



# Keeping In Contact

News from Kontaktmission USA

Winter 2002

## “Es passiert weltweit in der Mission sehr viel”

“...Gott wirkt grosse Dinge, nur es geht leider an Europa vorbei.”

Allow me to translate these words spoken with sadness at a recent Kontaktmission leadership meeting by Dieter Trefz, director of Kontaktmission in Germany. ***“There’s a great deal happening in world missions, God is doing great things, but in Europe it’s unfortunately passing us by.”*** He said this because many evangelical groups we know about around the world

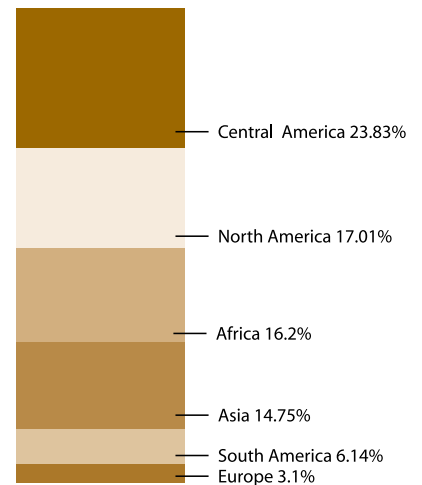


Kontaktmission leadership gathers to discuss the difficult and slow growth of missions activities in Europe.

are experiencing a time of tremendous growth, while the growth to be found in Europe, especially western Europe, is saddeningly difficult and slow. The percentage of “unreached peoples” has, according to recent studies, dropped from 44% to only 26%, and for the first time missions money and efforts have begun to flow from the southern hemisphere to the northern. But Europe remains generally stagnant.

This serves to remind me – and hopefully you as well – ***that Europe continues to be a desperate mission field***, with its many complicated cultures and so many intelligent, relatively wealthy people in such a small area. Please don’t think the job is already getting done. **Please don’t forget to pray for and support missions in Europe.**

Percentage of Evangelicals



### News from all over

*A few short news items and prayer requests translated from a few of our missionaries in several different countries.*



Günter & Gunvor Klement – ***Gmünd, Austria (church planting)***

We begin our newest Intro To Faith course in town in November. We are especially praying for two men, Werner and Hermann, to come to this meeting with their wives.

Gerhard & Lena Rehwald – ***Novosibirsk, Russia (work with academics in the university, church planting)***

In the next few weeks we will be selecting the women from our churches who will be trained in our program for church workers. This training will run from

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## News from all over

continued from page 1

January through June of 2003.

**Christoph & Cornelia Stein – Ljubljana, Slovenia (new workers/church planters)**

We are currently working on learning the language and getting to know the culture. At the same time, we are traveling and researching to get a feel for the “spiritual landscape” and situation here, and praying about where exactly the Lord wants us. There are more successful suicides in Slovenia every year than there are evangelical Christians, giving it the highest suicide rate in Europe.

**Lenilson & Liane Marques da Silva – Viseu, Portugal (radio evangelism, church planting)**

We are praying and asking for families in every city where our radio programs are heard who will open their homes for a regular Bible study. Our goal is to connect these new groups with existing churches where they can be found.

**André & Olga Krahn – Georgia, currently in Krasnodar, Russia (new workers/church planters)** I am always happy about the seminars we have been able to hold in Georgia, and for the thankful acceptance of God’s word there. We are also thankful that the Old Testament has been completed and therefore the entire Bible has just become available for purchase in Georgia. Until recently only a few Georgians have had access to the complete Bible.

**Harald & Beate Hämmerling – Stuttgart, Germany (church planting)** Our preparations have already begun for our evangelistic outreach at this year’s Christmas market in the city square. We are already praying for good weather, so that many people will pause to talk.

**Joy & Marion Selvathasan – Herne, Germany (church planting among Tamil people from India)** Please pray for the new young believers in our group, that they will find the courage to be baptized. This will complete the break with their former religion.

# A letter from Gennadij to Rob Harris

One of the most exciting things about working with Kontaktmission is the many opportunities to meet new church planters who are both gifted for their work and highly motivated. Amazing things happen where they live and work, and they seem to take it all for granted as the answer to their prayers.

In Ukraine, where many missions organizations are seeing success, Kontaktmission’s growth record has been nothing short of phenomenal. There are now 6 churches or churches-in-preparation all from one new church planted in 1995 (which has already built and moved twice), and more churches will be coming.

This short letter is from Gennadij Nefjedov, a new worker I was able to meet as he was being interviewed for a position with Kontaktmission in the summer of 1999. He spoke no English then, but has since learned quite a bit, as you will see (I’ve left his letter almost exactly as he wrote it.) Let him tell you a little about his work...



A

“Hello, Rob. This letter is from Gennady (Kremenchug, Ukraine).

Willi, my boss, (team leader for former USSR nations with Kontaktmission, Willi Löwen) offered (requested) me to send you this letter with pictures. They are about my family and my work.

I am 31. In 1999 I graduated from Odessa’s (Ukraine) seminary, where I got bachelor of theology. My wife (she is 33) also

did but as a teacher of Sunday School teachers (photo A). We have 3 daughters: Helen, Zenja and Vika. They are 11, 10, 8 (photo B).

That year I was invited by the “contact-mission” to work in Kremenchug. I worked as a church-planter in one of the districts of Kremenchug (“Molodjoznij”) and a teacher in the local Bible training center.

First of all my wife and me began to work in the “mother- church”. This church was planted by the “contact-mission”. It’s pastor is Alexander Zigalenko. I organised a team that contained 8-10 people and started to have home meetings (home churches). The next summer I took a part in “the summer camp for non-Christian families”. Some people from my district were there. I worked with them.

Our group was growing and in October 2001 was able to rent a hall and have it’s own morning meetings (photo C). Now we have 25 members. We also have a children service (photo D). But our church is not registered as separated one still. We are planning do it this or next year. Nevertheless we function independently. That is all about our church. The greetings from my family to you. May God bless you.  
-Gennady.”



B



C



D

## Christmas Wishes....

This will probably be our final newsletter for this year, so allow us to be among the first (just after the retail world) to wish you and your family a wonderful, blessed Christmas 2002! May His Spirit continually remind us that it’s all about His Son.

*-Rob and Carla Harris, with Ryan and Alissa*





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*The Harris Family  
Rob & Carla with Alissa & Ryan*

## A Fall Visit To Germany

by Rob Harris

The **Strategieforum**, or **strategy team**, of Kontaktmission met from October 7-9 at the central office in Wüstenrot, Germany. This group, which I am honored to participate in, consists of the various country and team leaders of the mission, and is generally responsible for ideas concerning new directions, missions methods, goal setting, and the like. We were very pleased with the results of this fall's meeting, and there are a couple of important things to report.

Our organization's logo has always featured the words "pioneering, church planting, training." After a very short discussion, some new, better guiding words have been chosen: "**senden? gründen? multiplizieren**", or "**send ? plant ? multiply.**" These words refer to our three-fold purpose of sending out missionaries to plant churches which will then reproduce in planting new churches themselves. This is the essence of missions work as it is represented in the Bible, and I'm very proud of this motto and this purpose.

Another exciting note from the Strategieforum is the good news that **the "family" is growing**: there are increasing numbers of missionaries and potential missionaries interested in

working with Kontaktmission in various lands. The list of new and candidating workers is currently 13 names long, most of whom are married couples, and some of them represent brand new works in additional countries.

While I was in Germany, in addition to participation in the Strategieforum, I also was a guest at the German board of directors meeting (there are also Swiss and US boards of directors) and briefly presented the organization in the US.

I was also given the opportunity to preach at the **Christusgemeinde** (Christ's Church) in **Steinheim**, which was planted several years ago by Kontaktmission. My message topic was having great faith, and I mentioned in the message that this was the kind of faith necessary for preaching again in German after a 3-year break! The visit to Steinheim also afforded me the opportunity to encourage and be encouraged by the church planter/pastor there, Karsten Maul,

and to visit with our American intern, Charity Backs, who was there at the time. (Charity has since moved on for a seven week stretch at the central office, where she is very much enjoying the work and the experience.)

