

## LET THE SUN SHINE IN



Taking photos as part of  
Zeal Dresden's  
Communications Team.

My new kitten, Macaroni.



April was quite a busy month, but it was a time of great encouragement for me. At the beginning of the month, several days were spent in the beautiful Black Forest for the Kontaktmission Worker's Retreat (*Mitarbeitertagung*). It was a great time reconnecting with friends and being able to share the highs and lows of our lives in ministry. It was a week of strong spiritual and mental healing for me.

I also got to visit with one of the former co-leaders of the Zeal International group, who had moved to Frankfurt. It was my first time in this city, and it is

much different from Dresden. I miss my friend, but I was excited to see how God has been using her in her new home. I think the time together was a big encouragement for us both.

I took another chance and chose to once again get a new kitten. This was a difficult decision for me because the last loss is still hard on my heart. I named him Macaroni after his mixed orange coloring and one of my favorite foods. He is quite adorable and is doing well to help with my mental healing.

May started at Zeal Church with our baptism Sunday. We had four people get baptized in Dresden, two who spontaneously decided to take that leap of faith that morning. It is such a great experience to be part of a church that continues to grow in such a difficult region. God is truly doing amazing things in this community.

My parents came for a short visit in June. I always appreciate when they can come. It was such a blessing to see them, especially since these last few months have been so difficult.

A chilly Good Friday with my dear  
friend in Frankfurt.



For the International Hangout in  
April, we did a grill and game night.



### PRAYER REQUESTS!

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

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

We now have two international small groups meeting this semester. It has been an incredible blessing to watch our international community continue to grow. The group I am leading has been doing interactive lessons on different spiritual practices.

I have chosen several different disciplines for us to learn more about each meeting. First, we study the theology behind a specific practice and then do that practice together. We are learning about disciplines such as taking communion,

prayer, Scripture meditating, fasting, etc.

It has been really interesting seeing how different people encounter God. I pray that the members are taking to heart the desire to be in His presence.

## CONTACT INFO

**Mary Ellis**  
Laubestraße 4  
Dresden, DE 01309

**Email:**  
maryme229@yahoo.com



[www.gokmusa.org/ellis](http://www.gokmusa.org/ellis)

## EVEN REST IS A FORM OF LOVE

Thank you to everyone who reached out after my last newsletter. It was good to know so many people were praying for me and being compassionate through my struggles.

I was nervous to share about how I was feeling and fighting to function, but I think it is more important for believers to be open and share so that we can support each other. In ministry, there is often this pressure to make your life seem happy all the time and that everything is easy going.

But this is a fake image. People in church positions are still just people. This is why we must remember to be compassionate and pray for our church leaders. Often, the pressure can lead to burn-out and resentment. Sometimes those who teach about the Lord the most, often struggle with the concept of resting in His presence.

I know I struggle with trying to "people please" and being a perfectionist. I just want everything to go right all the time, but that is not reality. I

am working on letting go of my tendency to be a control freak.

I often need to remind myself that God gave us a plan for rest. Even He took a rest after creating the world. This short letter can be a reminder to take a moment for yourself and rest in the peace of the Lord's presence.

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

In Him,

*Mary Ellis*



Zeal Dresden had a traditional Hefezopf (Braided Bread) Brunch after our Easter Service.



Walking into church with my parents.



The Kontaktmission Retreat Group Photo.

## LEARN GERMAN WITH ME

**Leben wie Gott in Frankreich**  
(Lay-bin vee Got in Fronk-rike)

Literal Translation: to live like  
God in France

Expresses the idea of living in luxury. It is used admiringly to describe someone who seems to be enjoying life to the fullest.



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](http://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.

[www.gokmusa.org](http://www.gokmusa.org)