



November 2007

Prayer Requests:

- ✝ For Christ to be central in everything we say and do.
- ✝ To refocus on the Lord and what He wants us to do next - family, work and ministry
- ✝ The right space where we can start to meet and invite people to.
- ✝ People with servant hearts to help with worship, translating, childcare
- ✝ Ability to communicate God's Word and Love effectively
- ✝ Continuing part-time work for Ron and/or Uli
- ✝ Language acquisition
- ✝ Grandparents' health

Praises:

- ✝ Anja and Alex doing well in school
- ✝ Time with Family and Friends from the US

If you would like to partner with us in our ministry to Germany, please send your tax-deductible donations payable to:

New Address:

S.E.E.D. Ministries

P.O. Box 3746

Cleveland, TN 37320-3746

Memo line: Hostetler

For more information please visit

www.seedministry.org

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First Steps

The last three months have been characterized by taking lots of first steps for our family! And as you may know, first steps may require courage to overcome fears or are taken with excitement, simply wanting to try something new. Each one of us experienced a little of both...

After a few weeks of summer break **Alex** became a "Regentropfen" (rain drop) and joyfully entered pre-school. Because he had accompanied his big sister daily for almost a year, he already knew the place, the teachers, some of the routines and most of the kids. So the only problems we encountered were some of the rules – it is not ok to step on beetles – and quitting time – there is never enough time to play!!! His favorite thing is the weekly trip into the forest and his least

favorite is clean-up time.

The end of August we celebrated **Anja's** first day of school in German tradition with a "Schultüte" (decorated cone, filled with small



gifts) and big Brezel. Her pre-school had done a great job introducing all the graduates to the new school environment – one of the features of the education model it is using together with the Christian school located on the same ground. Because she started this new part of life with six little friends almost at the same location as before, it was less scary to her. So the only problem we encountered was the new, earlier starting time. She likes best her very nice teacher and least the often wild and pushy boys.

In September we had our first group of visitors from the States. Six of Ron's relatives, including Grandpa Hostetler, came for a two week European journey. Uli took her first try at being a travel agent, planning a trip



that covered seven or so destinations and booking transportation and hotels in three cities. Ron gained experience as a tour guide, driver, photographer and interpreter, covering 4200km (3000 miles) and five countries. He was blessed to find the old Hostetler homestead in Switzerland, going back



to 1691.

Some of the more frightening moments included traveling up and down one-lane mountain roads in the dark, filling regular gas into a diesel van and trying to follow an ambulance through Potsdam, which was taking his elderly Aunt to the hospital after passing out in a ladies clothing store. They all made it back home safely and we enjoyed a nice family weekend together before they went back home to Florida. We thought that we had 24 hours to get ready for the next group. How surprised we were, when just a few hours later the phone rang and a familiar voice said: "We are here! Where are you?" While Ron fought rain and fog and bad traffic to get to the airport, Uli cleaned and rearranged the house to accommodate four more sleepers. The job got done – the

process was ugly. Thanks be to God for His mercy and grace and for holding lightning off that hour. We were thankful to be able to fellowship for one week with dear friends from Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg, FL. Pastor Vivian Laird spoke several times and we were blessed by his seasoned faith and genuine love.

Just a few days after everybody left, we celebrated Anja's 6th



birthday. This year the theme was horses and we had everything from straw bale decoration to a steeple chase parcours in the back yard for the kids – a separate kid's party was a first for us, venturing out to open our home to new friends from school.

Since then, we have taken a few deep breaths and are soaking in the beautiful fall weather around us. We are trying to refocusing our energies on what lies before us. Changes are at hand and we need to take some



more first steps to move forward. We need to find a space for our Bible study group to meet – something bigger than our living room, so we can invite others. We want to officially found Calva-

ry Chapel Wiesbaden and have taken first steps by submitting the charter to the local tax authorities to apply for charitable status. Once it gets approved we can apply at the city court. Ron needs to take some language classes and he has taken first steps to sign up for them. Changes in his work are also coming; he has taken first steps to look for options. Uli has taken some first steps to add to our income by doing some translating work for an US company, that is opening a branch in Germany. Learning the ropes about freelance work and trying to clearly communicate automotive technical lingo has been challenging and mostly fun.

We were completely exhausted for a moment, but are greatly encouraged and hopeful about the future as we take these new steps towards the goal we have before us – a growing fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ, who love to worship, study His Word and serve Him.

We thank all of you who support us through prayer, mail, calls, gifts and help with things long-distance! We could not do this without you! We hope that your excitement will build as you watch with us to see, what the Lord will do next!

With His Love,
Ron, Uli, Anja & Alex