

engage Kids

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MODERN DAY
MISSIONARIES



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

ADVENTURES WITH HARPER

Grrrrruff! Ruff! Ruff! Hi, it's me...Harper, the Boston Terrier. I am glad you are here because I have so much to tell you! You see, Tim and Sharron Teed (my humans) have taken me with them on quite an adventure. They must like adventure a lot. For about ten years they drove semi trucks across the United States. As they traveled, they saw God's beautiful creation everywhere and visited many churches along the way. But that is not the adventure I am excited about today.

Tim and Sharron stopped driving trucks. Why? Well, Tim said God was asking him to do something else. He studied the Bible a LOT and shared what he learned with others. Sharron felt God's nudge, too, and they both jumped into work at their church. Tim helped the pastor while taking classes to be a minister. Sharron worked with the ladies and children. After five years they realized the work had been good, but God was leading them to yet another adventure.



Ruff! Ruff! I am so excited that I am chasing my tail! This year's family Christmas greeting comes to you from...the European country of Slovakia! God told my humans He had a job for them on another continent, and...here we are! Tim's job is maintaining mission property and sharing the gospel with the gypsy community. Sharron's job is teaching some orphaned teen girls how to cook and clean and study the Bible. I have a job here, too. I greet kids, accept treats from everyone, pose for photos, and help my humans meet people. (Whew! It is exhausting to be so famous and popular!) It took me a while to get used to the sound of the Slovak language, but I am learning fast. So from our new house to yours, we say, "Veselé Vianoce*! Merry Christmas!"

**Pronunciation: veh-seh-leh vee-ah-nōt-zeh*



SLOVAKIAN CHRISTMAS TRADITION

For Slovaks, the Christmas season begins early with Advent, lots of preparation, and St. Nicholas's Day on

December 6. Fish is the meat of choice for the all-important Christmas Eve dinner, and live carp can be purchased from big tanks on the streets and in stores. Often the fish are purchased early and kept alive in a family's bathtub until Christmas Eve. The children play with them, and when a shower or bath is needed, the fish are put in a bucket temporarily. On Christmas Eve Baby Jesus is credited with delivering the presents. Christmas trees are put up close to Christmas, and they stay up until after January 6, which is Epiphany or the Feast of the Three Kings.





This is the New Horizons Transition Center in Slovakia, where Tim & Sharron Teed minister. Sharron teaches the young ladies to cook and clean as well as discipling them through Bible studies. Tim does maintenance on the property.

MEMORY VERSE

I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly.
John 10:10



VIEW FROM THE HENHOUSE

Bwaawk! Quiet, you crazies! You're so noisy that a hen can barely hear herself think...Oh, hello! You must be one of the guests that the girls at New Horizons Transition Center said would be coming today. You say you came to see the girls, eh? Ok, go ahead...but we hens know who really rules the roost around here...

Seriously though, we chickens help raise money for the sweet girls who take care of us here at the transition home. What is a transition home? It is a place where orphaned girls can stay for a while when they become too old for an orphanage or foster home but do not yet have anywhere to live. The girls get to learn stuff about becoming adults while they are here, too, like how to take care of us. When they first tried, they scared the hind feathers off us! But now they come in gently, and we like that. After all, there are 230 of us. When we get scared, things get reeeeeaaally crazy.

The girls do other stuff, too, like cooking and cleaning. They go to church and Gypsies for Christ rallies and study the Bible together every Friday night. Something happened to Radka at one of the rallies. She used to come in here all grumpy and in a bad mood, and we hens tried to stay away from her. But after that one meeting, Radka changed! She now loves Jesus, goes to Bible study, asks deep questions, and treats us nicer, too. We are happy!

I think my favorite time around here is when the hen house is all settled down for the night, and suddenly we hear peals of laughter rolling across the yard from the girls' home. That is when we know it is game night, and everyone is having a good time. I am glad the girls can spend time with Sharron and Tim, because they are good folks. And now, my friend, I must go. Dinner is being served!





Louie's treehouse Lair



Our Creative Designer

Do you have a pet? Have you ever thought of using your pet to tell someone about God? If you know or learn some interesting facts about your animal, you can share them. Then you could say something like this:

“God sure was creative when He designed all the different animals, wasn’t He?”

“God did a good job designing my pet, didn’t He?”

“Have you ever thought about how these facts point to a Creator? A Designer?”



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