

Jim and Becky White
Missionaries in Germany

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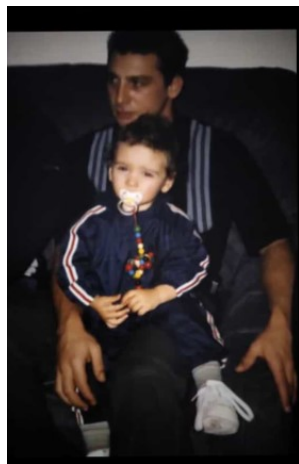
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October – November 2019

And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee;
take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.
(Mark 14:36 KJV)

From the time of our tent meeting in August until the end of November, we had at least one funeral every week. As we attended the funerals, we could see that many of the Gypsies, including believers, were beginning to resign themselves to a hopeless life.

Crossing the Finish Line: On October 21, 2019, Marco, the husband of one of the faithful members of the church in Würzburg, crossed the finish line of his life here on earth. His biography would make a good movie. He was born on March 4th, 1976. His parents loved him and tried hard to provide a good life for Marco. Grandparents added their love and help to make a secure childhood and early manhood. The relationship between Marco and his younger brother was great, and most of the trials in their lives were fought together. In March of 1998, he married his sweetheart, and two years later they had a son who became the pride of Marco's life. Marco taught his son to practice the traditions of a good Sinto (Gypsy) and spent a lot of time with his son (fishing, camping, visits with family), encouraging his son to be a good student in school. Marco was never one to shirk his responsibility, providing all the needs of his family by working hard and managing his money wisely. In 2003, Marco and his wife lost a child which threw him into depression. In January, 2004, Marco became a Christian, and, in the summer, followed the Lord in baptism. For the next three years, Marco and his family were faithful to Church: attendance, tithing, volunteering to do whatever needed to be done.



Marco and Son



Marco

From 2003 until 2007 there were many deaths in the church family, with the last being the horrible automobile accident in which Marco's 17-year-old brother was killed. The drivers of both cars were drinking alcohol and racing each other when the accident occurred. Only the driver survived the accident. Marco was able to forgive the driver of the car in which his brother was riding and the driver's father, even though the father had given the car to his son knowing that he had no driver's license.

Sending Church: **Community Baptist Church**, PO Box 367 Oliver Springs, TN 37840

Serving with: **Maranatha Baptist Mission**, PO BOX 160, HILLIARD, FL 32046-0160

Page 1 of 2

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The depression returned, and Marco was distressed with doubts about his salvation. He was influenced by a group that taught him two horrible false truths: that deaths because of sickness and accidents are caused by sin, and a Christian cannot be depressed. Believing that he was no longer a child of God because of sins, Marco turned to alcohol and then to drugs for help in coping with life.

A book by Spurgeon landed in Marco's hands in 2018 and the biblical truth of God's grace broke through the years of darkness, and Marco experienced freedom from the doubt in his life. From that truth came spiritual growth in another time of trials. His body was weak because of the abuse of alcohol and drugs when he was diagnosed with cancer. His family was called in on at least two occasions because the attending physician was certain that Marco was dying. However, Marco needed a little more time to set things in order, and God, with grace and wisdom, gave his family victory after victory.

Marco's wife and son are members of the church our son Bruce is building in Würzburg. She asked her husband for a special favor for his funeral. She wanted Bruce and me to conduct the funeral. Gypsy tradition gives the paternal family of the deceased the right to choose how the funeral will be held. Marco called his family in and said that his wish was to have Bruce and me conduct his funeral. His family agreed and held to their agreement. (God gave Marco the wisdom to speak with his family, and his family granted his wish—a wonderful example of God working within a culture to accomplish His purpose.)

He believed that the Heavenly Father Who allowed his Son to die for our sins is the One who decides when every child of His "comes home." Marco wanted everyone attending his funeral to hear a gospel message that promises eternal salvation and help in every phase of our lives. He wanted everyone to hear that his death was not due to sin, sickness or doubts. On the 25th of October, 2019, Bruce and I preached this very message through God's amazing grace!

Marco's funeral was one of three in one week. Not every funeral is such a celebration of the life of a child of God gone home, as there are still too many who need to experience God's grace.

We praise our Lord for granting Marco the faith to keep repeating this truth to every visitor until he lapsed into a coma, „*Vater, alles ist dir möglich!*“ (“**Father with you all things are possible!**”)

Thank you for your prayers!

We are planning our furlough to start in October 2020. Please contact us if you have a special time in which we may report. We are working with the men and women in our churches, preparing them to take over the bulk of our commitments.

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Page 2 of 2