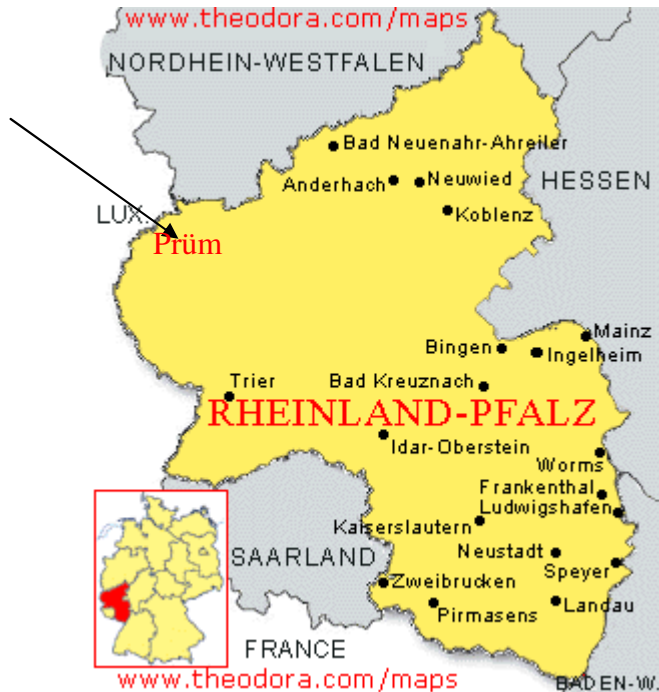


May 2007

Dear Friends and Family,



“Whole areas of Germany, while superficially Christianized over a thousand years ago, have never really been evangelized. Despite the influence of the Reformation many are almost devoid of a live evangelical witness—the northern plains, Bavaria, the Eifel area on the Belgian border, etc.”—Operation World, 2005

Potential future ministry site-- April 21-22 we visited the city of Prüm in the Eifel area of western Germany near the borders of Belgium and Luxemburg. Kontaktmission church planter Dirk Staudinger and his wife Annette have been working there for six years and currently lead a congregation with a weekly

attendance of 30-40 people. The area is extremely resistant and bound by tradition. The only way to reach out is by building trust through relationships, which is difficult, since most of the people have been together since childhood. In order to build relationships Dirk spends many hours each week playing soccer and jogging with other men. In addition he works as a cook in a local hotel, which helps to support his family as well as giving him more contacts. Leadership in the congregation is weak, and it mainly falls to Dirk to lead small groups and the worship service. He is stretched to the limit and hopes for help!

Dirk emphasizes that a long-term commitment is needed for this work, since the building of individuals' trust can take years. We are interested in working with him and hope to take another scouting trip to the area in the near future. Two potential barriers to our going are 1) **visas** and 2) **the means to rent an apartment:**

- 1) Thanks for praying about our **visas**! The good news is that we have permission to stay while they consider the additional documents we submitted. Please keep praying!
- 2) We have been considering how to afford the **rent on an apartment**. We would be more than willing to work part time as Dirk does, but Germany has very stringent agreements to prevent

U.S. citizens from taking jobs from Germans! Even the U.S. Air Force base near Prüm only hires military family members who already live in the area. Please pray the Lord will guide and provide for this situation!

SIM (Short Internship Ministry) Training & Trips

June 1-10 we have the opportunity to participate as Kontaktmission gathers a group of European and American students & new missionaries together for cross-cultural training. There will be classes on such topics as: what to expect when crossing cultures, beating culture shock, working in multi-cultural teams, and specifics of church work in Europe. After this short initial training, some Americans will be **visiting various mission works in Western Europe** in order to get a broad picture of what missionary work in Europe can look like. The missionaries will teach and tell about how they work, what the culture is like in their particular location, what challenges they face, and how a new missionary might fit into that work. *Please pray for those doing the training and teaching and all who participate, including us, as we drive a group of Americans to visit various mission works in Germany!*

June 13 and 14 we have the opportunity to attend a seminar on methods of outreach for Germany in German at a German Bible college!

Conversation with Doris, a retired German missionary: *We made a visit to the tribe we used to work with in the Philippines. When we described the state of Christianity here in Germany the tribal Christians said, "Germany is more of a mission field than the Philippines!" Then they prayed over us and commissioned us as their missionaries to Germany!*

Thanks again for all your prayers, support and encouragement! We need and appreciate them!

Mark and Corinne

"I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed." Isaiah 49:23