



CONVERGE

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

DARMSTADT, GERMANY



Bob & Carol Marsh

Summer 2016

It has been one of the most demanding seasons of our time in Europe, and our communication to you has suffered as a result. We're sorry this update is so late in coming! There has been a lot of activity in both our personal lives and in the ministry – we'll try to give you a brief but full update.

Personal News: On 3 February at 7:00pm, our first grand-daughter, Samantha Rodman Marsh, was born. She weighed 9 lbs., 7 oz. and was 19 inches long. She joins her big brother Levi, who was just 2 weeks shy of his first birthday. Rachel and Andrew are understandably thrilled, as are we! We had a chance to be at their home in Annapolis, Maryland, in May for a visit. At that time, Nicole and Eric, with their boys, Asher and Cayden, came to join us from New York; and John and his girlfriend Kefei came from Arizona for a full-family gathering! It was the first time for everyone to be together!

Just after Samantha was born, we received word that Bob's dad was ill. He contracted a bad cold that developed into pneumonia, which severely weekend his heart. Multiple body systems began to be strained, and fail. When told that he was not going to recover, and that he had only a few days to two weeks to live, he paused for just a moment, then said, "Well, 'To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!' We should celebrate!"

We flew to West Virginia on 15 February, and were with dad and mom through dad's last days on this earth. He was in great spirits when we arrived, making jokes, sitting in his chair, and resting on his hospital bed in the living room of their apartment. But by Wednesday, he began to slip into more of a semi-conscious state, and in the early hours of Friday morning, 19 February, he went home to be with Jesus. Even in his semi-conscious state he quoted a verse of Scripture: "Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord..." What a testimony! We are blessed to know dad is in heaven with Jesus!



PRAYER CALENDAR:

June 7-10 – Feasibility Study Munich

July 4-14 – In New York to care for grandsons while Nicole & Eric minister in St. Louis.

July 17 – Visit and speak at church plant in Toulouse, France.

August 26-28 – Darmstadt church retreat in Neustadt an der Weinstrasse.

October 22-30 – IBC Annual Meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Eschollbrücker Strasse 3 / 64283 Darmstadt, Germany

ConvergeDarmstadt@gmail.com / www.ConvergeDarmstadt.com / www.darmstadtdigest.blogspot.com / [Facebook.com/ConvergeDarmstadt](https://www.facebook.com/ConvergeDarmstadt)

Telephone: Germany (049) 06151 1300 150 / US (920) 387-2560

Ministry: In January we welcomed Blake Nobles to Darmstadt. Blake is finishing his Masters of Divinity degree at Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas. He came to complete his final requirement for the degree – a six-month ministry internship. While here in Darmstadt, Blake has been working to firm up our ministry to Young Adults in the area – university students and young adults just entering the workplace. It has been a great learning experience for us as church leaders as much as for Blake! He’s made good progress in establishing the ministry, and developing leadership to continue when his time is completed in June.



Blue Grotto, Malta

In March we attended the annual Ministry Leadership Conference of the IBC in Malta. The meeting was filled with great teaching, fellowship and encouraging connections with other pastors and ministry leaders from around the world. The meetings were followed by the first Multiply Conference, a two day focus on church planting in the IBC. Bob lead a discussion outlining the growing opportunity to reach the world by planting English-language churches in global cities. We had a great time visiting the beautiful sites around the island that was first evangelized by the Apostle Paul when he was shipwrecked there. It is, to this day, the most Christian nation in Europe!

In April, Carol remained in the US to spend additional time with the grandchildren, while Bob flew to Hong Kong to attend the Global Church for a Global World conference. The conference brought international church leaders from around the world to learn about networking and ministry opportunities as we seek to fulfill the great commission together!



In Hong Kong with Os Guinness and the IBC team.

In May, we completed a Feasibility Study of Mannheim, a large city just 45 minutes from Darmstadt. This city looks like a great opportunity for a sister-church to the Darmstadt work. In June we will do a study of Munich, and later this year in Strasbourg, France. Please pray with us about these opportunities!

Financial Update:

We have entered our fifth year on the mission field, and there has been some attrition in our support over the years. About 60% of our monthly support is being met from our supporters back home. The church in Darmstadt has stepped up to meet the need, so far. That is good, but as the deficit grows, and as we face the loss of some critical members in the church due to graduation or new work assignment, the situation can quickly grow critical. *Will you consider joining us in our efforts to reach the English-speaking International Community of Darmstadt, Central Europe and the world?* Please pray for God’s provision for us, and for His guidance for you and your family.



Mannheim Feasibility Study Team.

Here’s How to Support our work:

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