



HARVEST MISSION INTERNATIONAL, INC.

"The greatest obstacle to growing the kingdom is often...trying to convince other Christians of the priority of mission. " - Pastor David Maki

"I confess from the outset that my trip to Slovakia was taken for selfish reasons. Of course I went to encourage and pray with the missionaries working with the Gypsies, but I went more to be encouraged and fed by those who are making such incredible sacrifices to bring the Gospel to the Roma people. Although some of the



4th International Gypsy Summit Participants

19 people present were familiar with each other, some were coming together for the first time. People of mission from England, South Africa, Germany, Latvia, Romania and Slovakia became quick friends because they are of the same passion for reaching the lost. It is amazing to witness the unity of minds and hearts when people are motivated by the great commission, and the ache they have to share the life-giving power of God's grace with people living in darkness. The tremendous amount of time, energy and resources they spend on sharing the Gospel

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Rev. D. Maki

humbled me. They spoke of opportunities, blessings, and doors that were being opened because God was working in the lives of the people they touched. This is not to say they are without hardship. I heard stories of persecution seldom seen in our country. They shared accounts of strong spiritual battles waged against the work of Christ.

Some of these workers are living on wages that we might consider laughable. One particular pastor is serving 3 churches and makes about \$100 (American equivalent) a week. Yet they rejoiced at the opportunities God was placing before them to impact people's lives with the message of hope in Christ. I believe some of the

devil's greatest work is done when he blinds the church to God's priorities of reaching the lost. God revealed to me through this conference that mission work does not change because of location. Whether in Romania, Germany or America, the greatest obstacle to growing the kingdom is often the church that has grown comfortable maintaining its own part of the kingdom, and trying to convince other Christians of the priority of mission.

I was completely blessed by my few days with the Roma missionaries and humbled by their zeal and passion for the Lord's call. Their love for the Lord and their commitment to the Gypsy people was a blessing to witness. They need your prayers and promised me that they are praying for all of you here in the U.S. We may live in different countries, but we serve the same Lord who calls us all to 'make disciples'."



Rev. David Maki, pastor of Southwest Lutheran Church, HMI Board Member, and director of the All Nations Friendship Center in Ft. Wayne, joined Larry & Linda Merino for the Gypsy Summit held in Slovakia.

Thanks for Praying!



Baby Giovanni was baptized during the California part of the trip. Many Gypsies attended the church service and heard the message of God's saving grace through Jesus Christ. **Praise God!**

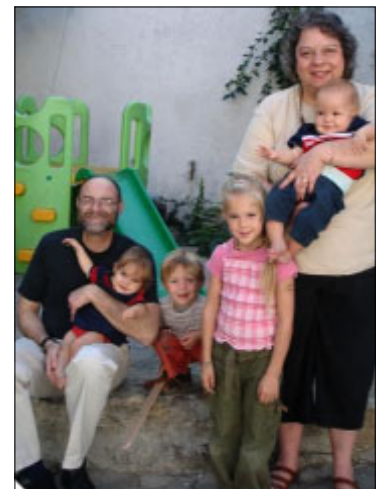
"We loved you [Roma] so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."
1Thess. 2:8



Larry & son, Adam (center front), with California relatives



Roma (Gypsy) children in Slovakia



Larry & Linda Merino with Mariella, Emilio, Rosanna & Antonio Dern



God bless you for making a sacrifice and helping us get to California and Europe in 2007.

For 2008, we believe the Lord is giving us some wonderful and exciting new plans for His mission. We are asking for your continued support as we work together as partners in seeking and saving the lost.

We thank God for you!
Pastor Larry



Blessed Christmas & New Year!

Our Mission: *To equip and mobilize God's people to spread the Gospel across all cultures.*

Prayer Needs

Please pray for:

- Gypsies in the U.S. and in Europe that they will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior
- Courage to build friendships across cultures
- All the participants at the recent training workshop held in Fort Wayne. Pray that they will discover their place in God's mission!
- God's blessings on Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, for their partnership in hosting the training workshop
- The next workshop to be held in the Spring
- Stamina and strength for all God's workers and protection from the Evil One
- Lost souls to accept God's love and forgiveness
- All cultures to come to know Jesus as their personal Savior and friend

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