

# Prayer COMMUNIQUE

OUR PRAYERS INTERSECT GOD'S INTERVENTION

December 2008

## Using English to Open Doors

JOIN GOD'S WORK THROUGH GEM MINISTRIES.

13 TEFL teams have served in Europe and North Africa this year. Through them, hundreds of people have learned English and heard the Gospel.

Niklavs\* stood outside a small church in Bauska, Latvia, questioning his decision to attend an English class there. Yes, he wanted to improve his English. But at an evangelical church?

The 15-year-old finally pulled open the door, vowing to leave the minute things got weird. Before he could dwell on his skepticism, the American teachers warmly greeted him, and the English instruction began.

The program Niklavs attended was one of many that Greater Europe Mission missionaries conduct through the Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Resources ministry. This year TEFL teams taught in locations from North Africa to Estonia. Though every short-term outreach was different, God always worked in people's hearts.



"Niklavs' English was good," says GEM missionary Ann, who supervised the Latvia team. "He could read and write English well, but he lacked confidence to speak."

As the week progressed, Niklavs' speaking proficiency improved; by the end of the weeklong program he could translate for the 29 other students. He clearly enjoyed the class.

"We did a skit based on the Gospel of John,"

says Ann, "and then Bekah, a short-term missionary, told the class how Christ had changed her life." Niklavs and his classmates listened quietly as Bekah shared about a crisis that she had faced. She described how, through a dramatic experience, she began to follow Jesus. "My circumstances haven't changed," she told the students, "but God gave me hope through Jesus to handle them."

Because Eastern Europeans tend to believe that North Americans don't have problems, Bekah's words had a profound effect on Niklavs. After hearing what Jesus had done in and for her, he began to see Bauska Baptist Church as a safe place to be. Many students were touched by the messages; 13 joined Bible studies, and eight more were considering joining.

Like many of GEM's TEFL partners, this small Latvian church wanted to use the program to reach out in

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their community. "We support developing ministries," says GEM TEFL Leader Dayle. "TEFL projects can open doors for the Gospel in places like North Africa and jump-start church plants in Europe. We provide quality training in English language education for these short-term missionaries, and they often have opportunities to share their faith."

Ann firmly believes in using TEFL as a ministry platform because of the spiritual openings it creates. "TEFL teachers are able to share the Gospel with many people

in one fell swoop, and then the Holy Spirit works in their hearts and lives."

Several short-term TEFL outreaches are scheduled for 2009. If you follow Jesus and have a heart to serve, we invite you to consider getting involved. If you can't travel overseas, maybe you can participate in a TEFL ministry at your church or in your area. Learn more about TEFL at [www.GEMTEFL.org](http://www.GEMTEFL.org).

\*Name changed.

## GET INVOLVED

- ▶ On October 23, GEM's Day of Prayer for Europe, 10,003 people visited [www.GEMission.org/Pray/Strategic.asp](http://www.GEMission.org/Pray/Strategic.asp) to take a Virtual Prayer Journey and register that they prayed. Visit this site anytime for a prayer journey to one or more of 48 countries of Europe plus the Mediterranean Region. Join the growing number of people praying today!
- ▶ Would you like to receive the free *Prayer Communiqué* every month? Email Caroline (CVose@GEMission.com) or call 800.436.4488 to request an email or print subscription.
- ▶ If God is calling you to serve the peoples of Europe through TEFL, you can explore options at [www.GEMission.org/Opportunities](http://www.GEMission.org/Opportunities).
- ▶ GEM is organizing a short-term Passport to Prayer trip in Sweden, March 20-28, 2009. Join a team to engage in spiritual mapping exercises such as prayer, observation, conversation, and service. To register, contact Caroline (CVose@GEMission.com).

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### PRAYER POINTS FOR DECEMBER 2008

#### WEEK 1

- ▶ Pray for two special events in Holland: a Dec. 5 outreach concert for Polish immigrants and a Dec. 7 international Christmas service in English. Pray for good attendance and that God will draw many people to Himself.
- ▶ Pray for God's blessing on a "Christmas Carols by Candlelight" event in Dublin, Ireland, Dec. 7. Praise God that this event has grown in influence; last year it drew almost 500 people. Several local political and community leaders attend annually.

#### WEEK 2

- ▶ Pray for Niklavs (see article) and the other Latvians who attended a TEFL outreach last June, that they will

accept Jesus as Lord and share their faith with others.

- ▶ Pray for a Dec. 13 outreach in the Netherlands. Ask God to impact hearts and lives as members of a cell group take their non-Christian friends to a Christmas walk event that will portray, through drama, the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

#### WEEK 3

- ▶ Praise God that several women in Azerbaijan were able to use quality teaching of English to introduce almost 90 children to the Gospel. Many of them now attend the children's program, and some even visit during the week to ask for books about God. Pray that these precious ones will come to faith in Jesus Christ.

- ▶ Praise the Lord that doors are open for teachers to serve in Europe. Pray for continued opportunities for North American believers to share their faith through TEFL programs.

#### WEEK 4

- ▶ Praise God for bringing a great group of new students to Zaporozhye Bible College and Seminary in Ukraine. Praise God that five of the returning students were able to spend the summer ministering to children and young people in Kazakhstan. Pray that the seeds they planted will bear fruit.
- ▶ Praise God for using a short-term missionary team to help a Latvian church reach out to its community (see article). Pray that He

will provide a team to respond to that church's invitation for teachers to return in June, and ask Him to draw new students to the next outreach.

#### WEEK 5

- ▶ Pray for God's guidance as the LifeQuality ministry to professionals and businesspeople plans outreaches for Finland, Poland, and Romania. Pray that all details, including funding, will come together for a LifeQuality Synergy Summit next March.
- ▶ Pray that English teachers and teams will gain a vision to use their skills for God's glory. Pray that God will call many North American churches to send teams to participate in TEFL projects throughout Europe and North Africa next year.