

Prayer COMMUNIQUÉ

OUR PRAYERS INTERSECT GOD'S INTERVENTION

July 2009



Appointment with God

JOIN GOD'S WORK TO SEE SPIRITUAL BREAKTHROUGH IN EUROPE.

- More than 40 percent of the people in Cologne, Germany profess Catholicism; less than five percent attend church regularly.

Telling most Germans you're an evangelical Christian is a great way to shut down a good conversation. My wife Sue and I have found that to be true in Cologne, Germany, so we were pleased when God provided an opportunity to have a spiritual discussion with a nonbelieving couple before "religion" came up.

God literally brought Andreas and Nora* to our table at an Italian restaurant. It's one of those places where all the tables are large and designed for sharing with other customers. While most Germans are cordial but keep to themselves, this couple warmed to our greeting right away. We enjoyed hearing about Andreas' businesses and Nora's job at the telephone company. The fact that I'm a pastor came up about two hours into our chatting, and when it did, they wanted to know more.



"We're starting a liturgical Protestant church," I said, "and our second monthly service happens to be next weekend."

Three other creative couples have joined Sue and me in our desire to reach out to "cultural Catholics" here in Cologne—those who keep their membership in the church only because they want the church available if they need it. Then there are couples like Andreas and Nora, who removed their church membership so they don't have to pay the mandatory tax.

Many Europeans are separating from state churches for that reason and because they didn't have a choice to join, having been baptized into membership as babies.

The goal of having a liturgical church is to help people worship in a way that's comfortable to them, emphasizing the Gospel message in the ritual. Our prayer is that people will be inspired to put their faith in Jesus.

Andreas and Nora talked with us at the restaurant until midnight, and they expressed interest in coming to the worship service. We exchanged business cards, so later in the week I emailed them a friendly reminder about the service. To our delight, they came!

Though Andreas and Nora didn't participate in Communion, after worship we talked for a while. "The service was so moving," Nora said. "We've never been to a service as personal as this."

The goal of having a liturgical church is to help people worship in a way that's comfortable to them, emphasizing the Gospel message in the ritual.

They weren't able to stay for the meal after worship because Andreas had an appointment, so I jokingly offered to write him a note excusing him from the commitment. I said, "I'll write, 'Andreas could not come because he had an appointment...'"—and he broke in and finished the sentence: "...with God."

We shouldn't be surprised when we encounter people who are spiritually open. The team of missionaries here has invested considerable time

prayerwalking. The Greater Europe Mission family is standing with us to see spiritual breakthrough in this city where so few people have a relationship with Jesus. In fact, we've invited GEM missionaries throughout Europe and anyone else who would like to join us this fall for a week of prayerwalking and seeking out people of peace (see Luke 10). Prayer is tilling the hard soil in our city, and we believe that God wants to make it fertile ground for His Spirit to move. Will you stand with us as we seek a breakthrough in Cologne?

*Names changed.

GET INVOLVED

- ▶ Would you like to minister short term in Cologne, Germany and Stockholm, Sweden? The Cologne–Stockholm Prayer Journey, August 11–21, offers an opportunity to pray in these two strategic cities. Also available is a Stockholm Prayer Journey, October 10–17.
- ▶ Work with children with disabilities on the Romanian Day Camp short-term team trip August 16–29. Apply by July 1.
- ▶ Use your training in special education or physical therapy to minister to Romanians in care centers throughout the country October 3–10. Apply by July 15.
- ▶ Contact Caroline (CVose@GEMission.com) to learn more about these opportunities or to receive the free *Prayer Communiqué* every month via email or mail.

© 2009 Greater Europe Mission
www.GEMission.org

Prayer COMMUNIQUÉ

 **Greater Europe Mission**
GEM USA · 18950 Base Camp Road · Monument, CO 80132

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
MONUMENT,
CO
PERMIT NO. 20

Prayer COMMUNIQUÉ

PRAYER POINTS FOR JULY 2009

WEEK 1

- ▶ Pray that God will continue to draw Andreas and Nora (see article), along with many other people in Cologne, Germany, to seek Him and connect with the new church there.
- ▶ Pray that God will help the Greek Bible Institute staff meet the requirements for government recognition. One major challenge is raising 500,000 euros to keep in a bank account. Most of this amount is still needed, and the deadline is August. Pray for a miracle so the school—the only Bible school in Greece—can continue preparing Greek young people to serve the Lord.

WEEK 2

- ▶ Praise the Lord for opportunities to share the

Gospel in a French prison. Pray for another chaplain to help reach more of the 740 prisoners with God's Word.

- ▶ Ask God to bless the *Imagin'Air* camps in Croatia this summer as they offer European children a fun-filled introduction to English and to God's love. Pray for good attendance and that these outreaches will profoundly impact the children and their parents.

WEEK 3

- ▶ Pray that God will bring to fruition a summer children's ministry in Cologne, Germany that He has put on missionaries' and national believers' hearts. Ask Him to use this and a potential after-school program to draw many families to Himself.

- ▶ Praise God for a recent arts outreach at a handicapped children's center in North Africa. A team worked with the children and taught the mothers, who live at poverty level, a marketable art skill. Pray that through ministering God's love in this way, eyes and hearts were opened to see Jesus.

WEEK 4

- ▶ Pray for *Oratorium*, a Young Musicians' Project July 19–26 in Romania. Pray for a positive response to all the concerts—especially in Brasov and Sibiu, where people are accustomed to such cultural events.
- ▶ Praise God for the National Women's Ministry Training, an intensive study program that prepares women to minister to women in churches throughout

Russia. Across that vast country, 37 City Training Centers are instructing more than 550 women. Pray that God will continue to bless and expand this ministry.

WEEK 5

- ▶ Pray that good relationships will develop as missionaries and national believers in Cologne, Germany host concerts and other social activities to mix their church friends and other friends.
- ▶ Praise God that 30–40 students recently earned degrees or diplomas from Zaporozhye Bible College and Seminary in Ukraine. Pray that He will lead each one to the ministry of His choice.