

***Jim and Becky White***  
***Missionaries in Germany***

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**January – February 2018**

But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? (John 18:39 )

***First 2018 Salvation...*** On January 10<sup>th</sup> Becky and I won our first soul for Christ during a visit in the home of Matscho, a young married man with one son. In the last four years, Matscho has stopped smoking, drinking alcohol, and drugs through strong discipline. He enjoyed coming to a church where many of his cousins attend but failed to see his need for salvation. During our visit, he recognized his lost condition and called on our Lord for salvation. The church in Bayreuth has prayed for his salvation since last August. Everyone has reason to rejoice!

***German Holidays...*** We have three holidays with school vacation in the first months of each year: Fasching, Easter, and Pentecost. Over the last 700 years the Sinti in Germany have adopted these holidays into their yearly schedules. We utilize this time to reach our families before they begin the yearly travels.

**Fasching** actually begins in Bavaria and parts of Austria on November 11 at 11 minutes after 11am; however, most celebrations do not begin until New Year's Eve. They continue until midnight on Tuesday when Ash Wednesday/Lent begins. "Fasching" (similar to Mardi Gras celebrations in New Orleans) gives people a time to sin, and the biggest parties, balls, and parades are held the last five days of Fasching. By giving into the cravings of the flesh, people indulge their hedonism. We teach and preach against this practice, and our churches have no activities that relate to Fasching.

**Lent** (46 days before Easter which would be 40 days of fasting excluding Sundays) is a time of fasting for many in Germany to show mourning and repentance to God for the "sins" committed during Fasching. With their activities, they are in danger of being deceived through "doctrines of devils." If "fasting" is practiced as atoning for one's sins, this is "deception," so we do not practice Lent! During this time, we preach much about salvation by grace through faith.

***Our Christian Alternatives...***

**Our Family Retreat** begins on Thursday after Lent begins. Children are free from school, so most families have time to attend. We have three meals a day, and at 2pm, we serve coffee and cake (we do not fast on purpose). Our Lord blessed and answered prayer. This year we had more attendees than rooms available. Older couples helped us by staying in nearby hotels. Some come to the retreat because they want to get closer to the Lord, some just for fellowship with their family, and we pray for our Lord to reach everyone. This year was special in that there were almost no discipline problems. There were no visits from the police and no one had to be asked to leave. Becky and I worked with the children so that all the parents could attend classes and sermons. Counseling appointments were between classes, and we were always busy. Marriages were helped, family fights were ended, and most of us enjoyed a closer walk with the Lord at the end of the retreat.

**Married Couples Banquet** is a celebration in which a Bible principle related to marriage is taught. Three husbands who attended have not yet made a public decision for Christ, so we

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gladly changed the program to make more room for the Gospel. These men are “good



husbands” and, although they do not hinder their families from attending church, they have never shown an interest in the Gospel or the church. Pray with us as we draw in the net.

***Illness***... attacked our Churches after Christmas. We were shocked at the number of people who had to be hospitalized this year due to flu, pneumonia and depression. A very aggressive type of flu required many to be quarantined. Wela went to the doctor with back pain. She had pneumonia and spent 10 days in ICU and another two weeks in quarantine to avoid contact with anyone who may have had the flu. Gitano went to the doctor thinking he had a cold. He was diagnosed with pneumonia and spent 14 days in intensive care. The Churches stayed in prayer for all our sick, and our Lord gave us grace. As I write this letter, we have no one sick with colds, flu or pneumonia, and those with depression have been discharged.



***Our New Granddaughter***... Naomi Rose White (Sam and Julie’s daughter) was born on February 27<sup>th</sup>. She was born in her 34<sup>th</sup> week and, with God’s grace, she overcame all her physical problems and is now home. Thank you for your prayers.

Sending Church: **Community Baptist Church**, PO Box 367 Oliver Springs, TN 37840

Serving with: **Maranatha Baptist Mission**, PO BOX 160, HILLIARD, FL 32046-0160

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