

Our update on the ministry in Nuremberg Germany. Thanks for praying!



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Dear Praying Friends,

Our life has entered a new phase. We are officially retired. That does not, however, mean that we have stopped doing ministry, we have simply reduced the amount of ministry we do. This year we will continue to visit supporting churches that we were not able to get to on account of Covid19.

Jeff enjoyed teaching the course, "Foundations of Missions" at Central Baptist Seminary in Minneapolis in December. It was a learning and stretching experience for him as well. He appreciated being able to be part of the faculty at Central. There has been a strong movement in Bible-believing churches and schools to emphasize (or even restrict to) only one portion of the globe for mission work (namely the 10-40 Zone). He was very thankful to be able to make the shift in his class to the whole world as a mission field. Using Scriptural and statistical arguments, the students were convinced. They were each given the assignment of presenting one place in the world as a needy mission field. Each was very convincing (including places in the USA). In the end, his students became his teachers. That was always the goal. What a blessing to experience! The harvest is still white, and the laborers are still few. My students understand that now better than before.

Jeff is no longer wearing his sling after Rotator Cuff surgery, PTL. He will continue to be in therapy for his shoulder for some time. We were also recently visited by our dear friends, Steve and Sue Scott. The Scotts are active at our home church in Muncie, where Steve has been a deacon for many years. The Scotts began supporting us financially from the time we began deputation. For the past 32 years we have often stayed overnight in their home. They also visited us in Germany.



We are frequently in touch with the churches we began in Germany, and would also like to share with you about how they are doing. People living here have often complained about Covid restrictions in the USA, but these do not compare to those in Germany. Talking with Volker Weise (Nuremberg) and Oliver Meyer (Erlangen), we have learned that travel continues to be restricted there. In addition, the churches have to follow very strict measures for their meetings, including distancing and masking. The church in Erlangen is only able to have their people attend once every three weeks, so that everyone will get a chance to be in church. In Nuremberg, the church has two morning services, which makes it possible for most everyone to come. But we also want to say a word of thanks, because the church in Erlangen has held its own during this time, averaging nearly 200. The church in Nuremberg has grown. At the beginning of the Covid epidemic, the church was averaging 130-140 in attendance. It now averages over 180. The church in Erlangen has even had a successful evangelistic crusade, with many members participating via Zoom, with guests in their homes. Quite a few churches in Germany have become polarized over the pandemic and how one should respond. They have even lost members on account of the controversy. Thankfully, this has not been the case for the Independent Baptist Churches of Nuremberg and Erlangen.

Please pray for the pastors of the churches in Nuremberg and Erlangen, since the Covid restrictions have been quite a burden for them. Pray also for more space for the church in Nuremberg. Once the Covid restrictions are lifted, they will not have enough room for all their attendees in the morning service. In Nuremberg the teen group has also grown, with many unsaved teens in attendance. Their leaders also asked us to pray for the salvation of the unbelieving teens.

Finally, we are thankful to hear the good report from the Bible School, where attendance exceeds 70 students. Several have written us specifically to tell us how much they have profited from the courses, which they know will make them more capable in the service of the Lord.

Thank you so much for your prayers!

In Christ,

Jeff & Linda Brown

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