



Germany
Karen Tang
Prayer Letter
January 2019

Dear brothers and sisters,

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Grateful to be able to attend a Chinese sister and a German brother’s wedding in Switzerland with several brother and sisters after our church’s Christmas meeting. Although both parents and relatives were not Christians, the newly-wed were hopeful that they and their non-believing friends would be able to hear the gospel message during their wedding ceremony and at their banquet. Since the couple had attended churches in different countries and places (They studied in Germany; now the brother works in Switzerland, the sister studies in Austria. Before she moved to Austria, she was baptized in our Chinese church in Frankfurt.), there were many brothers and sisters from Germany, Switzerland and Austria to attend their wedding and offered their help. The banquet lasted for 7 hours during which many groups performed. The atmosphere was very warm. While riding back home for several hours, I was able to talk to a mother and daughter. The daughter is a sister from our church. She became a believer while studied in Germany. She found a good job after graduation. She is considered a bit over age and is still single. Her mom came to visit her. She took the opportunity to bring her mom to experience a different kind of wedding. The mother saw that her daughter was growing older and older and was still single and started criticizing her. She thought that it was her belief that limited her to find a husband because she insisted to find a Christian brother. Because of this, she resisted her belief. Her daughter invited her to attend church service. She went once and never returned. She was a communist but for the sake of her daughter to get married, she even went to pray in a Buddhist temple. Her concept was that it was better for her to get marry first than being single regardless of future possible divorce. It just happened that in the same car there was another sister who was in a great distress now because of her non-believing husband. Even her daughter screamed out that she wished that her mom and dad would get a divorce. She was also living in pain. However, that mother didn’t understand the pain of this sister. She still thought that no matter what would be the consequence, it was still good to have her daughter married. This is one of the pressures of ‘single child’ from China, especially those who become believers overseas and insist on finding a Christian as marriage partner. Their parents do not understand their child’s pressures from work and living alone in a foreign land. Because they always request their child to get marry soon, there is a tension between them. Actually, single brother and sister also would like to get married but they feel helpless without finding the right one.

Before Christmas time, a sister mentioned to me that a daughter of a friend of her neighbor was diagnosed having leukemia suddenly. The friend was a woman who just came to Germany more than two years ago. Her daughter is only 18. It was a big blow for her. In addition, she went to the hospital 2-3 times per day to feed her daughter during her daughter’s two months stay there. She also has a younger child to take care. She became sleepless because of the pressure. She wanted to see a psychologist but the appointment

was a long wait. After learning what happened, I started communicating with her using WeChat. She even took the initiative to ask me for hymns of prayers. Just days before her daughter was discharged from hospital, I brought a cancer patient to see her and talked about her own experience. I asked if I could pray for her before we left. She agreed because her Muslim classmate, Jehovah Witness classmate also prayed for her. She needs a bone marrow transplant from her mother later this month. Pray that her mom would come to know the true God and have peace to face the transplant!

Thanksgiving and prayer items:

1. Thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve the Heidelberg fellowship! Thank God for giving the pastor couple a lovely daughter and bless the mother and daughter in good shape even the pastor's wife is a bit old for her first child.
2. Thank God for the newlywed couple to have a desire to spread the gospel to their unbelieving families and friends! Pray that the gospel seed was sown in their hearts! Pray that God would use them to witness to them!
3. Pray for our single brothers and sisters in our church! Pray that they will find a matched marriage partner! Pray that God will give them wisdom to talk to their parents to avoid conflicts because of this marriage subject!
4. Pray that God will heal the leukemia patient and she will have a smooth bone marrow transplant! Pray that God will lead her and the mother to hear the true gospel and not be influenced by other religion and cult!
5. Chinese New Year is coming soon! We are preparing for the event! Pray that brothers and sisters will invite non-believers to attend! Giessen Fellowship will invite the brothers and sisters from the German church for the first time. Pray that God will give them enough energy to prepare food for so many people! Pray for the message that is being prepared by our speaker, Mrs. Buchholz who is fluent in both Chinese and German! May her message be a blessing to the seekers!
6. During Christmas time, our fellowships stopped for meeting for people left for holiday or returned to China. Now that new year starts, our fellowships will start meeting again. Pray for new guidance for the new year!

May God bless your new year with abundant blessings! Rejoice always!

Serving Him,
Karen Tang