resistant to accepting Jesus as Savior. Pray that as he sits alone in jail, he will surrender himself to Jesus, Who wants to be his best Friend.

Jarik, who just left Radom on a temporary job of picking vegetables and fruit in rural parts of Poland. We are not sure how long Jarik will be gone. He also knows the way of salvation, but has been resistant. Pray for his protection, and that he would remember what he has been taught, and give his heart to the Lord Jesus.

We daily provide a hot, nourishing meal to some of the street folks, who regularly help with chores and other projects, here at the Friendship House. These folks include, Grzegory, Grazyna, Michai, and Arek. None have made a decision to follow Jesus, though they are very respectful when we pray, read Scripture, etc. Please pray that they would find the Lord soon.

Lastly, please pray for us – that we would clearly demonstrate the love Jesus has for these folks, on a day-to-day basis. Pray we do not inadvertently hurt the relationships of trust, which these folks already have with Bob and Vera.

We so appreciate your interest in what is happening in Radom. Thank you for your prayers on behalf of the ministry of Friendship House.

Jim & Linda Brandt

