



MUNICH MESSENGER

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

SUMMER 2005

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KALLUS
REPORTING
FROM
THE
GEMEINDE
CHRISTI
AM
LAIMER
PLATZ
IN
MUNICH
GERMANY

Reiner & Rosel

The year 2005 has been a challenge in many ways. As many of you know, the year started with Reiner having a kidney removed. While he adjusted to living with one kidney very well, his right leg had been hurting badly and it took several months for the doctors to find the right kind and the right dosis of pain relievers so that Reiner could walk without pain. During this time, Rosel had to do most things such as shopping on her own. Since Rosel suffers from Meniere's Disease (an episodic rotational vertigo, i.e. a form of episodic dizziness), she cannot drive a car anymore; even though Martina and I tried to help as much as we could by doing the shopping, etc., this Spring was a very stressful time for my mother.

For several months, Reiner & Rosel were considering to fully retire and move to Akron, Ohio, to live with my oldest sister Toni. They actually announced that they would move to the States, and you may have heard this. However, they are doing much better now, and we were all so happy when they decided to stay in Munich and continue their ministry as long as the Father gives them the strength for it.

New Leadership

Since our elders resigned last fall, the brothers thought and prayed over the question of how the church should be led without elders. Since we have so many new members, we came to the conclusion that a business meeting of all men may not be the best solution. We opted for a group of men to be elected as a leadership team. Six men (including Reiner and I) who have been members of our congregation

for several years were unanimously selected by the whole church for one year.

With five of the six men under 50 years old, this is a generational change in the leadership of the church. Please pray that the new leaders will rise to the challenge and will boldly but humbly lead the congregation.

New challenges

This year has been the most difficult year in our ministry. With the sudden growth of nine new members within three months, and most of them very eager to get engaged in ministry but at the same time with a background quite different from that of the "long-term members", and with the church without a well-defined leadership, in addition to Reiner's illness, some long-term members started to fear that the church would change (too much), while some new members felt unaccepted... and I was in the middle of it all trying to mediate and to keep a balance. Everyone of you who has been in church leadership when there was a period of sudden growth knows all too well how challenging and demanding this time of blessing can be. Actually, I feel exhausted and sometimes overwhelmed, and need your prayers for strength and the wisdom to find the right words.

Gospel Meeting as cooperative effort

In April, we held a gospel meeting in cooperation with the church at Thalkirchner Str.. The meeting took place in our building, but both churches were active in all planning and organization as well as in financing the meeting. While Bill Wilson, missionary from Cologne, preached excellent sermons, we did not have many visitors. We have observed a

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dwindling of interests in gospel meetings in the last year, and have become even more aware of the fact that we need to reach out to unbelievers in new ways.

English project

In May, as in the previous year, we were happy to host Prof. Chuck Hicks with his wife Melinda, and three students from Harding University who spent six weeks in Munich to teach English using the Bible as the textbook. They met and built friendships with more than 50 readers. Thank you Chuck, Melinda and the HU group!

Workers from Nashville

In June and July, Jesse Clayton and Jim Arnett, both elders of the Brentwood Hills church in Nashville, each spent two weeks in Munich with their wives Andrea and Linda to continue the English project. In addition, Linda Gilliam and Anne-Geri Fann, also from Nashville, helped us for ten days. We were so pleased by their visits! They all did a wonderful job spending many hours with readers and members of the congregation and greatly encouraged us. Thank you!

Tanya & Wilson

Now, we eagerly await Tanya & Wilson Robertson, who will arrive in Munich Sept. 7. They will live here for five months. While Wilson will attend language school to prepare for his graduate work in architecture, Tanya, who is my niece, will intern for the church continuing the English



Tanya & Wilson Robertson

program. Tanya is fluent in German and spent one summer in Bremen with Chuck Hicks and the Harding team; so she is highly qualified for the task. While the Munich church will provide the housing, we are thankful that Tanya was able to raise the necessary funds for their time in Munich.

Serving at other locations

Due to Reiner's illness, I had to cancel several weekends when I would have preached at meetings for other churches. However, I taught a class on World Religions at the annual Easter Youth Rally, and taught a weekend seminar on Personal Evangelism for the Hildesheim church. It was so wonderful to be with the brothers and sisters we worshipped with for seven years before we moved to Munich, and to see this young church grow in spirit and number.

Wonderful retreat

In the previous years, the Munich church had enjoyed a weekend retreat at Camp Schwarzwalddeckhaus in Austria.

However, it takes four hours to get to the camp, and we have more and more members who do not own a car. It has become close to impossible to go to



Wonderful nature at the Church retreat

Camp Schwarzwalddeckhaus. So we opted to find a place closer to Munich, and about 30 people enjoyed a wonderful weekend in the gorgeous mountains near Berchtesgaden.

Family matters

In Germany, there are three tracks of middle and high school. From 5th grade on, the students will go separate ways and attend one of the three tracks. Only graduates of the top level, the "Gymnasium", can attend University. We are happy that Lisa qualified for Gymnasium. Actually, she is a brilliant student; but things will become a lot more difficult for her this fall.

Nina finished her first year of school, and also did well. She is excited to be a "real" participant of summer camp which starts tomorrow. Since I direct the camp, and Martina is one of the counselors, Nina came along in the last three years, but this year, she is a real camp kid.

Please pray for the camp and please continue to pray for our work. Many of you know that I have been praying for a co-worker ever since Klaus & Sigi Freis moved to Wiesbaden in 2003. We have continued to grow, but the challenges are enormous, and sometimes I try to burn the candle at both ends.

Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- * Reiner & Rosel
- * Leadership team
- * Tanya & Wilson
- * New pathways for evangelism