



CONVERGE

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

DARMSTADT, GERMANY



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Some of you might remember the day (May 1, 2003) when President George W. Bush landed aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln* and gave a speech beneath a banner with those words on it. Although he never used the words, it became known as the "Mission Accomplished Speech."

The banner was not referring to the end of the war - it still went on - but the specific mission of the men and women on the *Lincoln* was completed. They had been deployed in the war zone for 10 months, longer than any carrier since the Viet Nam War.

With this newsletter, we are excited and grateful to share with you that the specific mission to which we have been called since November 2009 has been accomplished! In that month we sent you our first newsletter entitled, "Welcome to our Newest Adventure!" We outlined there our calling and our goals for the years ahead: to **plant a new, English-language church in Darmstadt, Germany**; to **lay the foundation for a second church plant in Mannheim, Germany**, and to **assist the International Baptist Convention (IBC) in creating a church planting movement in Europe and around the world**.

That mission has been completed. Like the sailors on the *Lincoln*, our specific task has been completed. The church in Darmstadt is now in its 7th year. We've welcomed hundreds of people from more than 40 nations into our church family - and baptized new believers from Lebanon, China, Germany, Singapore, Cameroon, Malaysia, Switzerland, India, Sierra Leone, and the USA. The church has been blessed with solid leaders and is actively developing strong disciples and leaders, both for the church here and for churches around the world, as we send current members to their next international destination.

The vision of planting a church in Mannheim has not come to fruition but is carried in the DNA of the Darmstadt church. We have completed a Feasibility Study, made some good connections, and are ready to move ahead. We are still waiting for God to lead the right church planter to come and complete that part of that mission. Pray with us that God will soon send a laborer into that field!

The IBC has experienced dramatic and increasing momentum in their church planting efforts, from five over a 5-year period (2012-2016) to 4 in 2018 alone! We have had the opportunity to work alongside some wonderful pastors and leaders to help implement essential components in a healthy church planting effort in Europe, South-and Central-America. We've had the honor to coach church planters and pastors of existing churches as they worked to multiply Disciple-making churches in France, Germany, Italy, and Poland.

We thank you for your vital part in completing this mission! Without your support in prayers and finances, this work would not have been begun - and certainly never been accomplished!

But, like that day in 2003, the immediate mission may be accomplished...but the larger mission goes on! There is much to for the church Darmstadt, and there is a new mission assigned to us.

Like us, it is time for you to "turn the page!"



CHARLIE MIKE

Living in Germany and working with a few current or former US Military personnel, We've met some great folks. One of them is a friend who signs off his emails with the phrase, "Charlie Mike". Bob asked him once what that meant. He explained that it's military code-speak for "**Continue Mission**".

As we complete our work in Darmstadt, we have been given new "orders" from our Commander and Lord - and we are announcing today that our mission continues - and we are excited to share the details with you!

We have been appointed by Converge International Ministries to a regional position, serving as **Impact Team Leader for Europe/North Africa/Middle East**. The Impact Team Leader role is multi-faceted, **providing support to the current workers in the region**, but **primarily building connections with Evangelical ministries among people groups where Converge is not currently engaged**. For example, in recent months we have been made aware of small pockets of Evangelical pastors working in places like Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Russia, Belarus, and the Republic of Ireland. Our team will work to connect with these ministry leaders and find out how we can come alongside them and help them be more effective in reaching their people with the Gospel. It might be through personal coaching, providing educational opportunities, arranging short-term missions efforts, or other means.

Our role will be to work in this effort, but also to **recruit a team of pastors and leaders** from churches in the US and abroad who have a heart to help local church leaders be as fruitful as possible in their efforts to reach those unreached people. *(Interested? - Contact us!)*

In addition, God has presented us with an opportunity to be involved in a local-church effort as well! **We are currently planning to assist with the beginning of a new, International, English-language ministry in the city of Szczecin, Poland**. As the 7th largest city in Poland, Szczecin is part of a Converge Initiative to plant 10 churches in each of the 10 largest cities in that nation. In that on-going work, we were introduced to Robert Merez, who pastors a Polish Baptist church, and has a vision of a vital, English-language ministry associated with that church. We have been invited to assist in getting that ministry going.

So, we get to work *regionally* - and *locally*! We are very excited and grateful to God for this amazing opportunity. And we are excited to ask you to join us in the work! We will return to the USA in September and begin working to raise the prayer and financial support needed to fulfill this mission.

We invite you to be a part of what God is doing in Europe - and now with an expanded impact to the Middle East and North Africa! Please continue to pray for us, for the church in Darmstadt, and for the new work that lies before us. And please consider supporting our efforts financially as we "Continue the Mission!"

~Bob & Carol

HOW TO SUPPORT OUR CONTINUING MISSION:

By Check

Make checks payable to: Converge Worldwide. In the memo line of the check, please note **ACCOUNT # 133261**.

Send checks to: Converge / Attn: Jennifer LoGalbo / 2002 S. Arlington Heights Rd. / Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Online support

Go to www.converge.org/give/133261 to set up a **one-time**, or **ongoing** support from your debit or credit card.

