



# HARVEST MISSION INTERNATIONAL, INC.



## Whose Mission Is It Anyway?

From time to time we are reminded, sometimes sorely, whose mission this really is...it really isn't **our** mission. This was brought into focus for us as we traveled to Slovakia and attempted to drive into Riga, Latvia. It turned out that the vehicle we were driving did not have the proper documentation to pass through the border at Lithuania. Therefore, we were not able to go into Riga to help celebrate Mareks Ignats' graduation from the seminary. The good news is that Mareks did indeed graduate and will be serving as a pastor and missionary to the Gypsies of Latvia. **Praise God!**



Gypsy fortune teller statute in Poland

Were we disappointed? Sure. We didn't get to go where we wanted to go. But this also helps us to recognize a basic truth about all mission work: this is **God's mission**, we are only invited to participate, but the mission work belongs to God. The great missionary, St. Paul, also faced disappointment and didn't always get to go where he wanted to go. In Acts 16:6-10, we read that, *'Paul and Silas went through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia because the Holy Spirit kept them from speaking the word in the province of Asia. They went to the province of Mysia and tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus wouldn't allow this. So they passed by Mysia and went to the city of Troas.'*

St. Paul didn't know where he should go. This is very humbling because as Paul says, this is good because we learn to rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead (2 Cor. 1:9). Paul wanted to go to Bithynia and ended up in Troas. We wanted to go to Riga, Latvia and ended up in Warsaw, Poland!

This is God's mission and we are always reminded of this. We thank you for helping us get there, even though we didn't get there! Mareks Ignats thanks you for your prayers, and as we spoke with him on the phone, we are planning now to start a new outreach in Jelgava, Latvia. On a previous mission trip, I preached at a Lutheran church in Jelgava where many Gypsies are open to coming to church.



Mareks Ignats (front row left) & family



## News From Hans-Martin & Sandra Dern



Hans-Martin, Sandra, Rosanna & Emilio Dern

Pastor Hans-Martin and Sandra Dern have big news—they will be moving to Germany in February, 2007 to expand the mission outreach to the Gypsies there. More big news—they are expecting twins in October!

We will continue the work with Pastor Dern and also with the lay missionaries he has trained in Slovakia. The Derns ask for your continued prayers for their mission work, Sandra's pregnancy, and a safe delivery of healthy babies.



Rosanna Dern & Gypsy friends

