



Starting Over

This winter has been one of transition. God has been teaching me a lot about patience and leaning on Him during times of anxiety. The last three months have all been about me beginning to work with Zeal Church. I've been meeting church leaders, meeting other members, sitting in planning meetings, attending a small group, and so much more. I have been doing completely different work and it's both stressful and joyful. It has been so good for my heart to feel like I am active in church ministry again! Café Story was a great place to begin in Germany, but I feel like I have been placed in a position closer to God's calling for me. I don't even have enough space to clarify everything that I am involved in doing, but I will hit some of my biggest highlights.

Every Monday, I spend time in the church office. I come and clean, which doesn't sound very exciting, but it has been a great service to the team. In the early evening, we hold feedback and planning meetings. I've learned a lot about the culture of Zeal and their ministry goals.

Every Wednesday, I travel with the pastor from Dresden to Leipzig, a city about an hour from Dresden. Leipzig is where the first Zeal Church location was planted. There are similar planning and feedback meetings that involve all Zeal locations, but also a ministry training time. When not in a meeting, I do personal office work and odd jobs with several other volunteers. Zeal actually has four locations throughout former East Germany and an active online campus. They have a great vision to minister to the entire region.

Sundays, I am on the guest experience team. I come in early and help to prepare breakfast (*Mitarbeiterfrühstück*) for all the volunteers and pastoral staff. This includes around 30 people every week. We do not own the building where we have church service, and we are praying that God leads us to a new bigger location soon. The church is growing and we simply need more space to serve the community better.

In April, I will become an official small group leader. So far, I have only been an attendee in the International Small Group. This next season, I will be leading a specifically bilingual group, with the intention to help the international community feel more comfortable and willing to integrate into a German speaking church. Working with Zeal has been great for motivation to better my language skills. One of my future goals is to be able to translate at our church service, but I'm still not quite proficient enough yet.

I also had many personal things to celebrate this season. I attended two separate weddings. In February, I celebrated my birthday and my fifth year of living in Germany. My life has changed so much, but I also feel like I am starting over with a whole new chapter. I am so excited to see what God has planned for my future! Please continue to pray that God keeps opening new doors for me.

In Him,



Just having casual English lessons with my friend's toddler.

Contact me while I'm here!

Mary Ellis
Laubestrasse 4
Dresden, Germany
01309
maryme229@yahoo.com

Learn German with Me

Alles Gute zum Geburtstag:
Happy Birthday

WHAT TO PRAY FOR!

- ZEAL DRESDEN
- GROWING NEW FRIENDSHIPS
- LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
- CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Sitting down at Zeal *Mitarbeiterfrühstück*



Getting ready to go dance at our friend's wedding!