



February 2008

Prayer Requests:

- ✝ For Christ to be our focus – Spirit filled lives
- ✝ Pending inception of Calvary Chapel of Wiesbaden
- ✝ The right space where we can start to meet and invite people to
- ✝ People with servant hearts to help with worship, translating, childcare
- ✝ Ability to communicate God's Word and Love effectively
- ✝ Part-time work for Ron
- ✝ Ron language acquisition
- ✝ Renter for our house in Florida

Praises:

- ✝ Part-time translation work for Uli
- ✝ Ron doing well at language class
- ✝ Bible study 1st anniversary

If you would like to partner with us in our ministry to Germany, please send your tax-deductible donations payable to:

S.E.E.D. Ministries

P.O. Box 3746

Cleveland, TN 37320-3746

Memo line: Hostetler

For more information please visit

www.seedministry.org

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Treasures in the Sand...

Have you ever felt like a dump truck just dumped his load in front of you and in order for you to go anywhere, you first have to dig your way through? That pretty much sums up our life since the last time we wrote to you. After receiving a chain of bad news within just a few weeks – the load of sand - we've dug our way through and have been surprised to find several precious treasures hidden in it...

The end of October Ron was informed, that he had to be let go for lack of work. Even though we were thankful for the year and a half of support we had received from Uli's brother and his business partner, we did not know what the future would hold for Ron. The unemployment agency told him, that he was too old to be placed by them ☹, but that he qualified for unemployment compensation ☺. To stay busy he immediately signed up for intensive language classes – four hours a day, five days a week for six months! This class is a requirement for his work permit to be renewed down the road and is paid for by the integration office! In Ron's class are all foreigners who struggle with the adaptation into a different culture and Ron has had many opportunities to encourage his fellow students and frustrated teachers. He also has had opportunities to talk about why he was here and what he believed – an interesting fact con-

sidering that his audience is mostly made up of Muslims, former communists and some Jews! Because Ron is a native English speaker he has been approached by the school staff, if he was interested in coming on board as a language teacher. We have sent in an application and interviews are scheduled for this week. Story is still developing....



Frau Strauch – our adopted Grandma

In November we were hit with three deaths in two weeks. First, Uli's old Kindergarten teacher and dear neighbor, Frau Strauch, passed away totally unexpected. Exactly one week later her terminally ill husband followed her. They left behind a devastated son, Gert. Five days later Ron's mother passed away after several weeks of lying in a coma. Gert, impacted by his own fresh experience, made it possible for Ron to fly home to his mother's funeral, where he was blessed to see most of his family. Upon his return we began to help Gert with the very difficult task of burying his parents and emptying their apartment. During that time we had many opportunities to invite him to trust Jesus for his current and eternal needs. For us as a family it was a time to seek the Lord for comfort and

strength, to teach our children about dying and the importance of knowing Jesus, to celebrate, that Grandma was in heaven with HIM, and to trust, that it is better to go to a funeral than to a party, because it makes all of us think about our own mortality and may help some to seek God.



Hostetler Funeral Family Reunion

So what are the jewels we found along the way? Did you see them between the lines while reading? There was a **crown of beauty** instead of ashes, a jar full of the **oil of gladness** instead of mourning, and a **garment of praise** instead of a spirit of despair. Even though we mourned the loss of a job, we were able to find with **gladness**, that the Lord had already implemented and financed Plan B! Even though we grieved the loss of loved ones and were overcome with questions, we got to see **beauty** in the details and were able to **praise** the Lord for His loving kindness and concern for us. He gave us the strength when we needed it. Hopefully our faith has gotten stronger as well and **we will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor – Isaiah 61:3**



Story time at Christmas

Some of the easier moments included a wonderful family Christmas and New Year. We enjoyed decorating our home and thinking about Jesus – our very best gift of all.

We have had a very mild winter, but had one weekend of tremendous beauty when a thick layer of fog and a heavy frosty wind covered everything with tiny, long ice crystals. The kids loved to play with them.



A hint of winter

Ministry Update:

We are still meeting at our home for our weekly Bible study. We have received the blessing of the German CC leadership to officially start a Calvary Chapel in Wiesbaden and are working on the detail of that. Our inception should happen this month - one year after we began to meet. Ron is continuing to take us through the Gospel of Matthew and he has filled in many times at other Chapels. Uli is still teaching the little ones in Grünstadt once a month and is praying with some of the ladies God has put into her life. At the Christian school Ron has been helping with construction work and Uli just started to teach a needlework workshop with

3rd graders. We are still waiting on the Lord for many things, but are excited about the little glimpses of His doing all around us.



Kaffeepause with Opa and Oma

But our biggest, most challenging and fulfilling ministry is to our awesome kids! Anja and Alex love to read their Bible stories in the morning and we have started to memorize scripture. They fight over who gets to pray and each one has a job to do when we get ready for Bible study. More on them in the next letter...

We hope that you all had a great start in 2008 and that you are encouraged in the Lord! We thank all of you who sent Christmas cards and gifts, even though we only got out very few ourselves... And we thank you for your continued prayers – we need them!

With His Love,
Ron, Uli, Anja & Alex

P.S. You can use the prayer card included as a reminder to pray for us! It also includes all of our important information!