

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Redwood City: Mission Grant Reflection

“Experience Poland” held on March 23, 2018: A one day VBS camp for children K-8th to bring awareness to mission opportunities hosted by the Redeemer Poland Mission Team.

What Redeemer Learned

Children are well positioned in heart and disposition to be missionaries. The kids who participated in the camp were excited to be a part of the day’s activities, and willing to try new foods, work on Polish crafts, try a new language and write letters telling a Polish kid about themselves. Instilling a mission heart needs to begin early, and this will help keep the mission program healthy and growing into the future as the current team passes along the torch to new members. The theme of the day was based on 1 Corinthians 12:27 which was used to encourage and prepare all types of children to participate: the quiet, thoughtful student and the active, adventurous one. We also learned that this camp was also a great opportunity to train new members. There were 2 leaders who participated who haven’t gone to Poland yet, and this day gave them a taste of what to expect and how to prepare themselves. This camp will also give mission team members who can’t necessarily go to Poland every year an opportunity to continue participating in and growing the program.

Next Steps

The exciting outcome of the camp was that two of the older kids expressed interest in joining a future camp, and one in particular already has her parents planning for 2019. Soliciting new team members year over year can be a challenge, and this outreach has set the stage. Also, the younger kids who aren’t ready to participate abroad for several years will continue to be connected as the team sends them letters of encouragement thanking them for their prayers, a postcard from Poland, a picture of the team wearing the shirts that the kids made and a response from the pen pal letters. The camp was considered a success, and the team would like to hold the camp again next year. Also, the mission team from Uganda is considering using the same model next fall to expose kids to that mission program as well.

Below is the article published in Redeemer’s April newsletter

On Friday, March 23rd, thanks to a grant from the CNH Mission Agency, Redeemer’s 2018 Poland Mission Team was able to host an outreach experience for kids. The theme of the day was from 1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” The kids learned about how they are a part of the body of Christ, working together on His mission in their own way, just like the kids that the Redeemer Mission Team will serve in Poland!! Our “Experience Poland” event was full of activities that helped us experience Polish culture, and explored what a ‘day at summer camp’ in Poland feels like! The kids even made our 2018DCKatowice mission team T-shirts!

Through this experience, the kids became honorary members of the 2018 Poland Mission, will be asked to pray for the team this summer, and will be receiving a Polish pen pal response to letters they wrote. Several expressed interest in joining future mission trips! Thank you to all our participants and helpers!!! —and much thanks to our polish friends that sent a personal note via video from Poland !

<http://daycamp.jastrzebie.luteranie.pl/en/>

<https://www.team-aim.org/>