

Serving in Poland



SEND
International

May 2020 – By Christian Johnston

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Michigan

In an unprecedented time where the entire world has gone topsy-turvy essentially overnight, where day after day new rules and regulations have been put forward for better or for worse, and daily reports on what is going on with the Covid-19 pandemic have been enlightening and also confusing...I can guarantee you (that was a typo but it fit so perfectly I just couldn't delete it) that the timeline and events in my life have been no exception.

The months of January to April were spent in metro Detroit at SEND headquarters learning office procedures, programs, and other useful information that will be helpful for my field. As well, engaging with my colleagues who work in the office-mind you it's invaluable to actually know the people you are often in correspondence with via email, and connecting with new people and partners whilst living there.

As Michigan began to shut down I was unable to physically engage with my social circles, go to the gym, or even see my colleagues any longer. The isolation began to wear on me and I ended up returning to Georgia at the beginning of May. I'm thankful for the time I had in Michigan and for the interactions God gave me, not to mention new supporters out of The Mitten State. Thank you for your prayers during my time there!



Pictured above: my nephew Skylar lost no time reconnecting with me after my quarantine time ended after returning home!



Pictured above: One of my Covid skills I'm walking away with is having learned to bake challah

Co nowego? (What's new?)

I took the first few weeks back in Georgia to slowly reintegrate and get a sense of how Georgia was approaching Covid. I stayed with a friend for my decontamination period and have now moved back in with my parents for the rest of my time home.

Georgia has been on the forefront of reopening, so as I drove south I noticed life became progressively a touch more 'normal'. I've been thankful to begin settling back into a 'new normalcy', it has made a massive difference for my well-being.

There are a number of things that will need to be accomplished this summer, originally the plan was to return to Poland in June, however that isn't possible now. The plan is to acquire my Polish visa within the next 2 months, to make sure I'm at full support (I need to learn if financial partners have lost jobs or needed to stop support), re-engage with partners, friends, family, and prepare for Poland as summer months always fly by quickly.

I'm pleased to say it has been an easy transition back to Georgia thus far, despite the heat and humidity. I'm eager to see what God has for the next few months!

What's next?

The new tentative return to Poland is planned for August. This will be contingent on having my visa that is still needed, being fully funded, and of course country regulations in regards to Covid and travel.

When I left Poland last year at the end of August I had worked through A2/B1 level of the Polish language in classes. I've effectively had a 'pause' on my Polish usage this past year home. Upon returning to Poland I will need to continue learning Polish intensively in preparation to take the B1 exam from the government.

A year-long break from using a language is not ideal, however I trust that it will not take long to get back to my regular usage and press forward to finish out this current level needed to move into my next phase.

There is a lot of uncertainty what our world will look like post-Covid, in Poland it is no exception. I can't as of yet tell you exactly what my initial return to Poland will look like or entail, however I will be sure to keep you up to date with what is happening as we move forward.

I'm trusting that God will continue to go before me as He does His work and I will seek to serve Him well where He is at work and in the ways He intends.

Praises

- For the unique opportunity I had to spend time in SEND's office and the connections God provided there
- For His continued guidance and leading as I continue forward
- For physical well-being during the pandemic
- For being able to return to Georgia at a good time to reconnect
- For additional time home to rest in the Lord and seek after Him before returning to Poland

Prayers

- For my potentially increased need for financial support
- For my Polish language ability
- For guidance and clarity during this uncertain time going forward
- For peace through the unknowns
- For my visa that I still need to work on acquiring from D.C.

Follow my ministry page by scanning this QR code:



Pictured above: I was glad to be back in Georgia to be able to celebrate my 30th birthday with my family!

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Contributions are solicited with the understanding that the donee organization has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.

NOTE: \$45/mo. is equivalent to 1% of my monthly support. Over time partners can no longer partner for various reasons, if God so leads, I would be honored to have you in partnership with me!