



Germany  
Karen Tang  
Prayer Letter  
August 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,

***'There is a season for everything, and a season for everything under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die.'* Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a**

In the second year after coming to Frankfurt, I held a funeral service for a sister for the first time because the church did not have a pastor then. The sister was only in her early forties, fell ill and passed away, leaving behind two young children. More than ten years later, I saw her daughter at the last barbecue outdoor worship held by our church.

Last month, I also conducted a memorial service for a sister who was over seventy years old. It turned out that this sister had not yet believed in the Lord when she got cancer. Later, she met a Christian through a friend. This sister went to the hospital where she was staying after work every day to pray for her. She also invited the sister who led her to believe in the Lord to preach the gospel to the patient and she decided to believe in the Lord. Unfortunately, after she recovered from her illness, she did not have the opportunity to go to the local Bible study fellowship because she spoke Cantonese, and she had not read the Bible much because she had not gone to school. During the pandemic, we visited the sister who prayed for her, who brought us to see her and invited her to participate in an online Bible study class, and then invited her to participate in an online Bible reading class. We gradually got to know her. Unfortunately, due to some misunderstandings, she stopped attending online gatherings. But she told me that she would still listen to the messages I sent every day.

The day before the sister passed away in the hospital, I happened to be visiting a young sister who was just admitted to the same hospital. Therefore, I invited the sister who prayed for her to visit her with me. Unexpectedly, that day happened to be the day when the doctor announced that the sister had only a few days to live. Her son and his family were in the ward. After understanding the situation, I prayed for the sister, asking our Heavenly Father to take her back to God's arms as soon as possible to avoid further pain. As a result, I received the news the next day that the sister had returned to heaven.

Although the sister had made her decision to accept Christ for many years and had little foundation of her faith, she was very clear that she had decided to follow the Lord, and she would not believe in other gods. Therefore, before she died, she had told her son that if she left the world, she would have her son to conduct her funeral according to Christian rites. Because I met her son for the first time in the hospital, he also heard me praying for his mother, so he asked me to hold the memorial service for her mother. Neither he nor his family believe in the Lord, he didn't understand anything regarding Christian service, so he asked me to handle it.

On the day of the memorial service, in addition to her family, relatives and friends, there were also people from other ethnic groups, including the sister's daughter-in-law, who is Thai, and she also invited her friends. Most of them are inclined toward Buddhism and superstition and have never been exposed to Christian service. Thank God for giving us this opportunity to witness to them and let God's words comfort the sister's relatives and friends!

Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

1. Thank God for his timing! On the day I went to visit the young patient, I not only saw the old sister for the last time, but I was also able to pray for her in front of her son! Thank you, Heavenly Father, for taking my sister back to heaven safely! Thank you, Lord, for allowing her to command her son during her lifetime to hold a Christian memorial service for her in front of many unbelieving family members and friends! Pray that God will take this opportunity to enable them to see God's grace and mercy, let them continue to know the love of our Heavenly Father, accept the Lord's salvation, so that they will see the old sister again in the future!
2. Thank our Heavenly Father for His guidance, which enabled the brothers and sisters who participated in last week's co-worker training camp to gain rich spiritual gains! In the past year or two, we have seen many brothers and sisters respond to God's calling. This time I saw some brothers looking for resources for studying theology. Pray that God will lead these brothers to find a suitable theological seminary and will serve in full-time ministry after equipping themselves! Pray that God will guide a brother who has just been married. He is moved by God's calling, but he still needs to wait for his wife's support!
3. Because the pastor of Hannover church has returned home for furlough, I was invited in July and August to share God's words. Thank God for giving me the opportunity to meet some brothers and sisters I knew before while serving! Hannover and Frankfurt are about 350 kilometers apart. It used to take only less than three hours by high-speed train. Since the pandemic, the German government has subsidized tickets, and I have used this ticket, but I can only take slow trains. Starting from my home, I have to change transportation multiple times. In addition, there is a lot of road construction during the summertime, and there is a shortage of manpower. Sometimes the train is late or even cancelled. So, a trip to Hannover took seven hours last time! Please pray that the Lord will protect the journey next week and all train rides will go smoothly!
4. Pray to God to have mercy on an old couple who are over eighty years old. Recently, part of the house was burned down by a tenant, and they were forced to move out of the house. Later, thieves entered the blocked house and stole valuable things. Pray that God will comfort their hearts! Thank God that although the husband is a Catholic, he tries his best to drive his wife to fellowship meetings every week (they live in a nearby city)!

May the Lord's grace be with you!

Serving Him,  
Karen Tang