

the KLAUS family

missionaries to austria; serving in germany

Dear Family and Praying friends,

Greetings from the land of Lederhosen and Dirndl! This year we have been especially struck by the number of festivals taking place. During the summer season it is not unusual to see people walking around in their traditional Bavarian outfits – the men in their Lederhosen, and the ladies in their Dirndl (traditional Bavarian dresses). There are even special clubs for people interested in keeping the old traditions going. (These clubs are called Trachtenvereine.) The Catholic church is at the center of many of these old traditions.

We had an interesting experience this past week at our church. When we arrived at the church, the parking lot was full of cars. This is not unusual – our church building is an old schoolhouse that we rent from the city, and is also used by some other groups. We had never seen this many cars before, however, and we usually have an idea about what is going on. When we asked one of the men standing outside, he said that the local priest would be coming by shortly to bless the cars before the vacation season. Sure enough, a short time later, the priest arrived with several altar boys and girls, and a short service was held, complete with incense and holy water. We are praying for the Lord to open the hearts of the dear German people who have been following these old traditions for so long, but without a true knowledge of Christ. Please pray for us as we seek to find ways to reach into these homes with the life-changing gospel of Christ.

To that end, we have been planning our own “Fest” in our town. We will be having a children’s meeting on this coming Saturday. We have invited our whole village, and are praying that we see some of our closest neighbors come to be a part of the program. The day is called “Bibel im Dorf” or “Bible in the Village” and our people have been working hard in preparation for the day.

The rest of the summer has also been busy. We held our first ever church family camp, and were thrilled to have over 25 of our church members attend. This week I am helping with the music at the Euro Youth

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Conference in Mannheim Germany. We will arrive home on Friday morning, and then Saturday our Children's Evangelization. In two weeks we will head out to the German teen camp. We expect between 40-50 teenagers from several churches in our area to be there, and are trusting that the Lord will do a great work in hearts. We are also planning a baptism for the 7th of August. We have had other baptisms, but this will be our first in the river. Please pray for good weather!

Our oldest two children, Bethany and Kaleb, will be going on a missions trip in August to Transdnierstria. Please pray for their spiritual growth and safety as they are away for most of the month of August. We are also excited to see Bob and Kelly Radank making progress in language school. We have been very thankful for their help and look forward to the Lord's using them greatly here in Germany! Thank you all so much for your love and faithful prayers and support that makes the ministry here possible! The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much ...

In Christ,
Keith Klaus and Family

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