



# CONVERGE

## INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

DARMSTADT, GERMANY



Bob & Carol Marsh

### Winter 2015



Christmas Market in Wiesbaden

**“Christmas Greetings!”** The Advent Season is upon us once again, and as we celebrate our fifth Christmas in Germany, we want to wish each of you a very blessed season as we remember the greatest gift ever given – the gift of eternal life as children of God through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

**US Travels:** We had a great time visiting family and friends during September and October. We saw all of our children and grandchildren (they all made their way to New York to see us!), our parents (in WV and MN), most of our siblings; nine churches and dozens of individuals, small groups and large gatherings. We put thousands of miles on the rental car, driving from New York to Indiana, Wisconsin, and Kansas - thank you for your prayers for us! While visiting our old friends and church connections was a real treat – one highlight stands out – we were able to connect with a great church in Darmstadt, Indiana. They were so excited to hear about our work in Darmstadt, Germany!

**Church Growth:** This can mean a lot of things, can't it? The growth of Converge International Fellowship in Darmstadt can be measured in a number of ways. One of them is the growth of mature leaders. It was a great blessing to us to know that while we were gone for 8 weeks, the church was under the capable leadership of our Elders, Ministry Coordinators and the Church Council, who filled the pulpit and guided the continued ministry. As a three-year old “toddler” church, we sometimes wobble a bit, but by God's grace we are maturing in Him! There was also a lot of growth in the congregation while we were gone. We bid farewell to many of our faithful friends and members earlier this year as their contracts for employment ended, or they graduated from school. Thankfully, while we were away, many new students and professionals became part of the church – we are still getting to know many of them! We had a Thanksgiving dinner for our Thursday night LIFE Group, and after enjoying the meal, the group gathered in a circle and shared their gratitude for God's blessings. So many of them shared how thankful they were for the “family” God had led them to in Darmstadt – and we are thankful, too!

**Expanding Ministry:** The week after we returned from the US, we had a full week of meetings in Bratislava, Slovakia. It was the Annual Convention Meeting of our European Agency, the IBC. Part of that week was a meeting of the **Church Planting** Ministry Team, in which Bob is the leader of the Central European LEAD Team – focused on church planting in Europe from France to Ukraine. It was a very encouraging meeting, as we discussed new church plants in Paris and Strasbourg, France; Munich, Kaiserslautern, Frankfurt and Mannheim, Germany. We

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will be conducting Feasibility Studies in 3 cities in the Spring of 2016, and the Darmstadt church will be especially involved in the planting of a new church in Mannheim/Heidelberg as God leads.



We are very excited to be welcoming a **University Ministries Associate**, Blake Nobles, in January. The plan is for Blake to spend 2016 building a sustainable student ministry in the city. There are at least three German-language campus ministries at work on the campuses, but no English-language ministry for the thousands of International Students who are here. We hope to work with the German groups to change that! Our church will pay about 30% of the cost of his ministry, and he is raising support for the rest. Pray for Blake as he raises his support and transitions to Darmstadt!

### **Here's How to Give:**

#### **By Check**

Make checks payable to: Converge Worldwide

In the memo line of the check, please note ACCOUNT # **133261**. Send checks to:

Converge Worldwide  
Attn: Jennifer LoGalbo  
2002 S. Arlington Heights Rd.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

**-OR-**

#### **Automatic Withdrawal**

Direct an automatic withdrawal from your checking account for contributions to automatically enter the missionary's account on the 5th or the 20th of each month. *Here's how:*

Contact Jennifer LoGalbo at  
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2002 S. Arlington Heights Rd.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
Telephone: 1-800-323-4215  
Email: Jennifer.LoGalbo@converge.org

**-OR-**

#### **EASY Web-based support!**

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to set up a one- time, or ongoing support from your debit or credit card.

We continue to seek ways to minister to the **Refugees** who have made their way to the Darmstadt area. So far, the opportunities have been scarce. They are being kept in a segregated area, where we have no access to them, and they cannot freely get out. Pray that God will open doors for us to reach out to them with the love of Christ!

**Financial Update:** Please pray for us regarding our continued financial needs. We have entered our fifth year on the mission field, and there has been some attrition in our support over the years. Some churches have changed their giving policies, or fallen on difficult financial times. Some individuals have also struggled to continue, and some have been taken ill, or died. Only about 60% of our monthly support is being met from our supporters back home. So far, the church in Darmstadt has been able to keep up with the shortfall. That is good, but as the deficit grows, and as we face the loss of some critical members in the church due to change of employment, etc., 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.

Have a very blessed Christmas!

Bob & Carol