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HOMeward BOUND

By the time this letter reaches you, I will be working on final preparations before I head to the USA for a short trip. From June 25th-July 17th, I will be coming to speak at churches and meet with supporters. My parents will also be hosting an open house party, on June 28th—please see the invitation that is included with this letter. I hope to see you there!

I haven't been in the US during the summer for several years. I'm looking forward to hot days,

American lemonade, and the glorious invention of air conditioning!

It is always interesting returning to the States. Germany has been my home for over 7 years, and I can definitely tell that I have become a mix of both cultures. In German, we would use the word *Heim*. Literally it means home, but on a deeper level it means the place where you have placed your roots and have your own culture. The US will always be a home, but Germany is becoming my

Heim. I have my job, my church, friends, apartment, my cat, and all the things that make me, me!

Naturally, it might not stay that way forever. God's Kingdom is my true *Heim*. Who knows where He will lead me to in the future. Right now, I am glad I have a place where I can live as He has called me to live.

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20

In Him,

Mary Ellis



On the left, a meeting with a large portion of the Kontaktkmission USA leadership at the *Mitarbeitertagung*.

On the right, we are celebrating the birthday of one of the International small group members, with four different continents represented!



LEARN GERMAN WITH ME

"Wer rastet, der rostet."
(Vare raztet, dare roztet)

Literal: He who rests, rusts.

An idiom to encourage people to always keep moving forward and trying new things.



Zeal Church exists so that people can experience and embrace the fervent love and freedom of God. We inspire people about God and equip them to follow Him wholeheartedly and thereby becoming the person God created them to be. Our passion for God and people is our driving force. www.zealchurch.de

Kontaktkmission
SEND. PLANT. MULTIPLY.

Kontaktkmission is a networked mission movement empowering Christians worldwide to live out their God-given callings, and sending them out for the building up of His church.

www.gokmusa.org

HOPE SPRINGS

A BUSY BEE

I started April on vacation in England and it was so refreshing to be back in the UK. For those who don't know, I lived in England for 6 months as part of my Lincoln Christian University internship. The country holds a special place in my heart and was an integral part of preparing for my future in Germany.

The week before Easter was also when I traveled to southern Germany for our annual Kontaktmission Conference and Retreat (Mitarbeitertagung). It is incredible how much KM

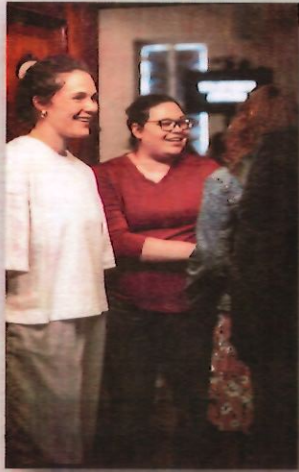
keeps growing! God is doing amazing things all over the world and I am honored to be a part of His plans.

On Easter Sunday and on Mother's Day, I served on the photography team at Zeal Church. This is one of my newer responsibilities, and I really enjoy it. I like using my creative abilities in acts of service.

In May, we kicked off a new semester of small groups. This time, my group is focusing on a study of Psalms. Reading

Biblical songs of worship while picnicking in the park near my house has been a great experience for everyone.

On June 21, Zeal Church will have their annual celebration for volunteers. Over 300 people from all of the Zeal locations will meet in Erzgebirge to worship, eat, and party together. It is a great time to celebrate the service of all our volunteers who put so much work into keeping Zeal Church running smoothly.



Greeting on a Sunday morning



One of my favorite photos that I took on Easter Sunday.

PRAYER REQUESTS!

- ZEAL CHURCH
- LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
- CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- MY HEALTH
- MY FAMILY
- TRAVEL SAFETY TO THE USA



Some of the Kontaktmission missionaries and their families as we made a video, dancing to a children's worship song.

KEEPING FOCUS

Every year there is a new theme for the Kontaktmission conference and retreat. This year the theme was "Focus." All the workshops were about how the world is changing everyday, but we must always keep our focus on God's plans.

At the retreat, I got to see friends from all over the world, working in ministries both similar and vastly different from my own. I was greatly surprised to find out that another team had been using Zeal Kid's YouTube channel in their ministry on the opposite side of Germany, without even

knowing that I was connected to Zeal.

I love being part of an missions' organization that is focused on making a difference and a church planting team that has such vision for sharing the Gospel in the East German region.



Meeting up with a couple of my German teammates, who also happened to be on vacation in London at the same time as me!