

Introduction Germany

Germany, the land of Martin Luther and the protestant Reformation, the home of great theologians including Bonhoeffer, and the site of the 100+ year prayer meeting where John Wesley spent 3 months following his “heart warming” experience. Can this same country where Christianity flourished be considered a mission field? Even though today over 60% of the population claims Christianity as their religion less than 8% attend worship of any kind and only .5% are true believers. Yes, today Germany is a mission field.

In August of 1988 Ken and Marilyn Blake with their three children Matthew, Rachelle and John moved to Munich, Germany to plant a church. During language study the Blakes sought and found a

young German couple to serve alongside them. Literature was put into 5,000 mail boxes for seven straight weeks introducing the new work. Then on September 30th 1990 the first service was held. The new church today is established and covering all of the ministry costs. The church has a very international feel. It has members who are Germans born in the Soviet Union, Ukrainians, also Croatians and others from the East.

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The future looks very positive with a solid group of believers who have a heart to reach Munich for Christ.

Germany

Has more than 150 castles

Many famous people—top to bottom
Bach, Beethoven, Handel, Wagner, Marx, Kant,
Luther, Gutenberg, Einstein, Levi Straus

Language—
German

Bread museum
with over 300
types of bread

Over 1000 kinds of sausage
Over 5000 types of beer
Has 400 zoos and the largest zoo in
the world with 1500 species
Uses the Euro as its currency
Famous for Oktoberfest—fall festival

Puma—founded by Ru-
dolf Dassler
Adiddas—founded by
Adolf Adi Dassler
They are brothers

Structures—
Clockwise

Ulm—Tallest Church
Cologne—largest gothic church
Trier Dom—largest in old Roman Empire
Speyer—largest Romanesque
Passau—largest pipe
organ
Brandenburg Gate—
divided Berlin
Frauenkirche—
destroyed and rebuilt

Food
Stollen
Semmelknoedel
Black forest Cake
Spargel, Sauerkraut

Source of many inven-
tions—can you find them
Television

Aspirin, Refrigerator
Cuckoo clock, x-
ray, Gummy Bear
Christmas Tree
Pretzel
Diesel Engine
Telephone



Vs.



Children's Story

MIRACLES of LIVES - LIVES of MIRACLES

Family Verse:

„Du bist die Quelle, alles Leben strömt aus dir, in deinem Licht sehen wir das Licht.“ Psalm 36:10 (German Bible)

"For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see."

Psalm 36:9 (NLT)

Physical life itself is a miracle. Spiritual life is another miracle. And then there are supernatural things that God does in life. All miracles.

MIRACLES of LIVES – Physically

The following is a story about 3 children -- Dennis, Michi and Viki. Each of their lives is a miracle.

Olga, their mother, is a German who grew up in Kazakstan (a part of the Soviet Union, known to many as Russia). It was against the law for children under 18 years old to go to church, with or without their parents. Like everyone in the Soviet Union, Olga was taught that there is no God.

When it was legally possible to leave the Soviet Union, she moved to Munich, Germany, a city of about 2 million people. While riding the subway to and from work she met someone who invited her to The Wesleyan Church. Because the church offered some translation (German to Russian), she took her first step toward God, visited the church and learned much about the Heavenly Father

During a vacation back to Kazakstan, she re-married Andrey, the man she had earlier married and then divorced. She returned to Germany alone, while Andrey was waiting to get a visa to live in Germany.

Olga was pregnant 3 times, and unfortunately all of the babies (some were twins) had died before being born. Olga was pregnant again. During the pregnancy, the doctor told Olga (and showed her the ultrasound pictures) that the baby growing inside her had a healthy heart, but no hands and legs! The doctor said, "You need to have an abortion!" She said, "NO!" So women in the church came and prayed regularly for her. **AND GOD heard.** On April 11th 1997, a completely healthy boy with hands and legs was born! His name is Dennis.

MIRACLE: Because of the miracle of Dennis' life, Olga became a believer in God and accepted Christ as her Savior.

Andrey, arrived in Munich, Germany on May 10th 1997, one day before Dennis was one month old. Like Olga, Andrey was taught that there is no God. He was not a believer, but started going to church sometimes with Olga.

In 2001 Olga was pregnant again – with not 1 – but 2 babies. Twins!! Praise the Lord!! But then.... problems started again! She believed that God was telling her "Don't be afraid! I am taking care of you." Again, The doctor said, "You need to abort one of the babies." Again,. She said, "NO!" Again, people prayed. **AND again GOD heard.** Michi and Viki were born on September 5th, 2001. The doctor was amazed to see 2 healthy babies and said, "God did answer prayer."

MIRACLE: The birth of the twins also brought their father, Andrey, to accept Christ as his

Children's Story

Savior.

Mama Olga and Papa Andrey are both Christians and enjoying their children Dennis, Michi and Viki. Their faith, knowledge and understanding of God is growing. And then.....One day in May, 2004. (Dennis was 7 and the twins were 2 1/2). Dennis and Michi were outside playing close to the house. Mama was working in the kitchen and Viki was sleeping. Suddenly Michi was gone! Gone! Kidnapped!!

MIRACLE: It was only the day before that Michi had quit breathing, his lips turned blue and he got very stiff. **AND GOD heard** their prayers... and gave him breath and life. And now he's been kidnapped!! Where? Why? Again.... prayers. Prayers. PRAYERS as neighbors joined them, running around the neighborhood looking for Michi and the kidnapper. **And again God heard** and answered prayer.... Michi was soon found with the kidnapper. Thankfully, Michi was again safe with his parents, his brother and his sister.

Then on a beautiful summer afternoon in 2006 the family and a couple of friends were enjoying a relaxing afternoon boat ride in a shallow part of the Isar River in Munich. Oh no! Suddenly the boats tipped over and the boys sank sinking quickly in this deeper swirling area.

MIRACLE: Again..... the prayers quickly went up for life saving. Again..... **GOD heard** their prayers.. and the family is all alive today to tell the story.

MIRACLES of LIVES – Spiritually

Before the children were old enough to know anything about God, God used the lives of each of these children to help their parents find Jesus.

Here are their testimonies – translated from the German in which they were written:

Michi's testimony: "Jesus Christ called me to be a Christian very early. As I grew older, I went to church and heard from God and Jesus. And I started to pray. When I could read I started to read God's Word. Since I believe in God, I read His Word and learn more. I want to always keep a close relationship with God and Jesus. I am happy that I have met Jesus."

Dennis became a Christian when he was quite young, but says he has grown much in his faith since his baptism when he was 12 years old. Although he doesn't have a favorite Bible verse he does enjoy studying the Bible. He says, "Live your life with God -- Let Him be a part of every part of your life." He is not sure what God is calling him to do with his life – he is interested in serving God however and wherever God wants.

Viki wrote, "When I was in Bulgaria, my cousin Monika and I were lost. It was already late in the evening and we did not know where we should go. First I doubted Jesus, but then I prayed that Jesus would show us the way. Later we were by the high rise apartment where we were staying and we did not realize that. BUT, fortunately my mother heard our voices and called to us. After that I was thankful to God that he led us." She also quoted *Psalm 36:10*

Michi quit breathing. Michi was kidnapped. Dennis and Michi were pulled from drowning. Viki was lost. The parents and kids believe – and say, "God protects us and has cared for us." "God is good – all the time.

Reaching Out to Others

The Frank family live in an area where there are people from many countries. Many of the people are not Christians and do not believe in God. Many are Muslims. There are lots of kids. They are their neighbors. They reach out with God's love by showing kindness, friendship, and spending time with them.

Memory Activity

For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see." Psalm 36:9
(NLT)

Memory verse relay -

Divide into teams - give each team the words of the verse on pieces of paper. Sometimes a person may have more than one word. Have them run up to the board and write their word where it would fit in the order of the verse. The key to winning is writing the words in their correct order. You can repeat the relay having them hop or skip or crawl to the board. Each time be sure to scramble the papers so they are mixed up.

Or you can place a basket with the papers in them by the board. As they run up, they pick a word and write it on the board.

Before the game have them repeat the verse a couple of times so they have an idea of the correct order.

Bible Lesson

Bible Study -The Reason for Mission Scripture Psalm 36

Objectives

1. The children will see the need for missions and missionaries – sin and its effects
2. The children will see the message of the missionaries – the compassion of God
3. The children will see the provisions of God for them as missionaries

Memory verse

Psalm 36:9 For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see.

Materials – it would good if you can print out a copy of Psalm 36 from a modern translation for each child or make one large copy so all can work on it together. Have markers or crayons of various colors.

Intro. Read the children's story or simply ask, "Why do we send missionaries to other lands?" Let the children answer in their own words but lead them to understand that the missionary message is to make a difference in lives.

Study of Psalm 36

Part One - The condition of the wicked. Verses 1-4

Read the first 4 verses and ask the children to underline or circle in black the words that describe sin and wickedness.

Depending on the translation you use this will include: wicked, conceit, crooked, deceitful, never good, evil. (taken from NLT)

Ask the following questions

1. Where is sin found? Vs 1 – in the heart
2. What is lacking in the life of the sinner? vs 2--they have no fear (respect of God)
3. How do people sin? Verse 2-4 in words and actions.

Part Two – The compassion of God verses 5-9

Read verses 5-6 together and ask the children to underline or circle in Red the words that describe God.

(From NLT) this would include unfailing love 2x, faithfulness, righteousness, justice, care. Read verses 7-9 With green underline or circle phrases showing what God provides. This could include – shelter in the shadow of his wings, feed them from the abundance of your own house, letting them drink from your river of delights.

Ask the following questions

1. Does God want these things for all people? yes
2. Who will tell people in other lands of these wonderful promises of God? Missionaries, others
3. In the memory verse (verse 9) God offers two essentials to life, what are they? - drink and light.

Part Three- The cry of the believer - Verses 10-12

Read these three verses and ask the following questions

1. What is asked for in verse 10? - More of God's love and justice for those who love God.
2. What is asked for in verse 11? - Protection from the wicked,
3. What is the promise in verse 12? - Victory over evil.

Application

Discuss the following themes

The need for missionaries to tell the Good News about God and His love.

The provisions God has made for all mankind. (Ps 36:5-6)

Unfailing love that is as vast as the heavens

Faithfulness that reaches beyond the clouds

Righteousness that is like the mighty mountains

Justice like the ocean depths

Conclude the time praying for

Specific missionaries

1. That God would pour out His love in their hearts so people will see Christ in them.
2. That God will protect them from evil men who would try to hinder the work of God

Each child

1. To enjoy the wonderful provisions of God in their lives
2. That they may be missionaries taking the message of God to their friends and family.

Topfschlagen = Hit the pot.

Supplies: Cooking pot
Large cooking spoon
Blindfold
Small prize or candy

Goal: For the blindfolded child to find the hidden pot containing the “prize”.

- > One child gets blindfolded and gets a Kochlöffel (cooking spoon) in his/her hand.
- > The blindfolded child then crawls on the floor while tapping the spoon on the floor.
- > The other children hide the pot upside down and hide something under it such as sweets (candy), or a prize.
- > Then they say hot or cold. When the searcher (the blindfolded child crawling on the floor while tapping the spoon on the floor) comes near they say, “warm”. When he/she is very close they say, “hot” and vice versa with “cold” and “ice cold”.

When the blindfolded child hits the pot, he/she receives the hidden prize and another child is selected to be blindfolded.

Game Time

Time for Prayer

I spoke with Christian parents of elementary children to get the following requests:

1. That the children can be self-confident, knowing that how God made them is good enough. They do not need to put themselves down, or compare themselves with others.
2. That they will be able to stand up for what they believe when they are being “bullied” (modern term—in Germany - “mobbing”).
3. That they will have a real/true friend.
4. That all the children who don’t believe in God soon will believe in Him.
5. There is a lot of pressure at school to excel. Therefore that the children will be able, with calmness, to think clearly and apply the learning – especially during the intense written and oral exams.

From us, as missionaries ministering to these children:

1. That they will be well grounded in the Word of God, knowing the truth – so that as they learn of other religions in their mandatory religion classes, that they will know what the Bible says.
2. That they will also memorize Bible verses, so that they will not sin.
3. That their knowledge of God will not just be in their heads, but really become a way of life for them – living daily to please Jesus.

In Germany they have a children’s prayer team – which they call “The Pretzel Club. There are currently over 500 kids who have agreed to pray weekly for the Blakes. In the resource page you will the goals, purpose, etc. Each quarter, all of the kids receive a full page letter. The other months, the kids receive a more personal letter. So – altogether, the goal is 6 letters per year. A sample letter is in the resource section. The verse on that letter (1 Timothy 4:12) is what will be used when “teaching” the Germany study. (

Activity

Crossword

Find the famous people and places from Germany in the word search puzzle below

H	T	G	W	J	L	N	K	U	Z	N	F	C	M	N	G	E	D	B	S
N	A	R	M	U	W	C	I	Q	D	R	I	R	J	I	R	V	R	V	N
N	I	N	T	Y	A	G	G	E	A	L	M	A	H	E	U	V	G	J	U
D	A	H	D	L	U	Q	F	N	T	E	M	L	L	T	B	V	U	U	Y
E	E	E	B	E	I	Y	K	N	G	S	X	X	R	S	T	U	T	N	S
R	S	Y	R	N	L	F	K	N	B	H	N	Q	J	N	R	F	E	D	R
Y	R	C	I	C	U	O	S	S	N	A	S	I	X	A	A	J	N	L	D
W	H	J	O	R	K	O	A	H	D	T	N	X	E	W	W	X	B	B	Y
N	K	Q	T	D	G	P	A	I	Z	R	R	I	J	H	H	T	E	M	V
B	A	C	H	P	F	D	Z	Z	E	S	X	J	X	C	S	S	R	L	G
L	E	S	H	Q	S	E	X	L	Y	C	G	R	R	S	W	F	G	C	S
N	L	E	A	M	L	O	L	Z	V	H	A	M	B	U	R	G	G	W	M
T	I	I	T	T	A	O	Y	J	M	F	E	K	E	E	S	V	B	T	R
S	K	L	Z	H	Z	R	A	L	I	C	H	T	E	N	S	T	E	I	N
E	A	L	R	N	O	I	X	W	C	G	T	S	B	F	M	W	X	E	H
R	N	K	E	E	R	V	O	A	Q	V	F	Y	D	O	U	F	Q	N	T
O	T	H	B	A	B	G	E	G	N	O	O	B	S	U	A	R	T	S	H
F	O	R	V	C	H	I	P	N	N	S	L	P	P	D	A	K	W	P	G
H	E	A	I	E	V	U	W	E	Q	O	L	O	X	T	F	O	B	E	J
V	B	K	B	J	L	X	M	R	M	E	V	U	P	Y	P	U	D	X	X

Famous People

Bach
Beethoven
Handel
Wagner
Marx
Kant
Luther
Gutenberg
Einstein
Straus

Famous Places

Berlin
Frankfurt
Bavaria
Black Forest
Hohenzollern
Hamburg
Lichtenstein
Wartburg
Sanssouci
Neuschwanstein
Eltz

Alternative Activity

2. German Flag



Kids can easily create their own German flag, which features three horizontal stripes, from pieces of rectangular poster board. Have the children use rulers and pencils to draw horizontal lines on the pieces of poster board to distinguish the three colored sections, which, from top to bottom, are black, red and gold. Once the three sections have been drawn on the poster board, the kids can paint the sections according to the German flag colors. Kids can also use crayons or colored pencils to color in their flags.

The ratio of the flag is 3 x 5. Cut strips of heavy paper or construction paper 1 inch by 5 inches of each color – black, red and yellow/gold. Glue these onto a piece of plain paper with the black at the top, red in the middle and yellow/gold at the bottom. Tape or glue a long craft stick, a pencil, or something resembling a flag pole to the back of the plain paper.

Teaching moment using The Wordless Book Colors:

“Why We are Missionaries to Germany”

Black—Germany is a beautiful place to live and there are very few really poor people. Many of the people do not believe that God really exists. They don’t really believe that Jesus died to forgive them. On Sunday – 1 person out of 10 goes to church and many of those go only because it is what you should do on Sunday, There are LOTS and LOTS of people live without “The Light” – Jesus. There is spiritual darkness.

Gold—God has prepared a wonderful place for people who love Him. It’s called heaven – and we be FOREVER with Him. The Bible tells us that it is a beautiful place with streets of gold. WOW!! BUT darkness and sin cannot be in heaven. Now that doesn’t seem fair. God tells us who we are – dark with sin – and He prepared an awesome place for us, but we can’t go!

Red— Yes, you can! To get from the black to the gold, what do you go through? The red. The red represents love. God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to the earth as a baby. The baby Jesus grew to be a man. Jesus was a fantastic teacher. He taught by telling stories and using many things each day as He taught. He also lived what He taught. His words and actions matched. He lived the way God, His Father, wanted Him to. And then Jesus was nailed to a cross because He loves you so much. He says, I love you _____ this much! He took the guilt of your sins. He did not stay dead. He came back to life, and He is now in heaven waiting for you. To be with Him in heaven you must accept the gift of love He has for you. You must believe – and not just believe, but accept His love and obey what He teaches.

Black – darkness **Gold** – forever with Jesus. **Red** – accepting the love and forgiveness of Jesus, living for Him by doing what He says.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER TEAM



Pretzel Club

Purpose:

To help the children have a world view that is bigger than who they are and where they live

Vision:

Children will become prayer warriors
Children will have a passion for others
Children will answer God's call to ministry/missions

Goals:

Help children learn more about prayer
Challenge the children to pray more – including praying for missionaries (the missionaries in German)
Help the children “connect” with a missionary.
Help the children learn more about Germany and the other European countries where the Wesleyan Church (global Partners) has ministry

Process:

Communicating at least 4 times a year
Writing **The Pretzel Club** “newsletter/prayer letter”
To include helps for praying
Prayer requests and answers to prayer
At times focusing on different European country
A birthday card once a term (to known birthdays)

Current praises

Last term, 400 kids are part of **The Pretzel Club**

As you pray for us, please also pray for this ministry that God has given. It is so awesome!! It's exciting and at times, a bit overwhelming!! Isn't God good!?!?! It's exciting to hear a bit of how God is challenging the children. Only HE knows all the details and results of how HE will use this ministry. PTL!!



Pretzel Club



Every time we think of you, we thank God for you.

1 Thessalonians 1:2 (The Message)
Summer, 2012

Enjoying telling the Easter story with symbols found in eggs

All celebrating the

Savior's

True

Easter

Resurrection



The Church Weekend Retreat



Are you a fan or a follower of Jesus?

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in **speech**, in **life**, in **love**, in **faith**, and in **purity**." 1 Timothy 4:12



Together we learned that our mouths — and our bodies — speak. Your happy or grumpy face can say more than your words. That's **speech**. And our actions often speak louder than our words. What are you doing? That's setting an example in **life**. Do you love God more than anyone and anything — and other people as much as you love yourself? That's how God wants us to **love**. An example in **faith**. You are an example to others when you really believe what God says in the Bible. You may be young, but you can make right choices, the ones that please God. That is showing others how to live in **purity**, - with a clean heart and actions. You are young, but you can show others how to live like Jesus wants His followers to live.

Pretzel Club Prayer Team



WEDNESDAY — a good day to pray for the **WORLD**

Remember: Monday — a good day to pray for Missionaries in Munich — Marilyn and Ken

Tuesday — a good day to pray for Teachers — at school, church and home

People from Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, France, Viet Nam, Philippines, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore, Ireland, Scotland, England, America, Denmark, Canada, South Africa and Palestine come to the churches we pastor. You could pray for a different country each week (and maybe find it on a map).

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." John 3:16

Praying that we will all be examples for Jesus, Marilyn Blak (the Pretzel Lady) and Ken (my husband)

Elektrastr. 13 81925 Munich, GERMANY