

WINTER SEASON

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Visiting Rothenberg ob der Tauber with my mom (Dad is taking the photo).

I have always ascribed to be as honest as possible in my newsletters. Some seasons have been joyous over the years. Unfortunately, this has been one of the most difficult seasons for me.

October was both encouraging and exhausting. My parents were here for a time, but I ended up very sick at the end of our vacation together. Also, a Kontaktmission USA colleague came for a weekend and was impressed by the work being done at Zeal.

Things really took a turn in November. I had a rather stressful Visa meeting. As of writing this letter, I have not

been able to receive my new Visa. It is waiting on the renewal of my passport. Pray that the American government quickly sends me my new passport so my Visa can be approved.

I also had surgery the same week as my Visa meeting. The surgery went fine. It was minor and I was able to be home the same day. Recovery, unfortunately, has been difficult. I am still currently healing from some unexpected side effects.

Less than two weeks later on December 4th, my cat, Haru, passed away unexpectedly. I am grieving

There has also been some health concerns for several of my family members in the States. Everyone is doing ok, but pray my family is able to find some peace and healing.

Everything compounding has me struggling. I desperately need your prayers and support. This Christmas will be the most difficult one I have ever experienced so far away from all of you.



One of my last photos of Haru was in his Christmas bandana.



The Zeal Dresden International Group's Christmas party.



Exploring around Dresden's Old City (Altstadt) with Keith from Kontaktmission USA.

PRAYER REQUESTS!

- ZEAL CHURCH
- LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
- CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- MY HEALTH
- MY FAMILY

LIVING WITH A VISION

On November 2nd, Zeal Church celebrated their 11th birthday and declared their vision statement for the coming year. The Vision Statement for this year is simply "Der Ruf," or "The Calling," the idea being that we as a church are called by God to serve and grow. How will we respond to what He wants from us?

As a missionary, the idea of being called is integral to my ministry and purpose. I felt that God put a special desire in my heart to serve him abroad. Focusing on that calling is how I ended up living in Germany.

I am eager to see how Zeal Church answers God's call this coming year! We have such a desire to grow

throughout the East German region. Our church definitely feels called to plant more churches and expand the reach of the Gospel.

Our key verse for the year is Isaiah 6:8. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

CONTACT

INFO

Mary Ellis
Laubstraße 4
Dresden, DE 01309

Email:
maryme229@yahoo.com



www.gokmusa.org/ellis

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

Celebrating Christmas in Germany is absolutely stunning with all the lights, decorations, markets, and parties. It always reminds me about why I felt called to work in Europe in the first place. The culture in Dresden can often feel cold and antagonistic, but then at Christmas you can feel the kindness of strangers. It makes you feel that anything is truly possible with God.

Christ has been changing lives forever. He turns the darkest, cold nights to brightness and warmth. I hope that I am helping to bring His hopeful light to this city.

If you see others around you struggling or stressing about the holiday, remember that the reason for Christmas is the hope and freedom that Jesus' birth brought to us. Maybe a simple act of kindness

from you could be a way to share the Gospel and His message of hope with a stranger this season.

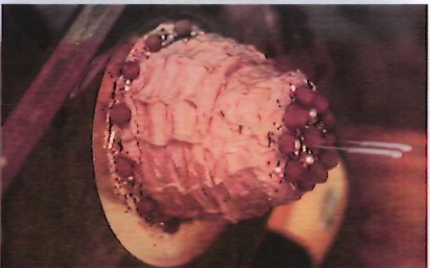
I pray you all have a blessed holiday season and enjoy a time of celebration with your families. Remember that you too can be a light in a dark place.

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

In Him,



Worshipping during Sunday Service at Zeal.



The cake I baked for Zeal's birthday!



My International Small Group celebrating the baptism of one of our members (the man in the middle).



My small group packed gifts for Operation Christmas Child.

LEARN GERMAN WITH ME

Christkind
(Chris-kint)

Literal: Christ child

Refers to the tradition where the Christ Child brings gifts on Christmas Eve. This custom was promoted by Martin Luther during the Protestant Reformation to refocus Christmas away from the veneration of saints, like St. Nicholas, and onto the birth of Christ instead.



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 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