



Jeff & Linda Brown

Church Planting in Germany

Dear Praying Friends,

"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Sometimes we think, "Should we really be doing this?" But when the demands of ministry seem somewhat overwhelming - and after 40 years of ministry, we have found this phenomenon never stops - we learn afresh that the Lord wants to teach us more about His strength. We turn to him. As we both were a part of the same youth ministry at Fourth Baptist Church, we learned to sing:

Teach me Lord to wait, down on my knees,
Till in your own good time you answer my pleas.

Since then, we have learned many times afresh to pray like we had sung.

We began the month of April with a baptism of a couple that we have known for four years, and that began attending our church regularly a year ago. A week later we were favored with a conference on prophecy from Arnold Fruchtenbaum, whose insights are always very helpful. Thanks Arnold for teaching us. A week later we attended our annual BMM Germany conference. This time we were together with BMM France, in SE France, near Grenoble. It was a refreshing time, including hearing from our European Administrator, Ken Houghton. We missed Bob Bixby, who went home to be with the Lord a few weeks before the conference. The gathering included sharing about Bob's ministry in the whole group.

We are not finished with April: After returning home from the conference, we headed to a church retreat in N. Germany, where I (Jeff) was the speaker. The church to which we ministered had just had a split two weeks earlier. So I had to change my topic to "Focusing on Christ" from the Book of Hebrews. The two of us have never had so many people want to talk with us about spiritual matters as at that conference. We ended the month of April with a wedding of one of our young women to a man in a sister church in Ingolstadt. They are two people who were already devoted to the Lord in their hearts and lives. What a blessing to see two such people come together in marriage!

In May our church went through the process of nominating and electing our first deacons. The process really took all month, and the elections were held on May 28th. We were thankful for the united hearts of our people. Three men were then installed in their new ministry on June 12th, with Oliver Meyer, from the mother church in Erlangen, participating. We were also blessed with the coming of our daughter, Janet, in mid-May, with whom we spent five days on vacation, including a glorious mountain hike.

On May 29th, a day after the deacon elections, five Trekkers showed up in Erlangen. "Trekking" is a term we use for students who are interested in learning about church planting in Germany. For six weeks they visit six or seven BMM churches, where they learn and serve. We had an excellent group. Since it is "Luther Year" here in Germany, we took them to sites both of the Reformation and the Counter-reformation. It was a great learning time for them. But they also served, and they were all ready to roll up their sleeves and work. As part of the week, we had two evangelistic efforts: one with passers-by in the Nuremberg pedestrian zone. The Trekkers teamed up with members of our church to share the Gospel. We also went to a rock concert, where we stood outside and gave Gospel literature to people exiting. Hundreds of people took it. Later, all five Trekkers said, "Thank you for forcing me out of my comfort zone." the Lord can do plenty with young people who are willing to learn and be used. The week went by quickly, and both they and we were sorry to part from one-another.

We hope that you do not think everything in our ministry is roses. We have problems and tensions and conflicts to be sure, and at times need God's correction; but the Lord has thus far brought us through all of them in ways far better than we had expected.

We ask you again to pray for a German pastor for the church

And so the verse of the song concludes,

Teach me not to rely on what others do,
But to wait in prayer from an answer from You.

Thank you for praying, and we thank the Lord for teaching us to wait.

Jeff and Linda Brown

Our Five Student-Trekkers.



Laying on of hands, and installation of the first deacons of the church.