

Jim and Becky White
Missionaries in Germany

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January – February -March 2020

I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day:
the night cometh, when no man can work. (John 9:4)

The first two months of 2020 were planned before we knew of Covid-19. All the churches had communicated with one another, and they filled each week with a special meeting. In January and February, the cooperation was tremendous and every appointment was fulfilled. The German government imposed its severe lock-down on March 22. In retrospect, we are praising the Lord for allowing us to be busy in the Lord's work while we had the open opportunity.

Bible Institute Classes Resumed: We are studying the history books of 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings. Bruce and I are adding New Testament sections that refer to characters we meet in these books. This emphasizes the importance of these Old Testament books helping the men to enjoy their study of history. Due to their shared Nazi persecution in the WW II Holocaust, the Gypsies have tremendous empathy for the Jewish people.

Ladies Retreat, at Rot am See: The large number of deaths in the last three months of 2019 had put all the families under extreme emotional stress. The ladies attending were all in need of help which our Lord provided through the fellowship of the ladies. They prayed together, cried together, and praised the Lord together. Looking back, we see how important it was for the ladies to have a break in their busy lives before the lock-down came.



Tanya Dano Semo & Sissi at Valentine Meeting



Ladies Retreat, at Rot am See

Valentine Couples Meeting in Bayreuth: Teaching on the home, especially the husband-wife relationship, is difficult in the Sinti culture. We try to be biblical and modest in our approach, and God's Word is being received and acted upon. For example; our oldest married man, Rankle (67 years old), gave his wife a bouquet of flowers. This was the first time in their married life that he had shown open affection with a gift that was not a requirement (Birthday and Christmas gifts are a must, not

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always an expression of love). His actions have given the younger men a good example to follow.



David Recording Message during Covid lockdown



God Bless This Day – Psalm 23

Special Evangelistic Meeting... hosted by the church in Ludwigsthal, Saarland (near the French border): They rented a building so that more people than normal could attend, and the rented building was a neutral place, which allowed attendance even by those who'd sworn to never enter a church. Musicians, choir, and preachers from Nürnberg served the Lord with their gifts and talents. Through the salvations in this evangelistic effort, the local church in Ludwigsthal has increased in membership and attendance.

The Family Retreat in Rot am See: The week before the German lock-down was our last permitted personal contact with churches outside of Bavaria. The retreat facility was a haven to give us one last opportunity for personal fellowship and intense biblical training. Although the Covid-19 virus spread in areas around us, no one who attended the retreat has gotten infected. To protect families, attendees went into a voluntary 14-day quarantine after arriving home.

Complying with government guidelines to slow the spread of the Corona Virus, we stopped all congregational services in church buildings. Online services, recorded messages and phone calls are our present best legal efforts at ministering to the congregations.

Prayer Updates

- Becky was diagnosed with Arthrosis (a form of arthritis) in her right knee
- Rinaldi (preacher in Bamberg) was hospitalized for a heart stint
- Continued protection from Covid-19 for us and the congregations
- **We are planning a furlough to start in October 2020. Please contact us if you have a special time in which we may report.** We are working with the men and women in our Sinti churches, preparing them to take over the bulk of our commitments in Germany during the furlough.

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