

Jim and Becky White
Missionaries in Germany

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April – May - June 2020

And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears,
Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.
(Mark 9:24)

This is our verse for 2020. This verse was chosen in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic! We have had many occasions to “cry out” as the father of the child did.

As of the writing of this prayer letter, no one in any of the churches in Germany has become infected. In fact, no one in the immediate families of church members has become infected.

Following German government guidelines, we have had no public worship services but more people are active in the work of the Lord!

However,

- **Each day one recorded message was posted.**
All the men who have shown an interest in publishing God’s Word had more opportunities to preach than ever before.
- **Sunday services were either recorded or viewed with live stream.**
More people were active in recording lessons, sermons, and songs than ever before.
- **Sunday School teachers stayed in touch with special classes posted on YouTube.**
- **Bible classes were held with the program “Zoom”.**



Blessings have resulted:

- The number of people viewing our recorded messages has exceeded the pre-Covid-19 attendance in the churches
- We now have contacts with Sinti in India!
- Follow-up work has been blessed. Through letters and phone calls, we have had the joy of leading seekers to Christ. Some people prefer to ask their questions and discuss their problems during a phone conversation.

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

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

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- Thursday, May 7th we held the first public worship service in Nürnberg. Because of governmental space and health restrictions, not everyone may attend the public worship services. Following government guidelines, we set up the auditorium to allow a six foot distance between families. For the first time in our twenty-two-year ministry with Sinti, families are sitting together in church services. (Before the lock-down, men and boys would sit on one side of the auditorium and the women and girls on the other side.)
- Monday, May 11th, changes in the government restrictions permitted us to resume Bible Institute Classes in Nürnberg, while continuing online classes.

Unfortunately, this year's annual large tent meeting, which was scheduled for late August, has been cancelled, due to the city of Darmstadt's refusal to grant permission for a gathering of up to 1,000 people. While this is always an important event in this ministry, with God's blessing it may facilitate reaching more Sinti via alternative communication methods than would be able to travel to the meeting grounds.

Prayer Request: The restrictions on movement and monitoring of all gatherings is creating a natural stress and fear among Sinti. The government is now developing a "Covid 19 App" for cell phones. This application informs people of possible contact with someone testing positive for the virus. Although downloading the app is still voluntary, potential misuse of this information brings comparison to the horrors of World War II Nazi betrayal and persecution into our everyday conversations. Many Gypsies were imprisoned or perished in the concentration camps during WW II.

Prayer Updates and Praise:

- Continued protection from Covid-19 for us and the congregations.
- We have a new grandson: Matt and Carrie's son, Xavier Bradley Bowen, showed up on May 1st, weighing in at 4,800 grams (about 10 pounds).



- Becky and I quietly celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary on April 20th.
- In September we will be ordaining Mondy to be pastor of the church in Nürnberg.
- Our planned furlough for October 2020 may be cancelled due to travel restrictions during the pandemic. Getting back into Germany may not be allowed.

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