

1-Sep-09

Dear Praying Friends and Supporting Churches,

With great joy I write this first letter unto you from Europe. Much has transpired since my last letter. I want to thank you all very much for all your support and prayers that have enabled me to make it thus far!

The last month started off very busy with final packing and planing for our trip to Europe. We said our final goodbyes and had a very great service at our home church on the 9th of August. I was able to preach with great liberty and I preached on the thought that God laid on my heart, "Here comes Philip." The Lord laid the passage on my heart as I looked back over my own life and saw myself searching for truth, and God's hand leading me down through the years to where I am today. I thought of that eunuch that was searching for God, but didn't know where to find him. Doing all he knew to do, "go down to Jerusalem for to worship", and in the back ground God was calling Philip to head that way. The eunuch sought truth and unbeknown to him God called Philip to join himself to that chariot. I have thought often how God opened the doors for me to witness not just in Germany, but in Switzerland and Austria as well, that just maybe, as I began even three years ago on deputation, that there is some young man, someone seeking truth over in the German speaking part of Europe. As my family and I loaded the plane, I thought that unbeknown to them, but someone that very moment, in their heart, may have been crying out to GOD, "show me the way". They might have been reading the Holy Scriptures and one day soon our paths will cross at God's divine appointed time! I thought unbeknown to them, BUT "HERE COMES PHILIP." What a God we serve, that he would hear a sinners cry and send out someone to bring them home!

After our safe arrival to Switzerland, we have been staying with Brother Nico Verhoef. Brother Verhoef has been very gracious in helping us find a home, and get adjusted to the new way of life. We have been busy looking for a home, that will be near my language school in Lindau, Germany and near the church in Switzerland as well. Lindau is just across the German border from Austria, and Switzerland. So we have been looking for homes in both Austria and Germany. So far we have found out the Germany in pricing is higher, but Austria seems to have more paper work to stay in the country. Austria with its very notable staunch Roman Catholic hold, we have been denied a home upon hearing that I was a Baptist Preacher. But we trust that the Lord's hand is in it as well, as we have been turned down for several places both in Germany and Austria. We have put much prayer in to a home in the right area where "the eunuch" may be seeking! and we trust that a home will come available in the Lord's perfect timing. Mean time we have enjoyed the fellowship very much with the Verhoef's, as they have helped us tremendously both with the language and culture adaption.

Our plans in the near future are to find a home, attend language school, adapt to the culture and learn all I can from Brother Verhoef. We will attend his church in Switzerland, as we go through school, and try to be a blessing there and learn the "how to" on building and training men in Europe. Please keep these things on your mind as you lift my family up in prayer. I desperately need to learn all I can to become an effective missionary in Europe. I have quickly saw, that though most would affirm Europe to be hard hearted people and cold toward the gospel, there are still "eunuchs"

out there that want truth. They just need “some man to guide them.” I saw that first hand as a brother in the church and I went and street preached in Konstanz, Germany. We saw mockers and people that didn’t care, but as we preached, and passed out tracts to the hundreds of people passing by several came and were very receptive. One young man I talked to for well over 15 minutes with an open Bible, named Pascal, was very interested and open for the Gospel Of Christ. People are still open in Europe, they just need a Man to guide them. Please pray that God would help me to learn this language thoroughly and get the culture down, that I might be able to not only win but faithfully disciple some young man in the way of the Lord!  
God Bless you all that labor with us in reaching the German speaking people through the OLD Luther 1545!

Mark, Kacie, Naomi, and Tobias Smith