



A Painful "Yes"

Hello everyone! Greetings from southern Germany. We hope that you are enjoying the blessings that are ours in Christ, and that you have begun this new year with a renewed desire to know and love Him more.

In our last update, we highlighted the great need there is for godly men, both in our local church and churches around the world. In God's wisdom and sovereignty, shortly following that update, our family and church would face the most difficult season to date. While we cannot enter into the details, we can say that there were moments so dark and heavy, that we felt we might be crushed beneath the load of it all. Each member of our family and church was personally affected. As always, when we applied the truths found in the Word of God to our situation, and simply obeyed God by faith, He proved Himself to be faithful and true to His Word.

Alongside these painful experiences, the Lord has taught us many helpful lessons, and given us several answers to prayer. They are God's painful "Yes" to our cries for help. This great trial of our faith became an opportunity for the love and fellowship of the church body to grow. We have never enjoyed a closeness within our church like we do now. Also, not coincidentally, we have seen the men of the church step into their god-given roles of leadership, praying, studying, and serving with more sincerity than ever before.

We praise the Lord for answering our prayers for godly men. We also praise the Lord for the godly women within the congregation, who have also grown in their faith and faithfulness over the past months. May Christ continue to build His church, His way, and may He use us to do it.

MK Retreat

In December, Micah attended a retreat for Missionary kids (MK's) in Spain. This was the first time he had ever attended something like this. It was also perfect timing, as the trials in the church were especially difficult for him. Since returning from the retreat, Micah has been more intentional about his walk with the Lord. The spiritual battles on the mission field are real and intense. They are also deeply felt by the children of missionaries. Your prayers for our kids are more valuable than you may ever know. Thank you for praying for them.

Cafe' Conversations

Meet "F". He started attending the Cafe several months ago and has become one of our Monday morning regulars. He is a retired farmer and member of the Roman Catholic church. I love my conversations with "F". He's a typical "Schwabe" (A Man from Swabia). This means he is a "penny-pincher", and he's always watching his back. He doesn't do this because he feels he's in danger, but because he doesn't want people to associate him with the "Sekte" (Cult) of the Baptist church. The merit-based system of the Catholic church creates an untrusting environment, in which people are always on the lookout for those who might tattle or gossip about them to other members of the catholic community. And to be associated with the Baptist church in Leutkirch is, for some, tantamount to joining the Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses. "F" usually seems to come when no one else is around. It normally does not take long though before he turns the conversation toward faith. In the beginning, when I would start to share the gospel with him, he would abruptly say, "Gotta go", and simply leave. However, as time has passed, his stays have been longer and longer. Now, I have shared the gospel with him in detail many times. Our conversations have evolved from the basics of the gospel to me pleading with him to trust in Jesus Christ. Please pray for "F" to trust in Jesus Christ for salvation.

Community Service

The Christmas season is always full of activity. This year, in addition to the church Christmas Eve service, we also had school celebrations and community Christmas events. To celebrate Christmas, Daniel's basketball teams along with their parents attended a professional basketball game in Ulm, Germany. Also, Tobi's elementary school holds an annual Christmas play. At the end of the play, the community honored the after-school program volunteer workers. Since Daniel and Micah (Micah is not pictured because he was sick on that day.) run a weekly after-school basketball program, they were also part of the ceremony.

We want to thank the Lord for these opportunities. Although we are not permitted to evangelize during the practices and after-school activities, we have been able to build relationships with the kids and their parents, which create great open doors for sharing Christ with them outside of that environment. It has been incredible to see God using our family in this village since starting the basketball programs at the beginning of 2024. People that would not even acknowledge our existence, have become more open to hearing about our faith. We look forward to what God will do with the many seeds sown.

Liechtenstein Bible Study

After taking a short break during the Christmas season, we are excited to get back to Bible studies in Liechtenstein. Our dear sister "M", a native of Schaan, Liechtenstein, seems very motivated. She found us a new meeting place in Schaan. It's perfect for our purposes. She is also wanting to advertise Bible study in her community. Please continue to pray that Christ will be magnified in the principality of Liechtenstein.

Thank you!

December is full of celebrations for the Brown family. Kaylee turned 12 on December 5th. We (Daniel & Deana) celebrated our 19th wedding anniversary on December 10th. Our family also enjoyed a great Christmas together. As usual, our great family of supporters chipped in to make each celebration a special one. Thank you for sending gifts, as well as birthday, anniversary, and Christmas greetings. We love you and are thankful to God for you.