

## Ich habe die Sonne im Herzen!

Much like the US, church attendance dwindles during the summer holidays. Germans tend to vacation for weeks at a time, making it difficult to schedule and find volunteers to help on a Sunday morning, but the kingdom work goes on. August marked my first anniversary of attending Zeal Dresden. I feel like the year has flown by; I am overjoyed by what the Lord has let me experience!

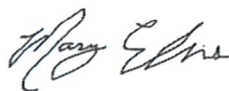
This is the first year that I feel that I have a truly tight-knit group of friends. This has done wonders for my mental health and confidence. Some are friends from Zeal and others are from the Book Club I started while working in Café Story. We have laughed, cried, celebrated, and just have grown to enjoy life together. My friend group is a mix of both Germans and other internationals, and it has been great learning all about their other cultures.

I did quite a bit of traveling this season, both for ministry and for fun. There are so many places still to see in my new home country and still so much culture and history to learn. I visited Görlitz, a town that was divided after WW2. While there, my friends and I crossed a bridge, walking straight across the border into Poland. Poland holds a special place in my heart because it was where I went on my first mission trip and where God first called me to European missions. I also went to a couple of the castles within 30 minutes of Dresden with members of the International Small Groups. I went to a wedding in Saxon-Anhalt, another state in Germany, where I was charmed by the medieval city of Quedlinburg. The wedding was even more beautiful because it was a mix of German and Botswana traditions. Each place has its unique history that helped to develop the modern Germany I live in today, everything from Moravian missionaries to dastardly political coups, influence how the church and the Gospel is perceived. I hope that God continues to use me in a way that proves His love is greater than what German church history has shown.

Unfortunately, I had to say several *goodbyes* this season. In August, I attended multiple going away parties for friends that left Dresden. One of the most difficult parts about being involved with international ministries is that many of the people you connect with don't stay in one city for long. I can only hope that I was able to share the Gospel in a way that they can take it and share it wherever they may go.

I hope you have had a lovely summer and got some time to relax in the joy the Lord brings in this season. I am continually blessed by your prayers and support. I am anticipating a busy fall season and I can't wait to see what God has for me next!

In Him,




The International Small Groups got together in August at a going away party for one of the group leaders and her husband.



International Small Groups Hangout. About every 6 weeks we combine all of our small groups together for fellowship. This time we visited *Schloss Pillnitz*, a castle on the Elbe.



Celebrating at the third wedding I have attended this year. The bride is behind me in the beautiful blue and red dress.

### Contact me while I'm here!

Mary Ellis

Laubestraße 4

Dresden, Germany 01309



### Learn German with Me

*Ich habe die Sonne im Herzen!*

"I have the sun in my heart!"

a.k.a I am happy!

### WHAT TO PRAY FOR!

- ZEAL DRESDEN
- GROWING NEW FRIENDSHIPS
- LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

### SPECIAL NOTE

My monthly prayer project starts in October. If you would still like to be involved, please send me your email address immediately. You will be sent details about the Zoom Meetings.