



Germany  
Karen Tang  
Prayer Letter  
February 2018

Dear brothers and sisters,

*"The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it." Proverbs 10:22*

Time really flies! Before you know it, it is already the 7th day of the Chinese New Year! We finally finished all the Chinese New Year activity in our bible study groups. Yesterday there weren't many people who came to the Aschaffenburg bible study due to sickness by flu and make up class for daughter. Even the owner couple of the restaurant was not there. The sister went home immediately after hearing her father being hospitalised. Even though she went back to take care of her father in China, she still encouraged us to continue meeting for bible study because her husband was at the restaurant all the time. But he went out to do some duties leaving his daughter to help out yesterday. His daughter has just finished her exams and was on semester break. She joined our bible study for the first time. She was already baptised. Even though she was born here, her Chinese was pretty good and understood what we shared. Another surprise was that the cousin of the restaurant brother stayed to listen to God's words and agreed to what was being taught. He is not a Christian and also works in the restaurant. Before yesterday, whenever we asked him for bible study, he never joined.

After Christmas meeting, Giessen Fellowship started preparing for the Chinese New Year meeting. Since some children of several families participated in the performance, some non-believing families also came. However, since it was examination time for the students, they came later. They expressed their gratitude for the plenty and good food. For the past two weeks, since they were very anxious about their exam, they did not come for our bible study. But last week, God brought a father who just came from China to visit his daughter here. His daughter has come to our fellowship from time to time and had a good impression on our belief. Her husband works here but showed no interest in our bible study. Since his father-in-law who was a believer wanted to see how it was like regarding Christian meeting was concerned, he brought him and his sister-in-law to our bible study last week. His sister-in-law also had little knowledge about Christianity. Because she had to accompany her father, so she came also.

Like in the past, after our Sunday service, we had our wrapping Chinese dumpling to celebrate the Chinese New Year. There were many people including a young pastor with some of his members from a German church. They also learned how to wrap the dumplings. Our brothers and sisters also invited some friends to come.

It is almost one year since the establishment of the Cantonese bible study group. Our non-believers have never visited our church. But because every fellowship was asked to perform something for our Christmas meeting, our group also practised a Christian song for that event. As such, most of us went to church to perform. They were happy to have participated. One lady who worked in a restaurant also rushed to join us during her rest hours. Although the two oldest sister in our church had no fellowship for them, they also joined us to sing because they knew Cantonese as well. They too were very happy to sing on stage. Two of the non-believers also came for the wrapping of dumplings.

The sister who organised this Cantonese bible study group has been baptised for only a few years. She worked on shifts and could not attend every Sunday service. In addition, her mandarin was not that good at the beginning. So, her bible knowledge was not that good. Gradually, she herself felt the lack of biblical knowledge. So, she would come to my home for a discipleship course whenever she found time.

Last year I was elected by our pastoral co-workers in Germany to chair our annual Easter Camp for all Christians in Germany. So, I had to organise the camp with other co-workers. I was busy earlier because I had to find out the exact no. of applicants for the camp. This year we are grateful because most of the fellowships and churches submitted their group application form early for they knew of the limited seats available. So, it seldom happened that even before our deadline, the application was already full leaving two churches not being able to apply. In order to accommodate all these applicants, I had to ask the co-worker to apply for more beds before she left for vacation. This year, we also had a new challenge. Upon the request of one of our speakers, we prepared a link for applicants who would sign up for a 40 days fasting prayer chain so that they could pray for this camp and might experience a revival by the Holy Spirit.

Thanksgiving and prayer items:

1. Thank God for His guidance! He brought some others to attend bible study meetings when there were few people joining the bible study. Pray that God will touch the heart of the cousin of the restaurant brother to continue to join the bible study so that he will come to know our God and accept Jesus's salvation! Thank God for bringing the father of the non-believer to visit her so that her sister would get a chance to have contact with Christianity. Pray that she would go to her parents' church when they return home! Pray also that non-believer would attend our bible study group more regularly and would not be hindered by other business!
2. Pray that God will bless those students who are having their exams, especially those who do not know God yet! Because of exam. pressure, they do not come to meetings! Two of the three sisters who help out in the student group went home for Chinese New Year and family reunion. Pray that God will help the one left behind the ability to serve!
3. Thank God that the sister who organises the Cantonese bible study group saw her needs for strengthening her spiritual life! Pray that she would listen to God's words and will be willing to serve those non-believers with more love and patience!

4. Thank God for the opportunity to serve brothers and sisters who join the Easter Camp! Pray that God will give me the ability to do all the necessary arrangements! Pray that God will give the two speakers His words to encourage our brothers and sisters to better live for Christ!
  
5. Thank God for bringing the young German pastor to serve our 2nd generation! Only in a few months' time, we can see that some of our youth have been coming to church regularly! Some youth take guitar lessons from the pastor. Last week, the youth group was able to use guitars and singing to worship with the adults in our bilingual service. Besides Sunday school, we are grateful that the youth pastor is willing to serve our younger kids for two other fellowships. Before she came, the children were left playing by themselves while the adults were having their bible study. Now she also teaches the children. The parents are so thankful! Pray that God will use this German pastor to strengthen the faith of our youth and also evangelise to the friends that were brought by the youth!

May God bless you during this Chinese New Year season!

Serving Him,  
Karen Tang