



Dear brothers and sisters,

“But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.” Psalm 73:28

Before there was time to reflect upon 2016, 2017 has arrived with the sound of fireworks from my neighbors! Although there was no white Christmas, after snowing on New Year's Eve, we had a white New Year to give us a new scene. It was much cleaner than previous years because the snow had covered the garbage left after the fireworks.

We are grateful that God has given our Chinese Church in Frankfurt many talented brothers and sisters. With modern technology, they had performed a great show at our Christmas celebration meeting. People were attracted to listen to the sermon which was based on the theme of that drama. As usual, we met many old faces who usually showed up on special occasions. Because of limited space, there were not enough seats for everybody to sit down to enjoy the food prepared by our brothers and sisters. However, every one enjoyed the love feast once a year.

Giessen fellowship consists mainly of a few families who live permanently with a few who work or study. The average age is comparatively higher. Because of these families, they also bring their children to church. There are two families with 3 generations coming to church. So, there are several children in the fellowship. Since the German seminarian who helped teach them graduated last year, two sisters volunteered to teach them Sunday school even though they had no training before.

Due to the older age in the fellowship, it is hard to attract younger people to stay. There is only one student and even she doesn't come regularly for that reason. Although brothers and sisters understand the importance of evangelism, due to the lack of permanent pastor and various reasons (like old folks with inconvenience, those who work, those who work in restaurants and those who take care of small kids etc.), they thought that they could not do any student work. However, at the end of last year, they were all touched by the Holy Spirit (even the only student felt the same). They felt owed to God and needed to start doing some student works because there are one university and one college in the city. Since the older brothers and sisters thought that they have generation gap with the students, they volunteered the three younger sisters (actually they were all married. Only the student is not a mother.) to do the student works while they bring food for dinner to attract the students. The fellowship also asked our church to help. To support them, I and the three sisters discussed to start some preparation works. We had a few activities before Christmas. Every time, there were some students. Some of the older brothers and sisters with the young kids also participated with singspiration and games while they waited for their family members to finish the cleaning work. Everyone was grateful some students came to each activity.

Thanksgiving and prayer items:

1. **Thank God for the co-workers serving in our church but there is still a lack of them in every ministry. There are several deacons who will resign. Pray that God will provide more co-workers in His house!**
2. **Berea fellowship used to meet on Friday nights. Because it gets dark early, the streets are very quiet and security is not good, some sisters are afraid to go to the fellowship. Thank God that the German church give them Saturday mornings to meet during the winter times!**
3. **Thank God that the whole Giessen fellowship was touched by the Holy Spirit to do student ministry! Pray that God will lead to establish a bible study group for the students so that they will come to know God through His words! Pray that the 3 sisters responsible will learn to equip themselves to be bible study leaders! Pray that God will keep the student in good health! Her fetus just died during early pregnancy.**
4. **Thank God for leading me through the ups and downs in 2016! Thank God for keeping my brother and sister through chemotherapy after removing the organ with cancerous cells! Thank God for the opportunities to be with family members whose loved ones died!**
5. **Pray that God will lead us through 2017 in His way!**

May our Lord's grace be upon those He loves! Thank God for your prayers!

Wish you a happy and blessed 2017!

Serving Him,
Karen Tang

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