



## Springing Forward

These last couple of months have been full of blessings and new opportunities. I have officially transitioned my employment to Kontaktmission Deutschland. It has been very complicated switching to using new technological communication and work systems for both Kontaktmission and for Zeal Church. German culture evolves around the idea of *alles in Ordnung*, or everything in order. At the same time, anyone who has ever been in ministry knows how much chaos can be involved. I have been praying a lot for guidance and patience as I experience new versions of culture shock.

In April, Kontakt held its annual worker's retreat, the *Mitarbeitertagung*. I was full of joy to see many friends who were finally able to attend since before Covid. I also made several new friends and connections. One of the highlights for me was meeting a new worker who is based in Mallorca, an island off the coast of Spain. Within a few minutes of chatting, we learned that we had an awesome connection that could only be done by God. A lovely family that I had met in Café Story moved to Mallorca a few years ago to run a yacht tour business. When chatting with the new KM worker, we quickly discovered she now works in the kindergarten for this family's small son! They are not Christians, but they sent their son to the Christian international pre-school. Apparently, their son is responding to the songs and teaching and enthusiastically sharing them with his parents. Seeing God work through us, then working in the heart of this family, is so encouraging.

Now that I am working with Zeal Church, I have an official title. The word we are using is *Diakonissin*, or deaconess, which means servant. I feel blessed that God has called me to literally serve the church. I do a little bit of everything, from cleaning toilets in the office, baking a huge cake for the church's birthday party, and to greeting guests on Sunday mornings.

I am grateful to also be serving as one of the small group leaders. My group is filled with other internationals and it is called *Tandem*, which is a term used when learning another language. When two or more people meet to help practice each other's language, that is called a tandem meeting. Our group does the first hour of study in English, switches to German, and closes by praying in whatever language the person feels most comfortable.

In June, Zeal celebrated what they call Love Week. Everyone in the church is encouraged to participate in some sort of service project to bless the people in Dresden. All of the international groups did our project together. We crafted cards with Bible verses, words of encouragement, and invitations to church, along with a cookie. We then delivered them to a dormitory for international students. We have a core group of leaders who are trying to create an environment where everyone feels welcome in our church, regardless of what they look like or language they speak. To me, it is a glimpse of heaven with every tongue, tribe, and nation.

In Him,



All the International Small Group Leaders! We attended the orchestra concert for Graziella (far left), who is studying flute at the *Dresden Hochschule for Musik*.



The Zeal international small groups creating encouragement cards for Love Week.



In April, Zeal held nightly worship services during the week leading up to Easter.

**Contact me while I'm here!**

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**Learn German with Me**

*Gute Reise!*

Have a safe trip!

**WHAT TO PRAY FOR!**

- ZEAL DRESDEN
- GROWING NEW FRIENDSHIPS
- LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

**SPECIAL NOTE**

On the included donor card, please write your personal email address and send back to Kontaktmission, or please email me directly. I am trying to gather this information for an upcoming prayer project.