



September 6, 2007

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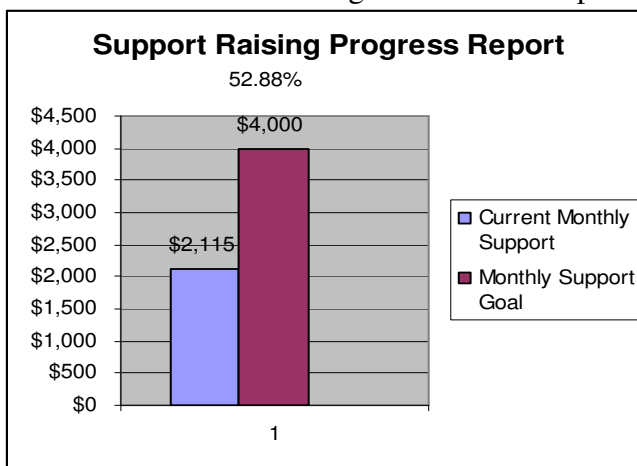
Dear Friends and Partners,

Thanks again for all your prayers, encouragement and support that see us through each day, each week, each month!

Support Raising "...will he not first sit down and estimate the cost ...?" Luke 14:28

Since we announced our decision to go to Germany in 2003, the greatest part of our mission work has been assembling our support team! It has taken far longer than we anticipated

and we are still working on it. We are excited about each individual and congregation who participates with us in this important way, and about each gift that makes the work possible. We are grateful that—thanks in part to the generous start-up fund that accumulated over the first two years—we have been able to spend a good part of the past two years in Germany, even with just half of our monthly support raised! During this time we have made significant progress toward becoming a part of a Kontaktmission church-planting



team--learning the language and culture, visiting a variety of congregations, getting to know our European co-workers, having the opportunity to help them and be helped by them in many ways, and in fact, finding our place of service (Prüm, in the Eifel region) and our German ministry partners, the Staudinger family!

Thanks so much for praying for us during this time of support raising! God is providing for our current needs in wonderful ways, and we trust he will continue to lead us to those he is preparing to support his work in Germany through us!

Coming up:

September 16: Mission Presentation, Southside Christian Church, Council Bluffs, IA

September 24-28: Missions Emphasis Week, Nebraska Christian College

October 20-21: Missions Fair, Wildewood Christian Church, Papillion, Nebraska

October 28: Missions Fair, Twin Cities Christian Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa

In the words of a dear German friend, who is also raising support for mission service, "There are still plenty of openings! You are welcome to invite us" to speak to your congregation, Sunday school class, small group, mission event or other gathering, about the spiritual situation in Germany and our plans to serve the Lord through planting a congregation in the Eifel region of Germany. As our German friend also notes: "Through these invitations new contacts are established, and the chance to find new prayer and financial partners. In all this [we] continue to trust in the faithful guidance of God ..."

**Impoverished Wealthy** “What good will it do a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?” *Matthew 16:26*

Europe is often overlooked as a mission field for at least two reasons: 1) The beautiful church buildings give the illusion of Christianity. It has surprised us to learn that the extent of evangelism in many areas has consisted of wealthy nobles in past centuries building beautiful church buildings and announcing to their subjects: “We are all Catholics now!” or “We are all Lutherans now!” 2) The people are financially self-sufficient and we do not have pictures of devastated buildings, hungry children, or medical deprivation to move our compassion. Devastated hearts and sick, hungry souls often go unnoticed. In Germany it is estimated that less than 3% of the population are evangelical Christians, and in the Eifel region, where we will be serving, 1% or less.

**Willing Workers!** “...how can they preach unless they are sent?” *Romans 10:15*

In June we wrote about Kontaktmission’s Short Internship Ministry program, in which interested young people from the U.S. had the opportunity to visit and learn first hand about the needs and opportunities to partner with Europeans in evangelizing Europe.

**Elizabeth DeVilder** traveled with us for a week, then was on her own for four additional weeks, visiting and participating in ministries at various locations in Germany. The last Sunday in August we were able to attend her home congregation in Brooklyn, Iowa, where she gave a presentation. We were happy to hear that she hopes to return to Germany soon for a one-year internship!



**Nathan and Kayla Traver** were also SIM participants and did a 10-week internship in Austria. We met them for Labor Day breakfast and enjoyed hearing about their experiences—including working with a small youth group of which almost every member was the only evangelical Christian in his or her school! Travers, too, continue to be interested in future ministry in Europe!

**Thanks for praying for workers for Europe!**

We know several families and individuals who have sold their houses and businesses, left their jobs, completed their educations, and (like us) are currently seeking financial support in order to follow God’s call on them to work for him in Europe. The fields are white, the workers are willing—please pray for plenty of **senders** for us and for these others who desire to serve in Europe!

In closing, these apt words from the abovementioned German friend: “It is *VERY* exciting to discover where God is preparing individuals and congregations who want to support *HIS WORK* [through us]! How good it is, in all the uncertainty, to know that God has the overview and we are just trustees!”

With gratitude to the One who brought us from death to life--  
Your “co-heirs,”

**Mark and Corinne**