

D E C E M B E R

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the

MESSIAH *has come*



"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

✧ Christmas In Germany ✧ *by Becky Davis*

Christmas is Jesus coming to earth, God Incarnate, the first time. Germany is actually one of the loveliest places in the western world at Christmas with Saint Nicholas Tag (Dec. 6th), Christmas Markets, die Tannenbäume (Christmas trees), Christmas concerts from choirs, orchestras, Dreikönigstag (or Three Kings' Day) on Jan. 6th, Christmas candles in windows, the list goes on and on. Germans are professional Christmas celebrators. The only problem is, very few people here actually know or, if they do know, care that Christmas has anything to do with Jesus.

One element of Christmas that somewhat surprises me is that Germans are serious about the Advent season. I mean, the "keepers of tradition" are serious about Advent whether they are religious or not. There is no greater expression of this than the Advent wreath. A German person may or may not get a Christmas tree, but you can almost bet, they've got an Advent wreath in their home. Advent wreaths are big business. Go to any grocery store, any florist, any home improvement mega-store and you'll find scores of wreaths on display.

The sad irony is that the Advent wreath is to remind us (believers) of the first coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, right? Most people have Advent wreaths because...well... it's tradition. But, for all of the hysteria surrounding this tradition, very few Germans, well... Europeans, know what it's about, and if they do, they probably respond to the story of Jesus as if it's a fairytale. They don't know that JESUS is the Light



of the World, and that they need his light. But, he's more than light. His light is an element of his Glory!

As we believers first enter into life with Christ, it is his splendorous person that draws us. And yet, upon entering this relationship we are awakened to the

And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. Isaiah 40:5

reality of the conflict of spiritual light and darkness. The present darkness of this world seems almost palpable these days, but our hope is in Christ, the Light of the World. This is a phrase that seems almost trite, but shouldn't be! It is scriptural. Whether we recognize it or not, the reality is that we thirst for truth, purity, peace, goodness, selflessness, light, and love. Jesus is not only the author and center of all of these, in some inexplicable manner, they all emanate from His being. They are a part of His glory.

As I read verses concerning Christ and his glory, I am struck with the indescribable holiness, purity, and power of Jesus expressed as light, splendorous blazing light! This indescribable thing called glory is the expression of everything that makes God, God. So as we remember the first Advent, let us recognize that we are actually in the second Advent, awaiting the coming of our King in all of his Glory. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords is coming! Get ready! Proclaim his name! He's coming!

Testimonies

NORTH AFRICA: This is one example of Christ reaching the lost in Africa through TV programming, to which we are musical and artistic contributors. May this testimony strengthen your faith and celebration of Jesus.

"I thank Jesus for all that He has done in my life. One day a Christian gave me a copy of the gospel of John and each time I found myself looking for answers to life I was strangely drawn to the gospel as if it was speaking to me saying that it contained a treasure.

Then, one day, I was watching the Jesus film on TV in the Kabyle language and asked Christ to show me the truth and to draw me to Himself. A little later that same night, I dreamt that I was in a pit filled with black sludge and standing next to me was a man dressed in shining white looking at me. He stretched out his arm to take my hand and pulled me from the pit. That very night I understood that Christ is the truth and the only way that leads to God. I also realized that the Bible is the true Word of God."

CHINA: A Chinese woman is favorable toward the gospel and has even been to church because of the boldness of a Proclaim team member and one of our local contacts who is now staying connected with her. Another man came to saving faith in Christ and has now been baptized. We work alongside the believers in China, to encourage them in their faith. Please continue to pray for a church that is not free to worship Jesus in public.



Ministry Update

At Community Bible Study International, Becky has recruited a German national to help lead with worship music once a month. She also plans to teach another of the lessons from Revelation later this winter.

Steve Liberti, John Bowers, and Greg will go to South Africa in January to train church members in public evangelism. They will return with a complete team to lead an evangelistic tour to South Africa in March. Greg and Steve are the tour leaders and have been actively recruiting former SchallWerkStadt students from Germany plus American musicians, technicians, and evangelists.



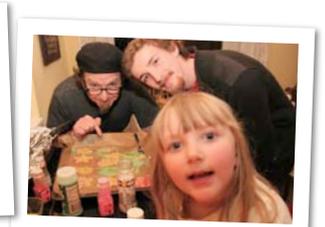
Greg and Becky are currently writing new music for the African TV station. One of Greg's songs became the channel identifier and is played many times per day.

Soul Tattoo, a ministry group that Greg and Steve put together with the help of German team member Dominic Bijan, will be doing more evangelistic music outreaches this year. In May we plan to tour France with team member Russ Speiser, and then in August, Soul Tattoo plans to trek through Serbia and Croatia.

PROCLAIM!
INTERNATIONAL

Financial Support

First of all, thanks to all our supporters. THANK YOU! Secondly, we still need more monthly donations. If God is moving you to contribute to our ministry, now is the time. Over the years, several of our supporters have even increased their giving by 10%, 20%, or more. Would you consider raising your commitment? Many also give one time and annual gifts. We are thankful for everything, and right now our specific need is for airfare and tour costs for South Africa in 2015.



Davis Family Update

Jacob has completed one semester at CIU and now has an official South Carolina driver's license. Anna made honor roll after her most difficult quarter ever. Elisabeth is interested in reading and loves play dates with friends.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
LOVE,
THE DAVISES