

“He has presented a reason for everyone to have faith by raising Him up from among the dead.”

Paul - Athens, Mars Hill Acts 17:31b

With Paul's decisive words, I welcome you to our newsletter! A week after our arrival from the states, it started getting busy here. LST arrived. This is a 6 week program helping people improve their English using Bible texts and discussion. Teams go into lots of countries. 3 students made up our team. The first time this program was used in



Chemnitz was in the summer of '91, just after I arrived. It was here that I met Mario, and 6 weeks later, his mom, who 8 years later became my wife. I appreciate LST! Unlike the campaign teams, LST is located just here, and are involved in everything, having the time to get to know their readers and the congregation.



However, I was involved more with the campaigners, who arrived shortly after LST. Their visit is for 4 weeks; days filled with visits to kindergartens, schools, care homes, and the market place in downtown. I, along with others, enjoyed escorting them in Oelsnitz and Chemnitz. I filmed these activities, and provided them with a DVD record of their visit.



In the schools, everyone is wanting to practice their English, and the campaigners participate in many classes. They are well received and their visit cherished by most students and teachers. One teacher told me that again, like last year, parents contacted her to ask about the American students, as their kids had been so impressed with the group, and had talked a lot about them. This teacher was SO glad that they visited.



At one school, I noticed two teachers discussing something while the students were singing. One came to me later, and said that the other teacher had told her that she wishes that the Americans would just stay here and not go back home!

Last year one school was visited for the first time. The director (principal) was at first very reluctant to have them there. Finally, he relented. Their visit was a hit! This year, when the same person making these schedules again appeared at his

office, the man was very excited and apologetic. He immediately said yes, please come again! He admitted that last year he had doubts and anxieties, but this year he had joy! He introduced the Americans himself to his hundreds of students, and enjoyed himself making lots of pics of the event. His joy was clearly alive!

Songs about God are welcomed. Students can share about what God means to them. Spirituals are well-known and liked by the German students, many of whom generally know some history of these songs.

Respect and love always flows both ways, and is, basically, the name of the game, in my opinion. No governmental ambassador is more important than the love and friendship that exchanges here.

The schools aren't barricaded, and the front doors are generally open. That openness is good for the US students to see. Although there have been some shooting events in Germany, the reactions have not yet been to make fortresses of the schools. I was able to photograph everywhere we went. I always asked first, and used common sense discretion in my work.



In Oelsnitz, we had several evening meetings, with Manfred Schultz (Frankfurt) as the speaker. I feel Manfred connected well with the people. He certainly did with the campaigners, and with me. What a treat to have had him here! Many visitors attended and heard simple, relevant Good News! My belief is that those hearing knew that Manfred's simple messages were true. Many have choices to make now involving their own relationship to God.

The Chemnitz meeting was in the format of a song evening, with short, relevant messages interspersed, covering the spiritual themes of some of the songs. The 1hr. 15min. concert was held in a large public building that also houses the city library and science museum. I feel that this has been a wise choice for a facility, and one we have used a few times now. While passing out invitations on the market square while the students sang, I noticed how the people taking an invitation relaxed and were less suspicious when they were told, or noticed, that the concert was at DASTietz.

That is an important issue here. It would be seen as a very "neutral" place, reducing anxiety (and, boy, is that needed!). I felt that we would have our largest crowd yet, just due to the general reception of the invitation takers. And, although some doubted, it was so! The room is limited to 200 due to fire code. Someone counted over 220 visitors.

One day on the market square was especially interesting. Just before our group arrived to start singing, a bus appeared on the square with a huge sign on the side stating „There is (outside a small possible chance) no God.“ This campaign had its beginnings in the UK, and has come here. We had no idea this group was coming to Chemnitz. A group from Campus Crusade was there, as they had heard of the bus' schedule, and



they follow it around. It was so great to hear our group singing the Good News that there IS a God!

Of course, the press was around for this, and they noticed us too. Some related quotes from one of our German

leaders with us were cited in the newspaper the next day, along with a photo. That was good press for us!



15 of us from the Chemnitz body visited Leipzig on the 21st. of May. That is Ascension, and is a national holiday. So, lots of people were underway with us on the train. In Leipzig was a display pertaining to the Sinaiticus Greek Bible text (It is now visiting in New York). A good speaker explained some interesting things about the text, including the way it made it's home partly in Germany. A convent in Israel is not very happy about how this occurred many years ago! But I am very glad that it happened! It will, without a doubt, be much more widely accessible having its home base here in Europe.



The Christian Bible I advocate is a true translation comparing this very text with the Alexandrian and Vatican texts. No other Bible I know of developed this way. Sadly, the value of the effort and results of these translator's outstanding work continues to go very underappreciated. Christianbiblesociety.org

Update July 7th. The complete text of the Sinaiticus is on the Internet! Greek scholars can now much more easily make an accurate and consistent Koine translation of the Bible text into their own language! So Greek scholars, start showing the PUBLIC your skills! Wrench the true message finally out of the distorting hands of corporations, governments, academia, and special interests. See more about this translation on my website.

In my last report, I promised an example of someone more receptive to the Good News, due to the fact of how we discussed the matter. Here it is. This person did not grow up believing the Bible, but it was incredible how easily thoughts flowed back and forth in our discussion, and to hear her share Godly thoughts, including old and new wisdom and understanding on the matter! It has been awesome seeing old, atheistic thought patterns slowly changing over the years! She has the genetic picture of God already in her, as everyone does, as each is made in His image. (Please consider what that means!) So, with respect and patience, we just help bring it out, just as Paul did with the Greeks on Mars Hill! There, many Greeks wanted to hear more, and many followed the Way, clearly due to how Paul had spoken with respect and understanding; as he humbly built on the fact that they were already a worshipping people. And, our friend? She shared her appreciation for our talk as she left that day! Dialogue will continue, I am sure.

Something important: I believe that she realizes that our lives do not reflect the slavish qualities of a sect or the stiffness and coldness of some religious system, as many have seen religion as. She already knows that these are not what God is about!

What Great News to share in this way! It is about Living and Acting in Faith under Grace! This is true church, and truly a preview of Paradise to come!

We had a visitor in our house recently from another congregation. He shared with us his concern that it is just not enough to hear that "God loves you" from the pulpit. He was clearly wanting to know the depth of what that phrase means in the experience of his Everyday. Words from the pulpit cannot possibly substitute for the experience of Agape.

My opinion? He is on the right path and looking in the right way, as he acknowledges his need! We appreciated the fact that he was willing to bring up the subject, something few people seem to have the courage to do! I pray that our spontaneous meeting that day was helpful, as it certainly made **our** day to discuss it with him.

I brought 3 newer Nooma DVDs back with me from the US. (www.nooma.com) These really reach people. And, they have subtitles available in several selectable languages. Recently, I played one for someone I study with. This one was called „Open“, and deals with God and prayer. One friend wanted to see it twice, and was quite moved by the message. I too, as I had not previewed it. These DVDs are excellent witnessing tools, and I recommend them highly. They are short, basically 11-12 minutes, making them perfect for your house and private studies and encouragement. They are also very reasonably priced.

„This world is not a playground where I keep all my children from evil. Evil is the chaos of this age that you brought to me, but it will not have the final say.“

Papa (God) - „The Shack“

I hope that you have enjoyed the more detailed reports of the recent past. I don't want to just report that "this" or "that" is going on, or that I have done "this" or "that". I believe that this way is better, drawing you closer to us. My request: let yourself be moved by this attempted sharing of our honesty, reality and life in Christ.

In His Love,

Robert and Regina

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