

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



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Dear Praying Friends,

"From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed." (Acts 14:26)

Thirty-one years ago the pastors and deacons of Grace Baptist Church, Muncie, laid hands on us to commit us to mission work in Germany. On May 24th, 1989, our family landed in Germany to begin our work of church planting. Our 31 years of ministry in Germany are nearly at an end. Last Sunday (May 17th) the Independent Baptist Church of Nuremberg celebrated its graduation to completely independent status. In seminary days we learned that the New Testament concept of planting churches results in churches that are self-supporting, self-governing, and self-replicating (We chose Baptist Mid-Missions, in part, because it has always shared this same view). The churches we have begun in Germany fit all three of those categories. Our people did a marvelous job of designing the program and livestreaming it on youtube. Though the process was new to our men involved in the technology, with new equipment, they put together a setup that seemed to work flawlessly. Covid19 made the original in-house celebration impossible, thus the livestreaming. But then, the audience became at least 3X what it would have been. Since early March, we have been fascinated at how God uses difficulties to increase the spread of His Word. To our delight, all four of our children and their families in the USA were able to watch! Jeremy, Janet, Julianne, and Jason all sang along with the German hymns. How fitting! In our days in Erlangen, they were our best missionaries.



Our Technicians: new equipment, new electronic territory.
 Here is the link for the service (all in German) <https://youtu.be/L0eltG8FrBA>



Participants in the Broadcast.

We were very pleased that Oliver Meyer, from the first church we planted in Erlangen, the mother church of our current one, was able to bring greetings. Daniel Arnold and Mark Boyd, from our daughter churches were present also. Likewise Pastor Rory Bond, from Grace Baptist Church in Muncie, as well as Ken Houghton, BMM administrator in Europe, were able to give congratulations to the church, along with a word of admonition. Our technicians put together a German voice-over for both of them. We joked with Pastor Rory that we enjoyed hearing him speak German.



Changed lives through the ministry of the church: a Christian out of a non-Christian background, disciplined and making disciples.

We especially celebrated our church-planting team, which began forming 12 years ago, and then, together, began the church in June, 2008. Two women from the original team created a 10-minute video, documenting the history of the church. Beginning with 15 adults and 10 children, the church has grown to an average Sunday attendance of 130, including 75 members, and has begun two daughter churches. As a conclusion to the service, we resigned from our ministries in the church. Then Jeff turned over his leadership to our two other pastors: Volker and Christian: giving Volker his briefcase and Christian his backpack!



Turning over the reins of leadership to Volker and Christian. Christian is one of our first graduates of the Bible Institute.

On May 6th, Jeff taught his last Greek class (via internet, of course). As he turned off his microphone, he sighed. He has really enjoyed this part of his ministry. He turned over his leadership of the Bible Institute a few days later. Together with Burdette Bergen and Oliver Meyer, he began the "Theological Training Center" in 2010. Burdette and his wife, Mary Jane, will conclude their 35 years of ministry in Germany with a celebration tomorrow.



Our partner in BMM, and in the Bible Institute, Burdette Bergen

Die Apostelgeschichte

Eine Auslegung für die Gemeinde



Jeff Brown

VTR

Cover for Jeff's German language commentary on the Book of Acts, now at the press.

In mid-June, Jeff will meet together for the last time with the ministry, "Christians in the Working World", which he, together with another brother in Christ, Thomas Roser, began three years ago. It likewise is all ready to continue without the missionaries.

In summary, here is the end result of God's work through the two of us in Germany with Baptist Mid-Missions:

- Two self-supporting churches, with paid, German pastors, that are also starting daughter churches
- A Bible Institute, with a faculty of 6, which is training leaders for our churches, as well as future church planters. The Bible Institute is likewise producing literature in German for Bible study and disciple-making.
- The ministry of "Christians in the Working World"

On June 24th we will fly to South Carolina, near our children, to begin our last year with Baptist Mid-Missions (visiting our supporting churches) and a new phase of life.

This is the Lord's work. He has done all of these things - please read slowly:
 because you prayed!
 because you prayed!

We celebrate you as our partners for 31+ years: Thank you! Thank you!

Jeff and Linda Brown

