

Robert's July - August 2008 Report

Greetings from a nice late summer time in Germany! Here at the end of August is usually one of our nicest weather times.

This report is now going out by email. While many were sending out email reports more than a decade ago, it has taken until now for me to arrive. A few printed ones will still go out. I have also begun a blogsite. It is even up and running, but with little content. So I will send the link along to you soon.

European Soccer championship 2008. Was big stuff here! Everyone can't win at a championship. Only one wins (Out of 16 teams: Spain won, Germany 2nd.). Paul spoke of such events like they are a shadow of the really important win; the one where ALL people can win. Isn't that Good News?

The campaigners finished up their time with us at the end of June with 3 events in Chemnitz; a Friday evening public concert/teaching time (was well attended), a Sat. PM grill party for students and others met during the week visiting schools, and a Sun. PM public children/family afternoon. I think that these are grand, but simple ways for us to speak and sing the Good News of what the Christ has done for the people of this city.

Former campaign leaders, Clyde and Gwen Antwine spent much of their summer in Europe. It is always a blessing for them to be with us!

Following the June meetings in Oelsnitz there were 3 immersions! On July 20th, Henry and Nadine, a young couple with two children, carried through with their decision. Then on the 23rd, Thomas did the same thing. He had observed the earlier immersion; had lost some nights sleep wrestling with his need, and then did the right and simple thing!

I believe the simplicity of Jesus teachings often confused the people, as they were used to the Pharisee's heavy-handed tactics, akin to religion today. Those who could understand the beauty and simplicity, and the love behind that, were more than willing to carry out the simple understanding of believing in and then being planted with Christ. Thankfully, that perception occurs today too!

Thomas testimony he shared that led up to this decision was also very sweet and revealing. Few say anything to reveal a joy and understanding.

I lived for 8 years in Oelsnitz with an older couple. They had a grown son. When he visited, we sometimes talked together about spiritual matters. He didn't see a need for God at all. Now his mom says that he has joined an evangelical group in Chemnitz! That is a change! I look forward to seeing him again, and finding out about his way to belief.

Monti Renner and family visited this summer for 6 weeks. They have been back in the US for 2 years now, with this as their first visit back to Germany. Of course, high on their to do list was time with

Marions family and relatives here. I know well how valuable that time is!

Monti conducted a two day seminar on fellowship in the Body for area congregations. Naturally, such a topic raises many issues and questions that are good to mull over again. I appreciate his thoughts.

Time and money was spent in Oelsnitz by painting the wood building with some treatment solution. At our Chemnitz building, sweat was produced with some work where the yard meets the street. Heavy preformed concrete pieces were dealt with, and whipped into submission, despite their reluctance.

It recently hit home again what the Pure Spirit says about the heart (Gr.-Kardia, a word familiar to us all); that the heart is where understanding happens!! Jesus, quoting Isaiah, confirms this fact in Mat.13:15 with clarity. But is this what German Christians have been taught? I don't think so. We give credit to the head and brain for this; just hear, read and study the Word more and we will then understand. More about this important foundational issue on my website soon!

We just took 2 weeks vacation. We visited the Lake Constance area in southern Germany, with side trips into Switzerland and Austria. The next week was spent in the Pfalz area of southwestern Germany, with side trips into France. We also spent time there with Mario, as he lives nearby in Karlsruhe. Both areas were new to us. Sundays were spent with brethren in Schaffhausen (Switzerland) and Strasbourg (France). We were/are thankful for all experiences of the trip.

Big news came during our vacation; Mario (Regina's son) revealed that he and Tonia plan to marry on October 4th.! We have prayed for this decision for a long time! More details next issue.

As joyful news arrives about two recent new babies; a son to Alex and Barbara here, and a daughter to missionary parents Craig and Theresa in India, my thoughts turn to the fact of what a different world they will be growing up in. In my pessimism, I see it dark. But some others have a very bright attitude as regarding the Truth and living for Christ. They feel that a real return to living Gods way, and a seeking of real Truth, is in the wind in the next years. I need that thought; appreciate it, and see, too, the possibility. It is important to remember that our life here is only a school for the next age; the permanent 3rd. age where those who love Him in this age will be with our Father. Simple!

So, until the end of October when we, prayerfully, might meet again! May our Father be close to you.

Robert and Regina