

Jim and Becky White
Missionaries in Germany

NEW ADDRESS: Fliederstrasse 16
D-91564 Neuendettelsau
Germany

jimbeckywhite@gmail.com
(calling from USA) CELL: 011-49-170-205-3428

December 2019

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day:
the night cometh, when no man can work.
(John 9:4)

As noted in our previous letter, we had at least one funeral every week after the summer, with three in one week alone. Since there are many close familial relationships among the Gypsies, this has led to almost constant reminders of the fragility of life, especially since their cultural heritage lacks the hope that we have as Christians. Our mission for the last month of 2019 was to lead the churches out of this hopeless life resignation. The best way to get the church out of the doldrums, we have found, is for children of God to “preach” the Gospel of Christ.

The German culture has a great emphasis on Christmas, and the four Sundays preceding Christmas are widely celebrated as Advent Sundays. Many people here, even Sinti, are less opposed to going to a religious meeting during Advent, so we plan special events for every week of December to take advantage of these opportunities.



Baby dedication service



Jim White preaching

December 01, 2019...First Advent ...Baby dedication Sunday

Dano, a growing leader in Bayreuth is a proud new grandfather. He convinced his daughter and son-in-law to come home for this weekend and let him show off his granddaughter. It was a lot of work amid the “stress” of Christmas, and the church members pitched in to prepare everything in just a few days. The baby did not cry and played with my beard as I held her, teaching the congregation that baby dedication is not the same as baby baptism. No one looked away or stopped listening, and it was wonderful to preach the Gospel of Christ. After my prayer, it was hard to give her back to her parents!

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December 08, 2019...Second Advent ...Evangelization at the Nürnberg Christmas Market (Nürnberg Christkindlesmarkt)

This is an opportunity every year for one day of outreach by our congregation with our musicians and singers performing on the open street, entertaining visitors at the market. This market is Germany's most famous Christmas Market, right in the middle of the city, drawing 2 million visitors annually from all over the world.

There was a place for everyone to serve, handing out small Christmas packages containing a calendar for 2020 and several Gospel tracts. We brought more packages and tracts than last year. (Confession: I was afraid that we had more than what we could give out.) Our service for the Lord gave our people joy which was seen by those on the street. We gave away every single tract! One verse that was often repeated: Isa_55:11 "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

On that day there were several tour groups from England. In less than 10 minutes all my English tracts were gone. I would give a tract in German as a souvenir after I explained who we were and what we were doing.



Night Photo from the Christmas Market website



Passing out Tracts in 2018

December 15, 2019...Third Advent ...Fellowship in the Churches

(Bamberg, December 13th; Nürnberg, December 14th, Bayreuth, December 15th)

We agreed that our congregations' problem in past years was over decorating for Christmas, diminishing the focus on Jesus. However, this year we were in danger of having no decorations at all. Having a church Christmas gathering (it was hard to use the word "party" this year) motivated some faithful women to decorate. Singing and testimonies were the activities with less stress and more Jesus. Everything else was less important. God gave us a glorious time in Christ.

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December 2019



Pastor Renaldi



Bayreuth Choir

December 22, 2019...Fourth Advent ...Finding room in our schedules for “hospitality” to Jesus. This Sunday concentrated on being a proper host / hostess for the Spirit of Christ who dwells in us. They are learning to know our Lord, loving and serving Him. Praise God that people did not roll their eyes when yet another simple sermon about the birth of Christ was preached. (Amen!)

December 29, 2019...Last Sunday of 2019 ... Preparation for the new year is just three days away. Special Sermon from Mark 9:23-24. Jesus says that “...all things are possible to him that believeth...” Confession of our faith is important, as is confession of our lack of faith. “I believe; help thou mine unbelief”.

The leaders in the church in Nürnberg have planned three special evangelistic campaigns for Spring, 2020. For two of these trips, they are renting a travel bus so that up to 70 people may take part. There is more interest than in past years. One person put it this way, “Enough of seeing my extended family only in hospitals and at graveyards! Let us make the effort to serve together in 2020!”

Thank you for your prayers!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

We pray for you to prosper in the Lord in 2020. May our Lord give you more victories. May our Lord strengthen your faith and take away your unbelief.

We are planning a furlough to the States 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 Sinti churches, preparing them to take over the bulk of our commitments in Germany.

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