

# Central Eurasian partners



## Newsletter, December 2020

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### CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM TERRITORY 2.2, LUTSK, UKRAINE

This year we are richly blessed to have finished the previous academic year online. We thank and praise God that in times of hardship for many businesses He allowed us to start a new project in summer - a private kindergarten. We are grateful for your prayers and material support. God blessed us with the resources, new workers and children.

The other projects (language school, business school, pre-school) also started successfully and full of hope for this academic year. We are planning and preparing to have a winter camp for teens, praying and putting our hope in God. Though next week or two will be decisive as quarantine regulations change.

May the Lord our God fill each partner with needed wisdom, strength and joy to do the job, sharing His love and bringing fruit for His Kingdom. Do not let the quarantine issues spoil Christmas happiness in our life.

As we greet each other here in Ukraine we have a special Christmas greeting which is translated «Christ was born» and the answer is «Let us praise Him».

Merry Christmas!

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## HERE IS SOME NEWS FROM "ARKA" POLAND

**Dear Friends and Partners,**

this pandemic time is very challenging for us, as most of grades and teachers have been working online (except preschool), but we try to use it as best as we can.

We are still in the process of redecorating classes. During holidays we did the complete renovation of 2 early childhood classes and now we're finishing the room for more advanced therapy.

In the last few weeks our teachers participated in the workshop series by ACSI about christian teaching. Thank God for this opportunity!

What is more we are trying to reorganise administration of "Arka", because one of our workers, Magda whom you know, is getting married and will leave Arka in the next few weeks.

Summing up, we definitely need your prayers for coming renovations, wisdom to choose & hire new workers and for Arka to be led in a Christ-centered way in this uneasy period. We wish you a merry Christmas and send warm greetings from Wrocław, Poland!

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# NEWS FROM OLA & SLOT TEAM

**As Slot first of all we would like to thank whole CEPUK for financial support, which was especially valuable to us this year, when we didn't have any income from organizing the festival.**

Thank God, as I said on the conference, it was also the first year in years that we applied - and received a grant from the Ministry of Culture. This allowed us to continue employment to work with artists and volunteers, but also build some important tools, which will serve us in future: app, newsletter and a website with archival materials. **That all allowed us to keep our savings to start planning for another uncertain year - so THANK YOU again.**

Thinking and preparing next edition of our festival is extremely difficult as usually we were dependent on tickets and got used to certain scale (about 8000 participants). But considering all different scenarios, **what we are sure is that in July 2021 we want to gather as many people as possible live.**

Our Polish society is depressed, frustrated and extremely divided - over the pandemic, but so is politics after the government's recent surprise decision to change the abortion law, which sparked a wave of protests. We see our mission as creating an occasions for peaceful dialogue, understanding and cooperation - not only in the context of the 5 days of the festival, but more than ever, throughout the year. **We believe that people need to learn how to be together again, they have to believe that it's not only possible but also necessary.**

**Despite we know that live meetings are indispensable, we also see that we cannot just wait, we must learn to use what is available now.** So we are experimenting with moderated online meetings, to hear and understand each other and we think how to support individual "peacemakers" and "bridge builders", acting live and online.

What we need most these days is prayer and advice - **we seek wisdom in how to best serve.**

We also remember about friends in UK and observing situation with Brexit and Covid in Britain we hope and pray for safety and peace for you. **It was so good to see at the conference the faces of those who hosted me and Malcolm in their homes in March 2019 - the memories of these meetings are still very important to me. We hope to meet again not only at zoom!**

Have a good Christmas, the true birth of hope and new life that will change this world.

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# GREETINGS FROM D3 SLOVAKIA



At D3 Slovakia, we are thankful that the summer easing of restrictions allowed us to meet for the D3 family camp with this year's topic of "community". Now, as we approach Christmas, most of us are again locked-down at home - engaging online in work (including teaching distance-regime of Narnia and C.S.Lewis Schools), mentoring, bible studies and everything else. What's currently on our mind are various new educational initiatives, where as the D3 community we are thinking about what our role is in the context of the broader "community" of our city and country.

An example of a project that keeps running physically (and actually has become more intense) is the Baraka residential community, which is a one-year development program for young adults who attempt to become a blessing (the literal meaning of "Baraka") to each other and the environment. As of September, the third group (of 14 young adults) started their journey together (read more [here](#)), and recently, they also started to help out a project that collects food for the homeless. Please pray that they will continue to stay safe, but that the life together will also challenge them to grow.

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