

Jim and Becky White
Missionaries in Germany

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January – February - March 2019

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(1 Corinthians 15:57)

During this period, several events occurred which required our absence from daily interaction in the work for short periods, giving our planted churches and mentored leaders an opportunity to mature, with good results.

Bayreuth hosted a special Bible Weekend in January - Joshua, ordained in September, 2018, as pastor in Saarland, preached, using as examples men and women from the Old Testament. Joshua brought the Bible alive to young and old, and his zeal and knowledge encouraged us and the church.



Ladies' Retreat (February, 2019) - not many non-Gypsy people can work well with Sinti, as it requires a spiritual wisdom that can only come from God. This year we invited a German Christian teacher, Giesela Punzel, who has this wisdom and allowed our Lord to use her to impact the lives of the women present. These women have put this wisdom into action in their homes and churches. Praise the Lord for faithful Christians!

Family Retreat (March, 2019) – This started on the day we flew to the USA for Becky's dad's funeral. The men and women from the church in Nürnberg rallied together and we had one of the best retreats ever. The main speaker, a young Gypsy from Hamburg, taught lessons on doctrinal purity. He balanced his lessons with notes on practical holiness. It was a good time for Sinti to reflect and inspire one another on their own.

Becky's Father is now with the Lord—on March 5, 2019, at the age of 84 he passed quietly from his home here to his home in paradise! We were shocked by the sudden passing, as he had recently received a good doctor's report. However, we were blessed that he did not have to suffer a long, painful illness. Becky's dad had a good testimony of salvation and had shown his love for our Lord through many good works. Becky and I were able to make a quick trip to the States for the funeral. The funeral was divided into two important parts. The first honored him as father, grandfather, great-grandfather and Christian. The second was full military honors for 20+ years of military service which included the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Thank you for your prayers for the family!

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Bruce and Joanna are in the USA until June 19, 2019 in deputation. Their help in sharing the yoke of ministry is invaluable, especially in the Bible Institute, in the Wurzburg and Krefeld congregations, and in the annual summer camp meeting ministry. We are asking our Lord to increase their monthly support as we need them full time in the ministry! Their USA telephone number is 904-248-1298 (wsharvest@aol.com).

We have moved our home in Germany to Neuendettelsau... please note our new home address! This more central location is allowing us greater flexibility in working with new churches while reducing travel expenses. Our existing e-mail address is still functional, but new communication service installation is slow in Germany, and we will not have a home phone or normal home internet for up to 2 months. Our cell phone is still operating normally.

Prayer Requests...

1. Thank you for your prayers for our health! Becky's blood pressure and diabetes are under control.
2. Large annual tent meeting – As discussed in previous letters, this is a key event in the calendar of the congregations. This year has been especially difficult in that we have been denied access to our first two choices, and successful execution requires much planning.
3. Also, pray for the smaller camps throughout the summer. They are an effective growth and evangelization opportunity as the believers and leaders come in contact with Sinti who are either not believers or have no local Gypsy congregation of believers. This can be a significant growth period.
4. Joanna's father needs your prayers - Joanna's parents, Pete and Julie Heisey, are missionaries to the Roma (Gypsies) in Romania. In January, her father, suffered a heart attack leaving Pete in a coma without oxygen for several minutes. Miraculously, a colleague performed CPR until the ambulance arrived. The doctors in the Timisoara emergency hospital operated, placing a stint that kept Pete alive, though comatose. The cardiologist told the family later that he was given only one chance in one hundred for survival. Many miracles have occurred that have kept hope alive for Pete's complete recovery. Major health issues, including neurological damage, must be resolved so that he can regain physical strength for open-heart surgery in Romania and return to the work. Pray especially for their health and financial needs.
5. Our son Robert is marrying Megan McEntire on May 30 in Tyler, Texas. Lord willing, Becky and I are flying to the USA for a short visit for the wedding.
6. Becky and I want to plan a furlough for Spring and Summer, 2020, after Bruce and Joanna's return enables them to help take over some of our responsibilities. We are already working with the men and women in our churches, preparing them to take over the bulk of our commitments.

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