

Dear Prayer Partners of Europe Campus Ministry:

2010.1.12

First of all, our sincerest appreciation to you for a year's co-laboring with us in prayer, financial support, and actual participation in the field. May this report find you and your loved ones well and full of excitement for the coming of our Savior!

The Word became flesh

“Teacher:

Thank you for taking time to talk to me about the direction of my life after graduation last night. But truly I was most impressed by the lives you teachers have demonstrated before us. I don't know what is ahead for me after graduation, but your lives made me full of expectations and excitement for my future, not because of any possible success or achievement, but for seeing a clear goal of living for God and enjoying this new life in Christ. I am grateful for the good examples you teachers have lived. The love of Christ coming through your lives is like seeds sown to our hearts and we grow to become many new creatures in Christ.



Leadership training held at the new ECM Dresden Gospel and Training Center

I can see that the value of what you are doing is eternal and immeasurable. For me alone, the two years I spent in eastern Germany changed my entire life, and that of my future offspring. How precious is the vision of ECM! Teacher, we are your children born in Christ. Thank you for bearing the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in us!”



Conference room,
ECM Dresden

This was part of an email sent from a rather brilliant student, just about to finish his master's degree in engineering. You might be amused by how he calls all ECM's missionaries "teachers" and speaks all the time not only for himself, but also for all his fellow believers, and not only to us, but also to all the "teachers".

Indeed, 24 ECM missionaries, from 11 Chinese American churches came in 2009 to serve the students in love and in humility. They gave up their yearly vacations, set aside their

families, churches, and work for anywhere from 2 weeks to 4 months, and came to be with our young college and graduate students. Many come every year to minister to the same group of kids. They not only taught them the Word, but also lived out the Word in person. Together as testimonies to the grace of Christ, they are speaking the clear message of the Gospel of hope to many young students lost in this world. The life changing impact of "The Word became flesh" indeed is powerful! Praise the name of our God and Savior, especially at this blessed time of the year.!



New Dresden Gospel and Training Center: As baptism continues, and as present student leaders mature and graduating, discipleship training becomes all the more important. In our prayer letter a year ago, we asked the Lord for “the establishment of a training center for leadership training”. And it was done for us just like that! A 1,345 sq ft apartment next door to where we were, right in the center of Dresden, became available.



Small training camp in Dresden Center

The entire Dresden fellowship group got together and volunteered their time for the month of March (which happened to be the semester break month!) to give it a total face lift with a complete new laminated wood floor and beautifully coordinated wall colors designed by our interior decorator student. We could only praise God for the dedication and zeal in which our student volunteers worked. The message is clear: The students appreciate their savior. They appreciate the work ECM has done to bring them to this savior and now firmly identify themselves with our ministry!

More and more we see students taking up the torch of the gospel and running to pass it on! The center has a living room with an adjacent dining and foyer area, a small library, an office, a conference room, and a bed room for the long-term missionaries (that is us right now), kitchen and 1.5 baths.

Small Group Trainings: Immediately after all the debris was cleaned up, we conducted our first leadership training of 36 students from 8 groups in the new center. The trainers were 5 of our regular workers. Again it was family style with lots of lots of love, laughter, prayers, God’s Word, and sharing. 22 stayed overnight at the new 1,345 sq ft center. We are closely bonded together to give testimony of His love and to work for His glory!



Two other small trainings, one on mental health, and another for those graduating, were also conducted in the new center.

8-Fellowship Joint Events: Our annual gospel and edification camp was held in May and a Bible camp was held during Christmas holiday. Special speakers were also invited to come from the US to do evangelistic tours.



Edification Camp December 2009

Our Bible camp conference speaker, Dr. Samuel Ling, who is a well-known pastor/theologian, wrote in his report, “This is the *most intense and exhausting trip I have taken*, since the Beijing days. It was also life-transforming... The coworkers and Christians’ love and hospitality have been overpowering... *Spiritual insight I learned: Minister from the heart, from life, with power from above*, while faithfully teaching Bible & doctrine...”

I am learning about this *unique, precious “window of opportunity”* among mainland Chinese students in Eastern Germany and beyond. *Many hearts are soft (still). This window won’t last forever!!”*

During his intense tour around our fellowship groups, Dr. Ling wrote to about 30 pastors and Christian workers, “There is an urgent need for people to come to Germany - especially the eastern (poorer) part of Germany - and *stay for a few months each year, living alongside these students* (many of whom are either almost there in commitment to Christ, or have recently made commitments), following up on their growth, and reaching out to the non-believers who are pouring into these university towns.”



Maturing and Outreach: Our reward and delight is to see our believers mature in love and in faith. This is shown in their love for each other and in their efforts to reach out.

Even before the semester began in mid-October, almost every fellowship started to make moon cakes. It usually started out as an idea to celebrate the Moon Festival as a Christian family. But the thought quickly turned into a major caring and evangelistic activity for those in need of the gospel. Hundreds of moon cakes were made to be distributed free to fellow Chinese students in the dorms. Moon Festival is the occasion when families gather like American Thanksgiving, to enjoy the moon cake and the togetherness. It is a time that those away from home suffer most from homesickness. Hearts of many Chinese students were deeply warmed when they received the hard-to-get moon cakes. Some started to come to the Bible studies regularly. The rest of the semester was spent in following up on the new comers. How we thank the Lord for such a warm and meaningful celebration of the traditional Chinese Moon Festival in a foreign land! How our hearts are comforted when we see our spiritual children grow to become spiritual parents themselves!

A New ECM Koethen Gospel and Training Center:

In addition to the Dresden center, ECM rented a flat in a small town called Koethen also. This town with a population of only 30,000 has 600 young Chinese students which account for over 10% of Koethen Technical University’s total student body! Many of the Chinese students just arrived 3 months ago from China and are now in their first year German



language studies before entering college. They are very young, very homesick, and very open to the gospel. Since Koethen Chinese Christian Fellowship was established 2 years ago, it has seen many coming to know the Lord and leaving after language school or a degree program. It now has 8 believers who cook dinner for the seekers every Friday, and try to show them Christ’s love. They need a couple of “teachers” to live among them to teach and nurture them. We rented this flat, praying all the time that the Lord of harvest will send out a couple like ourselves to bring in the sheaves.

Rapid Changes are taking place this year, especially in the area of leadership transfer:

Individual Fellowship Groups: Many students came to Germany to study at the age of 18 or 19 in 2001-2002, when the wave of Chinese students coming to Germany reached its peak. They are now near graduation or have graduated. In the course of their “diploma” program (equivalence of a master’s degree), they were saved and are now the nucleus of each group. After graduation they will soon go back home to China, or move to the western part of Germany if they can find jobs there. New leadership has been in the making all along as the fellowship groups foresaw this and have always been



consciously training new Christians. But the rate of those leaving is higher than the rate in which new believers can be firmly rooted in faith. In Dresden group alone, 15 regular attendees left this year. With new believers added along the way, we are keeping our number to near 30. In two other groups, seekers are now exceeding believers in number in their Bible studies.

Dedicated and Gifted Student Servant-leaders: We praise the Lord for raising some student leaders who not only have the commitment and gifts to lead their own fellowship groups, but also caught the vision of ECM to take the gospel to every European Chinese student group. They began to share our responsibilities as field coordinators.

New Groups Established: As our believers move on to the west after graduation, they usually join a church or fellowship group nearby and become involved if they can find a group. For those who could not find any to join, they have to start new groups. The groups in Mannheim and Jena were started like this in 2009. Praise the Lord that they become very vibrant and fast growing groups, being good testimonies for the Lord and bearing much fruit. So as 2 of our existing groups are decreasing in size due to large number of graduations, new fields are being established.

A new group in Mannheim



Our 1st returnee workshop

Returnee Ministry Established: So far quite a few students who have returned to China have found it very difficult to keep themselves in close relationship with God and with Christian fellowship. So we started a Returnee’s Ministry this year with a co-worker specifically assigned for the job of keeping track of our returnees, connecting them with good groups in various parts of China, visiting them, and supporting them spiritually. We also started to hold Returnees’ workshops in Dresden to prepare them for the tough trails they are about to face.

The Fines’ Home Leave: We are to the States from Christmas through the end of February 2010. We spent Christmas with our sons and daughter-in-law in Minneapolis (2nd Christmas we spent with them since ECM ministry started 7 Christmas ago!),

attended the Gospel for China Conference in Chicago, held our ECM annual board meeting right in Chicago, and came back to Michigan for our own annual physical check-ups. For the month of February, we will be sharing ECM's vision to various churches. Our purpose is to find support for ECM, especially those who the Lord of harvest wants to call to go out to Germany to serve the Chinese students for 2-3 months in a year. If you are one of those, and if your church is interested in ECM, please do contact us.



Training for peer counseling

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for many committed student believers to find jobs in Germany so as to become the stabilizing volunteer workers in various fellowship groups; pray for a couple of student leaders to be called to serve full-time in Germany/Europe.
- Pray for another couple to come as full time missionaries to share our responsibilities so there will be adequate teaching and pastoral care.
- Pray for the Lord to call 3 couples to come as semester/quarterly missionaries; pray for many short-term pioneer missionaries to come.
- Pray for new believers to be added to the groups fast enough to replace graduates.
- Pray for new leadership in each fellowship group to mature fast enough to take up the baton.
- Pray for enough finance to be made ready to support potential graduates called to serve full-time with us.
- Pray for our returnees to China to stand firm in faith.
- Pray for our home leave in January and February that we may be granted a clean bill of health and that the Lord may lead us to the couples who God wants to call to this field for at least a couple of months each year.

Your fellow soldiers for the Lord,
David and Margaret Fine for ECM

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