

April 28, 2006

Dear Friends and Family,



Thanks for your prayers for the Kontaktmission (KM) meetings. They were refreshing and inspiring. We were happy to see old friends and make new friends, and encouraged that our language studies enabled us to understand and converse much more than we have in the past!

One-year plan

We were able to meet with the KM directors to make plans for the coming year. From now until July we will **stay in Stuttgart** studying German language, observing various congregations in and around this city, and helping with projects in the KM headquarters.

In August we will **go to the States** for the birth of our first grandchild. We will stay in the U.S. for about three months, and are eager to share about the spiritual situation in Europe, to encourage and be encouraged by our prayer and financial support team, and hopefully to expand the team! **Please let us know if there are any events you know of that will be coming up during the period July through November, such as mission events or opportunities to get together with friends. This will help us decide the timing of our trip.**

When we get **back to Germany**, around November, we will focus on building our understanding of church-planting in Germany by getting more involved with churches in various phases of development. During that time we will be seeking God's will about where we will be planting a church and who the German members of our team will be.

Lord of all

After the KM meetings, church planter Christian Hartman rode to Stuttgart with us to catch his train back to Italy. Because of the holiday traffic (Friday before Easter and Monday after Easter are national holidays here) we got to the train station about 10 minutes late. We had just heard a sermon about fixing our eyes on what is unseen, not on what is seen, so we kept our cool, but we felt sick, wondering how Christian would get back to Italy. As Christian hopped out of the car with city traffic surging around us, Mark said, "I am praying the train will wait for you!"

A couple of days later, we got this e-mail from Christian: „*der Zug in Stuttgart ‚auf mich‘ gewartet hat, bzw. daß Gott dafür gesorgt hat, daß ich den Zug noch bekam! Gott hat unser Gebet erhört. Es ist sonst eher unwahrscheinlich, daß ein ICE Verspätung hat.*“

Translation: "The train waited 'for me' in Stuttgart—that is, God saw to it that I made the train! God heard our prayer. It is otherwise highly unlikely that an ICE [inter-city express] would run late!"

Supplying all our needs

We cringed about some extra expenses we had in March, until we got our March financial report. Much to our amazement, we had received some unexpected gifts, so our income and expenses were almost exactly the same amount! In addition, Mark needed emergency dental work, which cost a fraction of what we feared! God provides in ways that involve money and in ways that

don't involve money (like manna and quail, loaves and fish, clothes that don't wear out and feet that don't swell)! Thanks again for your prayers and gifts!

Small world

We are thankful for the many Americans who share our love for Germany and our concern for her spiritual well-being. Last month we told you of our visit to **City Chapel** here in Stuttgart. We were excited to get this reply from a friend in the Omaha area:

... Before moving back to Omaha, my family and I lived in Stuttgart (July 1999- July 2002). We even attended the City Chapel that you spoke of in this last newsletter! ... We really enjoyed worshiping with them and miss the experience of working through the language barrier. When we first went to City Chapel there were only about 20 people attending and often times we were the only Americans. It's good to hear the church is growing. The Germans really accepted our family and took extra steps to ensure we felt comfortable around them.

This month we visited the **International Baptist Church** of Stuttgart, a congregation of about 600 that operates mainly in the English language, but has a German pastor on staff and also offers services in Korean and Japanese. We also visited **Gospel Forum**, a congregation of over 2000 that offers services Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons as well as Sunday mornings.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will care for our families in the States, that he will develop our character, and that we will learn German language, culture and effective church-planting strategies.

Please also pray that God will guide every step of our plans in returning to the U.S., such as timing, getting tickets, and making the most of the time we spend there. Pray that our visa extension goes smoothly so that we can stay and continue language learning for the next three months.

Your partners in Christ,
Mark and Corinne

"we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen" 2 Corinthians 4:18

<http://www.kontaktmissionusa.org/wilson.htm>



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