

Presenting Gifts to the Nations
in Berlin, Germany

The "Dye"ary

March-April 2019

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"I will build my church . . ."

Recently I preached on Matthew 16:18. When Jesus made his proclamation, "I will build my church," he was with his disciples at Caesarea-Philippi—the site where in Old Testament times, the Canaanite god Baal was worshipped, and in New Testament times, the Greek god Pan. The area features a cave that was thought to be the gateway to the underworld—Hades—the realm of the dead. It was the demonic headquarters of the region where detestable cultic and sexual practices occurred. Yet, even here, Jesus would build His church! As we prepare to leave Germany for one year, we take comfort in the fact that CrossWay International Baptist Church in Berlin is Jesus' church. He enabled it to be planted, and we can trust Him to keep building it (and other churches in Germany & around the world!)

Recap on our year away from Germany. There's a totalization treaty between the U.S. & Germany that states that Americans living in Germany who are employed by a U.S. organization must go into the German social security system unless they have a certificate of coverage from the U.S. I presently have a certificate of coverage that expires this summer. In order to get it renewed, I need to be away from Germany for a year. We plan to leave Germany on June 27. It's with some apprehension and sadness that we leave, but it's also with anticipation to see the church we planted 17 years ago continue in our absence (and even forge ahead!)

Here is some of what's been happening here in Berlin . . .

❖ **Lord of the harvest is sending workers.** On January 30, a college student, Erin Ashcraft, arrived in Berlin to begin a 6-month internship. She's working along side of Caleb Curtis, a young man who's serving with us for 2 years. Patrick Tayne is completing his support raising and, in late spring, plans to join us in Berlin as a long-term missionary. Eric and Shelley D'Anjou are coming in April for a survey trip to determine if the Lord is leading them to Berlin. Finally, we're excited that our co-worker Kristi Walker will be returning to Berlin on April 2 after a year away.

❖ **Steps forward at CrossWay International.** On February 17, we had a very encouraging annual church business meeting. During the meeting, the church voted to increase the salary of Martin, our German pastor, allowing him to reduce his employment outside the church to one shift per week. We also voted to receive 11 new members.

❖ **Refugee ministry.** The Lord has opened the door in a new refugee home in which the management is very open to our presence.



Through the leadership of two individuals in our church, we are going in

weekly to meet with men, women and children—using such activities such as art, music & soccer. On April 18, we will be putting on an Easter Festival outreach event. Then on Easter Sunday, we plan to have a fellowship meal after the service to which we will invite our refugee friends.

❖ **Ministry beyond Berlin.** On March 1-3, I was the guest speaker at the homecoming weekend of Word of Life Bible Institute in Germany. What a joy it was to share the Word with former students as well as staff. On March 11-15, Becky and I were in Madrid, Spain for the ABWE Western Europe Field Leaders Meeting. The focus of our time together was moving toward a vision of multiplication through disciple-making and church-planting movements in Europe.

Prayer & Praises

1. Pray that CrossWay forges ahead in our absence. Pray especially for Martin, our German pastor.
2. Pray for direction in our year away from Germany and clarity of vision for what's next after our return to Germany.
3. Praise the Lord for the workers He's sending to Germany and pray that they would be effective in ministry.
4. Praise the Lord for the open door among refugees and pray that some will come to saving faith.

We are so thankful for your ongoing prayers and support!

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