

5 Feb 2010

Dear Brethren,

Thank you for your prayers and financial support this month as we have had our ups and downs through the month. The start of this month seemed to be very promising as visitation brought more visitors to our home for bible study. I had the great privilege to have our landlord (94 years old) and his daughter, who are both very devout Roman Catholics come one Sunday evening for our bible study, they brought along their prayer books and all. It was a great surprise that they came and I was able to teach that night on, "as Moses lifted up the serpent". They left that night with a clear picture of Jesus Christ lifted up, and calling all to "look and live"! They have come back since then as well, and say that they will come again as they can. Through the charismatic lady Doris, we were able to meet a lady named Anna and minister to her through a very hard time in her life. She has much problems and needs your prayers.

While street preaching and tracting one Friday night in Lindau, I was able to lead my first soul in Europe to the Lord Jesus Christ! While using the OLD LUTHER 1545 Reformation Bible, "some 465 years out of date", it proved to still bring forth fruit! After talking with a lost Roman Catholic boy, Angelo, he bowed his head and asked the Lord to save his soul. Talking with him afterward Angelo mentioned some of his friends that needed saved as well. He even asked if I would talk to them about the Lord too (I thought, No, I am just a MISSIONARY...). Unfortunately his friends were not home, but what a blessing to see that care for others! I have met with him once since his salvation and had a chance to speak with a few friends. One named Jeffrey was open for the gospel, but not quite ripe. The majority of his friends are Muslims and need prayer. Once on a phone call to Angelo his friends took the phone and told how they destroyed the bible I gave him and that he needs to become a Muslim. Angelo is 15 and lives 20 miles away, so it is hard for me to reach him. Please pray for his personal growth and desire to learn more about the Lord, while up against his very staunch muslim peers.

At the end of the month we were surprised to get a letter from the immigrations office denying our visas, and giving us until the 22nd of February to leave the country. With much prayer and studying we were able to find out that one way we could stay in the country was to go back to school. With no extra funds for school, back to prayer we went and I began searching for a school in the area that would take me "cheaply". Unbeknown to us, or them, Masters Ranch and Christian Academy had sent a special love offering to us. After BBMI made our deposit for the month, we were able to pay for a language school for 6 months and take care of a few other things as well. Our father knew our need before we asked of it! Things are not completely final yet, but the Immigrations office says they will grant us Visas for at least 6 months once the paper work goes through, which should be any day now.

Another semi-problem we faced, was one night after bible study Doris, the charismatic lady, asked if we could start praying in "tongues", that she knew there was power to "bind satan" if we did so. I politely gave her a short testimony of my background in the charismatic movement and how I came to believe the Bible as my authority over my feelings. I showed her a few references and gave her a tract covering, "signs, tongues, and healing". After a few more visits with her, she sat at my table and said, "I know what you are showing me says not too...BUT...". I told her she needed to accept the word of God and not me or any other authority, but she decided after another visit to her church that I was wrong, the bible was wrong, and her feelings were right. The worst thing about it was Anna her friend which is a fairly new christian, knows nothing one way or the other, and heard me talk to Doris about tongues and Doris is "not allowing Anna to talk to us anymore". Pray Anna will seek truth in the matter.

I have started Dr. Nico Verhoef's Bible institute on Wednesday nights. I thought the instruction in German, would not only help me spiritually, but help my language skills as well! Lastly, I was able to visit Zurich, Switzerland with the men of the church and preach both in English and German on the street. It was a blessing and a spiritual burden at the same time. On the main street on Zurich I stood looking out at literally THOUSANDS of people and my heart began to break as I asked Brother Verhoef, "who can we reach them all, how can we reach them...?" His advice was simple, "PREACH THE WORD BROTHER, PREACH THE WORD." Romans 10:14 says "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

So what are you doing for the lost?

Mark, Kacie, Naomi, and Tobias Smith
Missionaries to the German speaking souls of Europe