



How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:13-15, (NIV)

POBLO NEWS...

The POBLO Ministry befriends people, mostly immigrants, by providing opportunities for them to learn English, sewing, and computer skills that aid them in adapting to American culture.

The name POBLO is an acronym that represents People Of the Book Lutheran Outreach. Islamic believers often refer to Bible believers as People of the Book.

John Gayed is the POBLO missionary at the Rochester Center. John is supported by his wife Mariam and their two young children plus numerous volunteers who administer and support the various programs!

English classes are held Monday through Thursday at the Center. Classes include structured lessons, conversation classes, and specialized classes. The spring semester runs from April 7th through June 13th. Volunteer teachers and subs are always in demand!

Wednesday mornings are filled with happy faces and the sounds of sewing machines busily creating projects. Sewing classes are held Wednesday mornings at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 869 7th Avenue Southeast, starting at 10 am. Visitors and volunteers are welcome!

Receptionists are kept busy Monday through Friday answering the phone and welcoming visitors. Contact the Center if your talents include office skills and a welcoming personality! Call 507-258-4155 or email poblomn@poblo.org.

MISSIONARY CORNER: (Excerpts from Missionary John Gayed's March Report)

1. On March 22nd a potluck was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church with 37 people in attendance, including 25 Arab Christians. It was a good time and new experience for everyone! The food centered around Middle Eastern and American vegetarian dishes. The Arabs felt welcomed by the POBLO volunteers and church members. Another potluck is planned after Easter for all the immigrants, not just Christian ones. Attendance is expected to be between 75 and 90 for that meal.

2. On Sunday March 9th we started a new ministry of delivering food to four families in need of food. To strengthen our relationship with them, we are delivering the food every

Sunday night to their homes. They feel that we care for them and that we want to help them in any way we can.

3. A week ago I had received an email from Ted Saxman asking for more Arabic New Testaments. Previously I had given him six copies to be placed at the Hawthorne Learning Center. The copies were in the student lounge where students could take them if they wanted to. We can't guarantee what happens to them or if they are read, and we also don't know when people will stop picking them up. However, what we are sure of is that God's word does not go out in vain. Please keep praying that those who are thirsty for the word of God will be able to drink from it.

WANTS, WISHES, & NEEDS:

Gas cards

For paper products and office supplies, we request gift certificates (for example, Walmart, Target, or Staples)

For classroom needs such as teacher/student materials, we request cash and/or checks. Checks should be made out to Rochester Circuit and designated for POBLO MN. Cash should be enclosed in an envelope and designated for POBLO MN.

THANK YOU'S

Sarah Circle, Redeemer Lutheran, for the refrigerator, vacuum cleaner, and gas cards

Redeemer Lutheran Church Women (RLCW) for the printer

Austin Zone of LWML for the cash donations, fabric and sewing supplies, and gift cards to JoAnn Fabrics

Grace Lutheran, Stockton, Minnesota, for the cash donations

Bethany Lutheran, Lake City, Minnesota, for the cash donations

VOLUNTEER STORY:

Each month we will highlight our volunteers. Our volunteers come from the area Missouri Synod Lutheran Churches. Below is our first volunteer story:

Hi, I'm Paula Muth, and I'm a recently retired technical writer from IBM. I was intrigued when I heard about the possibility of teaching English to immigrants through the POBLO ministry. It was a leap of faith to volunteer to teach immigrants. Today we have an English class coordinator, and we are holding 13 classes this semester. My role at the Center is to schedule the substitute teachers when the assigned teacher has a conflict. I also fill in as a sub as needed. I have found this experience to be very rewarding. The students are eager to learn and so appreciative of everything that is offered to them.

One student told me about the time she and her husband came to Rochester. She did not speak English very well; she had no friends. Oftentimes, at the end of the day she would cry because of everything she left behind and just the overwhelming nature of trying to learn a new language and culture. Today, she is full of smiles and is doing very well in her class work. She considers the POBLO volunteers to be her family. That's what the POBLO ministry brings to immigrants – lasting relationships, friendships, and connections. POBLO Center Phone: 507.258.4155 255th Avenue Southwest Email:

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