



The
Reformed Episcopal Church
In Germany

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Dear Partners in REK Germany Mission,

since our last newsletter in July the months have flown by so quickly. This time you will receive two newsletters, this Advent letter and an additional one reflecting on an effective Summer Team Ministry.

August / September: Sinties at Knuell Camp

For 42 days we hosted a Sinti (Gypsy) family of 14 in one of our buildings. Because of a fire the house of the Winterstein family burned down in Neukirchen. Since no neighboring village would offer them shelter, the mayor came to us and asked, if we would help him. In the beginning 17 people moved into our empty maintenance house. Later some of the younger couples found apartments. Finally these 8 in the picture: Mr. Winterstein (widower – his wife died last year) and his children stayed with us. When they left, the mayor expressed his thanks of showing Christian love to the Gypsy family by opening our doors and hearts. The day before they moved out Grace cooked a special meal and we invited them into our dining room for a fare well dinner. (learn more at: www.holocaust-trc.org/sinti.htm)



Grace Meyer (white pullover) with the Wintersteins

In September Bishop Meyer visited St. Matthews REC (Mission Church) in Bonn during their annual membership meeting and preached during their service.

October – Fall in Germany, Canada und the East Coast October 10-12th. After hosting several small retreats the Bishop and his son in-law Rev. Dirk Wilke lectured together during a church retreat of the German Reformed Episcopal Church on *Church Identity and Vision in Church Planting*.

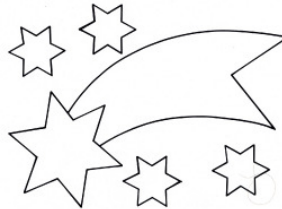
October 21–25th we attended the General Council of the US and Canadian REC Churches in **Victoria**, BC. Bp. Gerhard participated in several meetings. At the final service he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Theological Commission of the REC Church.



On our way back to Germany we stopped in **Hamilton**, Ontario to meet good friends at St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church and served there. The day before returning we stopped at Global Outreach Mission Office St. Catharines, ON. Oct. 29th we were back on German soil.

November

After a week of recovering from jetlag, Gerhard again flew into Newark to participate at a fare well service of the Most Rev. Leonard W. Riches from his Diocese (N.E.M.A) and the installation of the Rt. Rev. David Hicks. From Nov. 5-9th he stayed in **Somerville**, NJ, with the Rev. Jerry and Gin-



ger McLynn. He also preached during the Sunday service at Emmanuel REC, NJ, before he was taken to the airport.

Returning Monday morning, Nov 10th I picked my husband up at Frankfurt airport. After a few hours

of rest, he continued with his regular study lectures on Christian Basics. Each Monday evening (since mid September) after I cooked a dinner for 10 people, we fellowshiped and from 7 to 8:30 pm the Bishop taught the adult confirmation class.

A special celebration for the German people relating to the Doctor of Divinity received in Victoria was held after a church service at *Christ Chapel* Nov. 22. One of Bishop's brothers (Andreas) held the laudation (Laudatio). The mayor of the village was present and quite impressed that evening. He spoke well of the Christian witness, which was established since many years, of his friendliness, theological research, practical applications, and especially mentioning the works of love done to the Gypsy family.

Last Saturday in November we continued with our Advent tradition handing out Christian Calendars during the "Christmas Market" in Schwarzenborn, which was well received. From this very day we now own this wooden booth.



December

2nd Advent after Church service at the *Christ Chapel* we invited the people into our winter garden for tea, coffee and Christmas cookies. About 15 followed the invitation for fellowship. Dec 12th Bp. Gerhard spoke at an open air *Winter Solstice Celebration* about "Christ the Light" to 120 hikers.

The final days of 2008 will look like this:

He further will preach on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th in Neukirchen, 27th at Christ-Chapel (Knuell Camp), and Dec. 28th in Baden-Baden (a Mission Church 4 hrs drive south of Schwarzenborn).

Special Request at Years End

This time of the year our prayers cover especially the newly planted church of "*St. John's Anglican RE Church*" which was founded April 2008. At that time the Rev. Deacon Friedhelm Haas was installed pastor. Being responsible Bp. Gerhard visited almost every month this new church. But we all know, if there are no funds available in the beginning, it is very difficult to continue. We would like you to consider helping us to develop this Mission Church. Since the German Mission Diocese stepped out in faith, and the funds expected for this year 2008 did not materialize we are still \$ 10.000,- in need to close this year without debts. Would your Church help at the end of this year or the beginning of the New Year with a small or even larger gift? If you can, please designate it for "*St. John's Baden-Baden*" through the *Board of Foreign Missions*. You will receive updates of the development of "*St. John's*" by Rev. Friedhelm Haas.



*Christ is born, we all rejoice.
Wishing you a blessed
Christmas
and a happy New Year.*

Bishop Gerhard & Grace