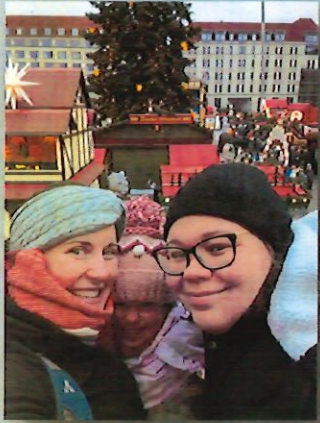


WINTER SEASON CONTINUED



Christmas Eve at the Strieselmarkt with friends before going to church.



With my birthday gifts from the Zeal Dresden leadership team.

Continuing from the end of last year, I have had a difficult couple of months. I will not go into all the details, but have I struggled mentally, physically, and spiritually over the holidays into the new year. Through the recommendation of my doctor and my spiritual leaders, it was time for me to take a pause from regular working hours. Through most of December, all of January, and most of February, I was off on a medical leave.

I am grateful to God for the friends who checked in on me. Several of the girls from the international group came to my home, prayed for me,

brought food, helped with chores, and were just shoulders to cry on, when I desperately needed the help and support.

I am still struggling, but I am working on getting back to a regular routine and still having a few doctor appointments. I have started back to work and was welcomed back with support and a long to do list.

Praise God, I finally received my Visa and Residency Card, which It took from November until the middle of March. It was incredibly stressful, but now I am secured for another couple of years.

Going into the Easter season, I am looking forward to our annual Kontaktmission retreat. It will be good to connect with my friends from around the globe. I will also get a chance to spend time with my former international small group co-leader in Frankfurt. I will be back in time to celebrate Easter Sunday at Zeal.

As always, I am grateful for your prayers and support as I share with you about how I truly have been. Thank you for continuing to lift me up in your prayers.



Our Baptism Sunday in January. It was SO cold outside, but 10 people were baptized in Dresden. In total, from all the Zeal Church locations, more than 30 people were baptized on that Sunday.

PRAYER REQUESTS!

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

PERSERVERANCE

This February marked 8 years that I have been in Dresden. Nothing has ever gone how I expected. That often is the heart of all missionary work. You learn to adapt and roll with the punches. Some days are definitely easier than others.

I still have days where the German language sounds like complete gibberish to me and other days I feel fluent. I have had days where Zeal Church feels like family and other days I miss the warm comfort of my home church. I love most German food, but somedays this girl just really wants a giant

cheesy, greasy chimichanga. I always joke that I am too American for the Germans, but too German for the Americans.

The encouraging thing is that God stays the same no matter where I call home. I can have faith that He is steady in the chaos.

CONTACT INFO

Mary Ellis
Laubstraße 4
Dresden, DE 01309

Email:
maryme229@yahoo.com



www.gokmusa.org/ellis

GRIEF IS LIKE THE OCEAN; IT COMES IN WAVES

Grief is hard in all situations, and I have had so much to grieve lately. While I have a good support system here in Germany, it still feels so foreign and isolating at times.

There are the moments where grief washes over you, but soon you reach the other side and you feel the comfort of knowing God was in control the whole time and had a purpose. I have yet to reach the other

side. I haven't found a purpose to my pain yet.

I think back to the story of Jesus and Lazarus. Jesus cried at his grave before raising him from the dead. He endured grief before He brought joy. He knows what loss is like. He mourned for His own life in the Garden of Gethsemane. He pleaded to God to find another way, but yet He endured. God's plan brought a bigger joy

through the pain of losing His Son.

I pray that I reach the other side soon. That I too can endure to find my joy again.

As we go into Easter, pray for those you know who are grieving. Those who are still waiting for their resurrected spirit of joy. It takes time and patience.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

In Him,

Chatting after church service.



A lovely snowy evening at the Semperoper (Semper Opera House) in Dresden.

LEARN GERMAN WITH ME

Ein fleißiger Osterhase!
(Ine fly-sih-grr Ô-ster-hah-sah)

Literal:
a hardworking Easter Bunny

Used as a way to wish people a
Easter filled with lots of gifts.



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

Kontaktmission
SEND. PLANT. MULTIPLY.

Kontaktmission 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.

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