

12 July 2009

Hey Larry and Gay,

When Myra and I arrived into Frankfurt, 3 Sundays ago, as usual we hit it running. We were met at the airport by our friend Dr. Jimmy Martin, the General Secretary of the European Baptist Convention, driven to his apartment and office building. After a one hour nap, or collapse, we went with our Irish friend Lorraine to her apartment for dinner and joyful conversation. The next morning she drove us to the Bahnhof, we boarded the ICE train, and once again Myra and I were off to Interlaken, Switzerland, our 12th opportunity to teach precious believers from all over Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. As we crossed the border, gasping at the ineffable beauty of the Swiss Alps, Myra's exclamation was on target: "can you believe the Lord has given us another opportunity to be here?" The 11 days in Interlaken were anointed by the Lord, and the studies in II Corinthians were well received. Stuart and Jill Briscoe had been invited to minister, and they were used greatly by the Lord to encourage the body of Christ in Europe. Myra spent hours with women, praying, counseling, and encouraging, and as I anticipated she was surrounded by many who wanted to spend time with her. The long summer days were filled with teaching, encouraging people, and being available to help servants of Christ.

As soon as we turned around it was time to leave, an emotionally difficult time, for we had been overwhelmed with blessings and privileges. We boarded the train for the 5 hour trip back to Frankfurt, were met by another friend, Vlado from Bulgaria and his lovely Filipino wife. They treated us to a wonderful evening of dinner, lively conversation, and then helped us settle into our apartment in Oberursel. Fortunately and thankfully we had no commitments for Friday, so we found out just how little sleep we had in Interlaken by hibernating for most of the day, walking through the village and getting re-oriented to this charming place, and preparing for Sunday.

Today was a joyful day of being back at the International Christian Fellowship, where we had served during 2008. The Bible study from Proverbs 3:5, 6, THE JOURNEYS OF LIFE, seemed to have met some real needs among the people. Myra and I were delighted to see that the music was led by a lovely French couple we had nurtured while here in 2008. We had no idea that they had made a commitment to be involved in the life of the fellowship, much less becoming worship leaders. The term "serendipity" describes this

discovery. ICF is going through a challenging transition. The pastor has resigned and returned to England, and our task is to take the church through this transition while continuing to reach people for Christ and “disciple” them as followers of Christ. There are 17 different nationalities involved in this ministry, very few Americans, but many local people from Oberursel. It will be a significant ministry for the person God is preparing as pastor, a ministry that will impact people in many other nations. Our schedule is already filling up, beginning tomorrow with dinner with a family, Bible studies and leadership development. However, the primary emotions we experience are joy and thanks for the privilege of making Christ known in this part of Germany. As you pray for us, ask the Lord to continue to give us the strength, wisdom, and health needed for this mission ministry. We have been blessed beyond description, and our one desire is to “keep on keeping on” in proclaiming the gospel in Germany.

Please know that as you do pray for us, Myra and I are praying for you. Our prayer includes thanksgiving for the gift of friendship, a gift that becomes more precious to us as the days pass by. We ask the Lord to embrace you with His presence and encouragement. Our love and praise abide.

From Oberursel, Germany

In Christ

Bob and Myra