

3 November 2009

Dear Praying Friends and Supporting Churches,

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Much has happened since my last letter. We have moved into our own place, bought a vehicle, started language school, and have been busy in the ministry.

May I first let you know of our apartment that we have found in a small town in the south in Bavaria Germany. Here the Lord has placed us within 5 miles of the austrian border, and just around 30 miles to the border of Switzerland. This simply is a good location, both for language school (15 miles away) and church (1 hour drive). Our landlords are very nice, and have been quite helpful in getting moved in, and aquatinted with the new town. We were able the first two months to rent a car for a good price, from a friend of Pastor Verhoef. Then by the good grace of God we were able to buy our own vehicle after getting settled in to our home, and having time to find what we needed.

Language school started for me on the 14th of September, and I must say that learning german grammar for a country boy's stand point is not the easiest thing I have ever done! Here the Lord has opened many doors to be a light and testimony for him. I have been able to witness to people from England, Switzerland, Austria, Serbia, Slovakia, Italy, Thailand, France, and Australia. Many times since it is a language school they want us give use a topic, and we have to write about it, then present it to the class. I have used every opportunity to write and weave in the gospel as much as possible! On one occasion the assignment was to write a romance, giving details of the man and the woman, how they met etc. I decided to write about "Ruth and Boaz." The funny thing to me is as I write these "essays" or "letters" or what ever they may call them, in all reality, they are helping me write future sermon illustrations in good proper German!!! Once I was to write a letter to a friend, of which I took the opportunity to explain in full detail John 3:3 to "my friend." So I now have a clear presentation of the gospel in writing by the good help of my teacher!!

We have also been very busy in the ministry. I have a hour lunch break twice a week, and so I take that opportunity to hit the streets of lindau with the gospel. Lindau being the tourist town that it is, I have found this to be a great place to pass out tracts, and witness for my Saviour. On the weekends we hit the streets, street preaching in various towns such as: Lindau, Germany, Bregenz, Austria, and St. Gallen, Switzerland.

We have found, although there are adversaries, there is always someone that will take a tract, and that you are able to give a good clear gospel witness to. I have sent off the final copy of John and Galatians to be printed in the Old Luther Reformation Bible, as well as translated a tract with the help of a young man in the church. We are looking for a printer to print that tract now.

After being on the field now for three months with things seemingly smoothly in going, we have had problems with our support and with wire transfers from our american bank account to our german account. With this brought unintentional tension between our home church and myself. So after much prayer and council I have decided to go through a mission board. This is already in the working, but being on the field it is taking time to get all the things arranged. Until all is completed and transfered if you could make all support checks payable to myself (Mark Smith) and continue sending them to our P.O. Box. Once all is completed I will send a new address to all of my supporters ASAP. If you have any questions please contact me at my Skype number (1-606-658-4181) and/or my home phone (011-49-8387-392364) or e-mail address luther1545@yahoo.com

Please pray for John, and David, two young men we witnessed to on the street (for salvation). Also pray for Dieter, a man that has been looking for a church. He is not to far away from us, and said he would be interested to come by my home and learn more about Baptists. As well please pray for language skills, and our transition from our home church to a mission board.

Mark, Kacie, Naomi, and Tobias Smith
Your missionaries to the german speaking people of Europe.