



The Rt. Rev. & Mrs. G. Meyer  
 34639 Schwarzenborn, Germany, Richbergstr. 11  
 Phone +01149-5686-730  
[bischof.meyer@rekd.de](mailto:bischof.meyer@rekd.de); Grace Meyer: [grace.meyer@gmx.de](mailto:grace.meyer@gmx.de)  
 Reformed Episcopal Church in Germany [www.rekd.org](http://www.rekd.org)

*“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2: 10, 11*

**The Meyers—Germany—Christmas 2011**

**Knuellcamp.** In early October, the Knuellcamp participated in the village’s 700-year anniversary celebration. We displayed the theme: *“Seek the prosperity of the city” (Jer. 27:9)* on the hood of our tractor.



We hosted 35 German soldiers and commanders at KnuellCamp for one month this fall (Oct 5-Nov. 5) because the German Army Base could not house them. The military used our facilities for one last training session as they prepare for a six-month assignment in Afghanistan starting early next year. The troops will spend Christmas and New Years with their families before they leave.

Both of our retreat houses will be occupied over the year’s end as we host three different groups during that time.

**Bakery/Dairy.** In early November we started renovating this little building into a mini bakery and dairy. We plan to invite elementary school children to come and stay with us for four-day, hands-on adventures in learning where their food comes



from. Our son-in-law will give the children a tour of his bakery in Schwarzenborn. Then the children will come back and grind wheat and rye and bake their own bread.

A neighboring farmer will tour the children through his 150-cow dairy and let them watch how 24 cows are all milked at one time. The

children will learn how to make their own cheese and butter. The children will also visit a nearby bee museum where they will learn how honey is made.

We hope during the time spent with us, school children will come to understand that food does not simply appear on store shelves, but that it comes through the daily provision of God through His creation and the productive work of creative people.



We still need \$3,000 to complete the renovations which include the installation of electricity, tile flooring, cupboards and a stove.

**The Jause.** Germany does not celebrate Thanksgiving; however, we served Thanksgiving dinner on November 27<sup>th</sup> in the Jause. The Jause is our little “café” in the hills where hikers can pause each day (except Fridays) for something to eat. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Grace drove 260km to pick up 150 Christian Calendars to be laid out in the Jause for folks to take. Earlier a couple had come to us specifically to pick up a 2012 calendar and we did not yet have any. Now we are ready to sow God’s Word again through this means!

**Christ Church—Schwarzenborn.** Christ Church celebrated its 20th anniversary on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The same weekend we also installed a new Presbyter from the Heidelberg area who intends to establish a REC Mission in southern Germany during our celebration. Rev. Kirchgeßner was a priest in the Old Catholic Church.

This year we decided to change our Christmas Eve tradition. In past years, we always spent Christmas Eve with Gerhard’s parents. Since his parents are both now with the Lord, we decided to celebrate this special evening with singles from the Church. The majority of our congregation is now single people. We will hold a Christmas Eve service in the chapel at 5pm. Then we will invite the singles into our home for a time of celebration together. We look forward to sharing this special day with our larger church family!

*hoto of the new steeple which will be lifted and installed on the Chapel roof this week.*



**Mission Trip to Croatia – November 12 – 22.** In November, we (both Grace and Gerhard) drove by car on a missions trip to meet with the REC Churches in Croatia. On the way through Austria we met with a young man who is interested in doing church planting with the Reformed Episcopal Church in Austria.



On Saturday in Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia, we met with one of our deacons and held a worship service. There were twelve in attendance, all of whom understood English. About half of them also understood

German. On Sunday morning we participated in a church service in Tordinci, a small village in East Croatia. The congregation rebuild the church which looked similar damaged like the house you see on the right side. The service was very traditional. Gerhard's (English) sermon was translated into Croatian.

On Sunday evening we took part in a service at the Church of the Good Shepherd in the city of Osijek, also in east Croatia. The congregation there is a more middle-aged group. Gerhard's sermon was again translated into Croatian.

On Wednesday evening Mrs. Meyer led a women's meeting at the church in Tordinci. Nineteen women were present and appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves. A 70-year-old woman served as translator for Grace. The woman left Croatia when she was 27 and, after living in Germany for several years, she moved to the USA and Canada. She only recently returned to her home country. A time of fellowship with homemade snacks was enjoyed after the meeting.

On Thursday, Bishop Gerhard confirmed a couple in a village one-hour drive from Osijek. The Venerable Rev. Jasmin Milic preached the sermon. A number of people were present for the service first time and it seems this home may be the beginning of a new mission church.

On Saturday, we drove 2½ hours to Belgrade, Serbia, for



another worship service where two young men were confirmed. Both men are 22 years old and named *Nicolai*!

The church in Belgrade is a gathering of very interesting people, some young students and a few older folk. They rent their chapel and share space with several other churches/denominations. The rent was € 30 for the 2-hour service.

We did not see much of Belgrade since it was very foggy, and driving 2 ½ hours back to Croatia in the thick fog at night was very tiring. More pictures:

The following Sunday morning and evening we had two more services. The same evening Gerhard was invited along with the local pastor to participate in an inter-religious theological debate at a Mosque. The Rev. Milic responded: "If we believe in Mohammed, we are not Christians anymore, but if *you* believe in Christ, you are not Muslims anymore." Bischof Gerhard was asked to make a final statement after the Christian and Muslim theologians finished. Bp. Gerhard spoke in German and was translated into Croatian by a young man who lived the first ten years of his life in Germany. Afterwards at dinner, informal discussions continued about Christ and other questions of religious dogma.

During the missions trip, we did some sight-seeing in our free time and took some walks to get a feeling both for the people and for the country. One morning we drove to Vukovar, a Croatian town on the Danube River. There we discovered many houses with bullet holes in the walls—sharp reminders of the Serbian invasion in 1991.

As we drove through this town, Grace was taken back to the time shortly after World War II, when her parents first arrived in Germany as missionaries. They too found many ruins, empty houses and primitive living conditions.



Driving back on Monday we passed through Hungary Slovenia and Czech Republic before arriving back in Germany. We stopped in Dresden for two days to take time to digest what we had seen and experienced in Croatia. We felt this was important before jumping back into the ministry at the Knuellcamp.

Videos on: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ambrosius1rek>

***Please pray for the five mission churches and their young pastors, and especially for Rev. Jasmin Milic and his leadership, for the renovation of the old "Church of the Good Shepherd" in Osijek and for a team of young people to begin an English Camp in 2012 to reach young Croatians for Christ.***

*Wishing you a blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

*Your Missionaries in Europe,  
Grace Meyer & Bp. Gerhard*