

5 March 2010

Dear Brethren,

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support this past month, we want to especially thank Bible Believers Baptist Church in Canton, OH and Old Paths Bible Baptist Church in Carrollton, OH for their vision for the German speaking people of Europe and desire to help us poor sinners to be able vessels to serve our Lord here on the field. Thank you!

Visas- In our last letter, we told you about our problem with our visas. Thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory, we have been able to stay in the country thus far. We have still yet to receive our visas, however the immigrations office has confirmed, through the local court house, that our visas have been granted to us. We are just awaiting their arrival. Please continue to keep that in your prayers, as we understand it, visas will be granted to us just until July, possibly August.

Language School- I have started a second language school in Kempten, Germany. Which has proven to be a great city to reach people in with many open doors. My class is a great mix with Muslims from Afghanistan, Iran, and Africa to Buddhist and Hindus from China, India, and Japan. I have the respect of my teacher and have already be given several chances to declare the gospel openly before the whole class.

Street Preaching- With the bigger city of Kempten, I have hit the streets twice a week after school to PREACH PUBLICLY to the lost German souls. Through this, the Lord has opened doors of witnessing for me. Several students from my class have inquired after seeing me. One was a lady named Anca from Romania, who asked me about salvation. After over 30 minutes with an open bible, she, with tears in her eyes, said, "Mark, if I trust Jesus alone for salvation, then I forsake my Orthodox religion, my family, my heritage, and my home land." She promised to pray to God and ask him to show her the true way of salvation. Please pray for her. I printed out a copy of John and Galatians from holybiblefoundation.org (Dr. Verhoef's web page with all old reformation bibles in the correct text and more) and gave it to her to read. After STREET PREACHING yesterday for about 45 minutes, I decided to close it with a song, "Softly and Tenderly." As I started singing, "come home, come home", I noticed a young man standing attentively listening. After the song he came over. We went into a café and talked about the word of God. After 2 hours he was convinced he needs to be saved, but did not have the nerve to pray. He speaks some English and asked me for a KING JAMES 1611. Then I told him about the pure word of GOD in German the LUTHER 1545. He told me he knew of all the corruption in modern versions in English and German, but never realized you could still get the word of God in German. Please pray for Zen's salvation, as he seems very eager to read the book of John and learn more about Jesus and being born again!

Visitation has proven to be a blessing as I met Alexander, a Russian which turned out to be Anna's husband (see our last letter). After I asked if he knew Jesus, he immediately broke down and cried, telling me how he use to believe in God, but he has cursed his name and now he has lost it all. He told me he needed a friend so I sang to him, "There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus". He came to my home and I preached to him Jesus for over an hour. He is a major alcoholic and he knows he needs Jesus, but keeps saying he needs to give the Alcohol up first, but does not want to because he has lost it all and there is no point. He has many problems, but he keeps coming to my home. I have been dealing with him for nearly a month now and though he is still not saved the word of God is not going out void!

Bible study at our home has been a blessing with more visitors this past month. Our land lords come as long as they feel up to it and we had a man, Ulrich (a "priest helper" in the RCC), come by and stay for over 2 hours afterward. Please pray for his salvation as he is very involved in the RCC and actually is a "RCC missionary."

We thank you all for your prayers as things are beginning to open up. Please keep in prayer: Alexander, Ulrich, Zen, and Anca for salvation. As well please pray for the growth of Anna and the Hecht family. May you stay faithful there at home base as we labor here in the field of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria.

The Smith family

Your missionaries to the german speaking souls of Europe