

The Klaus Family in Germany

Greetings to our family and praying friends!

The last few months have been filled with the greatest of joy and the deepest of sorrow. I am aware that this letter is late coming, and for that I am very sorry, but I will do my best to get you up to speed on the ministry here in Germany.

Our last update was a long time ago - we were looking forward to a summer busy with weddings and camp. And indeed, the months were jam packed: first a wedding at the beginning of May - our daughter Bethany was able to come (her best friend from childhood was the bride) and God gave us a great weekend! In May we also had a choir concert outreach together with our sister church in Neumarkt - there was a great attendance (the Neumarkt church hosted the event) and we have seen some fruit, as a gentleman who came to the concert has been visiting our church fairly regularly in his "quest for truth", as he has been calling it. The end of May brought us to our second wedding - a young lady who grew up in our youth group and met a young man at our Christian teen camp. It has been such a blessing to see them grow in their faith in their young lives together and they are faithfully serving in the ministry here. The day after the second wedding was also especially blessed,

as we had our first baptism of the year. Two young men were baptised - one who also grew up in the ministry here, and as a young adult has now decided to make this step of obedience. The other was a man with a young family who have been attending for about a year. His wife had been saved and baptised for some time, but he recently made a decision for Christ and they have been such a joy as a part of our church family. June was a bit more relaxed, and as it turns out, the calm before the storm. Julia and I were able to get away for three days of camping down at Walchensee in the south of Germany and enjoy God's handiwork. In July our church participated in an evangelistic soccer tournament organised by a sister church in



Life-sized replica of the tabernacle

Eichstätt. The first week of August every year is the big children's/teen camp that our fellowship of churches organises. There is much preparation that goes into it (we rent a facility and organise the program ourselves). The theme this year was the tabernacle and the major project was building a life size model of the tabernacle. The kids did a fantastic job and we were amazed at their hard work! (We mostly just did the supervising) We had over 20 teens, children, and counsellors from our church participate! The Saturday the camp ended was also our 3rd wedding of the year - a young man from our church who had gone to Bible college and come back to minister while he studied mechanical engineering at the University in Regensburg. He has since moved away to assist with a church plant near Austria/Liechtenstein, but asked if we would be willing to do the wedding here in our area. It has been a great encouragement to see these young people following the Lord with their lives. Following the camp and wedding we began preparing for our church's 20th anniversary. We had planned a combined service with two American churches close by who were instrumental in our German church being planted. Our plans were changed abruptly 3 weeks

ago when one of our church families experienced great tragedy. (They have been with us since 2010) The wife, who had been battling depression for several years, ended her life suddenly and without warning. This has naturally been a shock for the family and the church - we have been mourning with those who are mourning and trying to counsel and carry them through this time with the Lord's help. The funeral was two weeks ago - and I was able to clearly present the Gospel to a congregation of over 200 - perhaps half of those had never hear a Gospel presentation before (there were many people from the community in attendance). We have been amazed in the process at experiencing what "church" should be. Our people have come together in Christ to offer help and encouragement, cook meals, just sit with the family, and are doing a wonderful job fulfilling the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2) Please continue to pray for the family and our church as we work through what will be a long healing process. Julia and I had also been asked last year to participate in a "ministry vacation" in France with around 50 people from churches in our fellowship. Every day we held a Bible study and led children's program (10 units in all). We arrived exhausted and and burdened - but the Lord allowed us to find refreshment in His word in the midst of it. (I was planning on teaching in the Psalms before any of this had happened.) On the way to France we were blessed with the wonderful news that we now have a granddaughter! Even in the time of great sorrow God allowed us to experience great joy and we are thankful for the precious little one that is now a part of our lives! (Julia said I need to tell you that little Maria was 6 pound 6 ounces and 20 inches long) 🥰 We can't wait to meet her!



Maria was tired!

Thanks so much for your part in our ministry - whether through prayer or financial giving, you are an important part of the ministry here. May the Lord bless you as you serve and follow Him!

liebe Grüße, Keith und Julia Klaus

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