



"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing & teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." Colossians 1:28, NIV

11/2021

Pandemic in Germany Reached Another Peak

Shalom! I wish you all a Merry Christmas & peace from above. Since November, the fourth wave of the pandemic in Germany rose sharply, with a maximum of **75,000 cases** in a single day and an average of **49,000 infections** per day. Each state government has independent administration. Therefore, the pandemic prevention measures between the states were inconsistent & there were constant changes according to the development of the pandemic. (For example, Christmas markets in some areas were held as usual, while Christmas markets in other places were temporarily cancelled). Anti-pandemic fatigue, Christmas holiday travels, relaxed mentality towards the pandemic, etc. all contributed to an exceptionally challenging winter this year!



Although the "coexistence with the pandemic" has become an unchanging fact, it posed immense challenges to the missionary field. Since this summer, Göttingen and Kassel have fully resumed **in-person gatherings** at church. However, we still offer simultaneous online and in person gatherings for worship and Bible study group.



October New Students Outreach Workshop – Laws in Germany (hybrid arrangement of in-person/online delivery)

On one hand, we are **grateful** that Germany continues to allow churches to be opened for gatherings. This allows the congregation to meet face to face. Also, the bonding of brothers & sisters can be rebuilt gradually. On the other hand, we pray to God to give us **mercy**: we pray to God not only to keep our meetings safe, but also support the continuous hybrid service as there is a serious shortage of manpower for ministry.

The Spiritual Experience of Missionary Children - From Uprooting to Rooting in Christ

Missionaries often experience God beyond their ministry. Throughout these years, in our personal growth, role coordination, & family interaction, God's grace guided us to forge ahead through rivers and climb over mountains.

When we came to Germany with the 11-year-old Caleb, he experienced culture shock with the challenge of **two new languages & two levels of cultural change**. As a transfer student at school, he struggled with the German language. He couldn't establish a social network in the first two years. At church, he had to learn Mandarin. He lost touch with his childhood church friends in Canada. The ministry resources for second generation in Canada have more varieties and higher accessibility than in Germany. In fact, it was even more difficult for him to adapt to the new church culture than the new school culture! The loneliness he had to endure was not something that his peers could contemplate. Psychological, social and spiritual challenges accelerated the struggle and confusion into his adolescence.

God intervenes: From our very first family letter, "asking God to prepare spiritual companions for Caleb" was a regular prayer request. Perhaps, because of environmental factors, the spiritual companion whom we have been waiting for many years, never appeared. However, God heard Caleb's cry and struggles. **He intervened and became Caleb's spiritual companion!** In 2017-2018, the "Mandibular Surgery Incident" allowed Caleb to experience God's profound love and presence. Since then, Caleb has established a personal relationship with Christ. He further internalized his



faith which led to a drastic change in his spiritual pursuit. He chose to join the Chinese adult worship (as bible stories no longer satisfied him), participated in serving, registered for baptism, and signed up for the baptism courses. As we responded to Caleb's questions & listened to his sharings in class, we were amazed at the work of God. We truly enjoyed the spiritual sharing at home too. They were affectionate and precious moments of our **bonding in Christ!**

In the last two years of high school, Caleb expressed his intention to continue university studies back in North America. He said: ① His roots were from North America, he felt more confident to pursue his choice of program in the English language. ② There are better ministry resources in North America. He wanted to get to know God more. We didn't provide an immediate response at the time, as we wanted to understand his thinking more clearly and needed time to pray for God's guidance.

Many people asked us, **"Why didn't you keep Caleb in Germany & take advantage of the zero university tuition fee?"** We prayed for several months and finally decided to let go, and supported his decision to return to Canada. Our reasons were: ① When he was a child, he didn't have a choice but to follow



us as we changed churches due to ministry calling, and to uproot himself when we decided to commit as missionaries. It was time for us to respect his choice. ② His desire for God is real. As he experienced God's encouragement, guidance and teaching through devotions, we witnessed his excitement and joy in the journey. ③ As missionaries, we couldn't provide him with the financial support for tuition and living expenses. We willingly let God take over, because we were certain that Caleb has chosen the most precious blessing. We gave up on the zero university tuition fee benefit in Germany, as we learned to rely on God to provide. As parents, we learned to let go and allow Caleb to return alone to Canada. We reminded Caleb: **"As long as you're in Christ, we will have peace and will not need to worry."** In the past few months, as we witnessed Caleb's interaction with God, we felt blessed beyond anything we could imagine!

God promises: Caleb moved into residence on a Saturday and unpacked until early morning. The next day, he took the 7am bus and arrived at church for the

8am in-person worship (because the 9:30am and the 11am sessions were fully booked). He actually had a lot of strong reasons to not attend the morning session in person, for example, too tired from moving, not familiar with the surroundings, online gathering was a good option. However, God rewarded his desire to meet with Him with comforting words from the worship hymns and sermon: **"I will remain with you always; I will never leave you as an orphan."** **"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him."** (Ps 62:5) **On his first day away from home, Caleb received the just-in-time comfort from God. He was in awe. He cried. He was speechlessly grateful!**

God prepares: Caleb has been praying for companions to share the growth journey in university. He took the initiative to connect with senior students in the campus fellowship. He proactively met with different pastors, and actively participated in ministry. God was merciful towards his request. Within a short period of time, he met with similar aged individuals who shared the same commitment in Christ – companions on his ministry journey. He even found a mentor who could provide spiritual and professional advice to him. **Our heavenly father generously prepared a multitude of resources for him at the university, to compensate him for the lack of resources in the mission field.**

God inspires: In the mission field, Caleb didn't have an opportunity to participate in structured training to serve. In university, God invited him to learn to lead Bible study, to lead a small group and to evangelize. **"Daddy, mommy, I thought I'd know how to serve by observing you in the mission field within the past few years. I just realized that I don't really know how."** Caleb came to us and asked to be trained in Bible study, evangelism, peer mentoring, and Bible study prep.

We have been praying for Caleb as he learns to serve... we're thankful! **With a trembling heart, his "not knowing" motivated him to pursue humbly.** It touched us deeply to learn of his obedient response to God's calling to share the Gospel with a classmate. In preparation, he spent 2 months in memorizing the salvation related Bible verses, read up on frequently





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asked questions related to the Gospel, established a prayer group, and selected Gospel related materials for devotion. He met the classmate over dinner; as expected, the seeker did not commit to Christ at his first attempt. However, the door to the Gospel has been opened. The seeker was willing to listen to the message. In fact, Caleb was the one being blessed the most; he experienced the joy of working with God, and the amazing guidance of the Spirit. Being molded as an instrument of God is a different level of experience compared to experiencing God's blessings in health, school, and other environments. We're thankful for our son, thankful that his journey in knowing/walking with God has been so adventurous and fulfilling.

God blesses: In the beginning, we were worried that Caleb's commitment was only short term. However, **as he willingly offered himself for God, and experienced the abundant joy in His Spirit, it motivated him to clearly prioritize and properly position himself.** During the reading week, I gave Caleb a personal workshop on "Christian's Time Management". Afterwards, he was confident and able to clearly outline a timetable to concentrate on the most important. For example, Caleb really enjoyed the weekly prayer meetings (this was the exact wording from Caleb; as pastors, it was the first time hearing someone use the word "enjoy" to describe their experience in a prayer meeting. He's one of a kind!) The small number of participants at the meeting created an opportunity for them to have deep spiritual sharing, and to form a true bonding of spiritual friendship. He enjoyed praying for the fellowship together with brothers and sisters. He treasured the team spirit. **"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."** (Matt 6:33) Our heavenly father has interesting plans – there were things that Caleb didn't ask for, but our Father provided them to him one by one: study group, study notes from senior students, and advices on course selection. When Caleb put his effort into his studies, God blessed him with "pointers", so he could avoid chasing his own tail.

God's blessings were beyond what we could imagine. In the past few months, our sharing and interaction with Caleb; the time we spent together in prayers; and

the time we spent together counting God's blessings were encouraging and comforting moments in our lives. These moments motivated us to further focus only on our Lord. We gave thanks to Him for knowing and consoling His servants' hearts. As a child, Caleb was known as the Pastor Kid (PK). During adolescence, he became the Missionary Kid (MK). The pressure and loneliness he experienced were more than his peers. However, our Lord never mistreat those who belong to Him. Today, Caleb became God's Kid. What a grace! With his faithfulness and his love, God intervened directly to shepherd, to guide, and to mold him.

We know that our young man has a long journey ahead. May God protect our 2nd generation of believers. May they be able to grow in Christ and turn away from evils. "Obey the Holy Spirit. Practice humility and perseverance." These are the themes of our prayers for Caleb. Our Father also reminded us, as parents, **"As long as the child remains in Christ, rest assured, you have nothing to worry. You can focus on serving the Lord!"** **"The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace."** (Ps 29:11)

Thank you for your continued prayers in support of our work for God's Kingdom and for our family. Your partnership is a blessing for our family.

(P.S. We have Caleb's consent to share his experience in this letter. 😊)



Family Fellowship in Göttingen



Prayer Requests

- **New ministry committee:** Many believers and church committee members left the two cities for reason of graduation and job search. The recently formed ministry committee is half the size of the previous ones. Due to uncertainties under a pandemic, we're experiencing more and more challenges in ministry. With a serious shortage in manpower, may the Lord have mercy, and raise up more believers with a willingness to commit, to serve, and to grow as part of the body of Christ.
- **Göttingen's Evangelical Bible Study Group:** Praise the Lord, we have 12 to 14 people in attendance. May the Spirit continue to inspire the heart and mind of those who seek to know Him. May they gradually gain understanding of His words, and respond humbly to His salvation, in His time.
- **New Students Outreach Program:** God's blessings were upon the Outreach Program held in October and November. There were a total of 40+ participants across the 6 outreach programs in the two cities. In one of the evangelical events, a new student committed to Christ. May our Lord continue to encourage new believer to engage in the church; and open the ears and hearts of those who have never heard of the Gospel.
- **Bridle Trail/ Wismer Baptist Church Online Short Term Mission:** From November 10th to 21st, we completed 10 sessions of ministry, including Bible study, Sunday school, sermons, and testimonies. May the Lord bless us with wisdom, to learn and try new things in post-pandemic; to explore different approaches of ministry model and resource coordination.
- **Christmas Celebration:** The two cities are planning outreach programs for Christmas. Please pray for a sufficient number of helpers, and the invitations to newcomers. May more people come to understand this Gospel of Love.
- **Please continue to remember our family:** Lewis returned to Germany in October. Felain stays in Toronto for medical treatment and switched to a work from Toronto arrangement temporarily. Therefore, our family of three are living in three different cities. May we continue to rely on God's presence and His abundant grace to complete the spiritual assignment He has given us.

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- * Send cheque to: **Canadian Baptist Ministries, 7185 Millcreek Dr., Mississauga, ON L5N 5R4 Canada**
Please put your address on & specific on the memo line to **Lewis & Felain Lam**
- * On line donation: <http://cbmin.org>
(donate now → our field staff → Lewis & Felain Lam)



October New Students Outreach Program –
One Day Trip to Kassel Wilhelmshöhe Highland