

Colossians 1:28, NIV: "He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." 05/2022

Post-pandemic Germany & Ministry

The Covid-19 safety protocols in various states within Germany were gradually lessened since the beginning of March. The Chinese community, in general, continued to follow all the safety measures; though many still became infected. However, this did not stop the residents and believers from going on vacations during the Easter holidays. **Life, in general, returned to "normal"**. However, the post-pandemic economy was greatly impacted by the Russia-Ukraine war. There has been inflation in consumer goods and gasoline. The inflation rate from March to April increased to 7.4%.

The Russia-Ukraine War caused an exodus of Ukrainian women and children to Germany. According to the federal and state education and culture ministry, the schools in Germany can accept a maximum of 400,000 children and provide them with the residence. Some of the mainstream churches have been proactively assisting refugees in their settlement, and have also been hosting worship and Bible study classes in Ukrainian. We have two believers among us, who visited a local Chinese church that was involved in refugee work in Warsaw, Poland. They informed us of the needs and situations of refugees, and how we can meaningfully contribute to the needs in resources and prayers. May the Lord guide the next wave of refugee evangelical ministry in Germany.



After more than two years into the pandemic, believers' willingness to gather and worship in-person and the passion in evangelical work need to be revived. Thus, the **post-pandemic ministry focus** will be on evangelism and the strengthening of

believers. We will break ground and launch the student outreach in Göttingen with different monthly outreach activities, starting this year. We hope to reach out to friends who are interested in learning more about our faith, to promote relational evangelism. In Kassel, we will strengthen those involved in the ministry by equipping them with training and more opportunities to serve. We will continue to encourage brothers and sisters to step up on the ministry journey.



Students returning to an in-person gathering at our home

Testimony: The Change & Growth of a Female Student

(First-person narrative from a sister) I began pondering about the meaning of life when I was 17. I searched for 10 years but still couldn't find an answer. Until I arrived in Germany and met Jesus, I finally found the direction in life. I was baptized just prior to the pandemic. Friends noticed the change in me: I used to always be in a pessimistic state, but now, I come out with optimism. This past year witnessed a milestone in my change and growth. This is all from the strength and grace of the Lord.

Life in China before Knowing Jesus: I refused to wake up in the morning, finding everything meaningless. I often daydreamed during work hours and was distracted during class. I was wondering why I needed to attend to all these meaningless things. I would think and ponder, though the result was fruitless. When I arrived home at night, I'd browse pornographic sites and watch all kinds of movies to numb my heart. I couldn't sleep at night, so I chose to tire myself out with videos. Even worst, I comfort my sexual desire

with masturbation. I did all these to stop myself from thinking about life questions that I couldn't find answers to. Just like that, I repeated this meaningless life day after day: pessimistic, fallen, and lost.

Life in Germany after Knowing Jesus: I will still ponder upon life questions, but I know that all answers are found in Christ. I am still working to address my sins. For example, when I am tired and received advertisements on the internet with useless videos and sexual temptation, I still struggle and fall prey at times. However, I know that with the guidance of the Spirit, I will overcome in the end.

Particularly, in the past year, God's words touched me deeply, reminding me, **"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."** (James 1:22). I pray to God for the strength to live out his words. Now, I wake up early every day, and do what I'm supposed to do: Attend school, enjoy meals, sleep, read the Bible, pray and take breaks by spending time with brothers and sisters during the weekends. I find rest in the Lord's words. I reflect and grow. I've been exercising twice each week, building and maintaining my body in a healthy state. **All of these normal and regular lifestyle routines are definitely abnormal and challenging for me who have been struggling with chronic depression and sexual addiction. If it wasn't for God's interference and mercy, I would have probably committed suicide or become a drug addict.**

My life was changed because of Jesus. I emerged from the darkness and embarked on a positive life. From depression to finding the meaning of life, I realized that only God has my answer to life!

Ministry Briefing & Prayer Requests

- **Thanksgiving: New Believers/Joint Baptism:** Among the new students who joined us in October last year, 3 of them decided to accept Christ after half a year of seeking and learning. In mid-May, Göttingen & Kassel will have joint baptisms. Please pray that God will strengthen the new believers' faith with a "no turning back" mindset to fully devote themselves and follow the Lord in their lifelong journey.
- **Chinese New Year Gala (Outreach):** On January 28th and 29th, we hosted the galas in Göttingen & Kassel respectively in a joyful and grateful

atmosphere. We give thanks to God as there were newcomers to join the meetings. Some of them also participated in follow-up outreach activities and Bible studies. ↓



- **March 26th Outreach - Hannover Animal Day Trip; April 23rd - Leeks Picking:** Our Father prepared such beautiful weather for these two outreach activities for us. This gave us good opportunities to connect and get to know the seekers and believers who participated in these activities. ↓



- **Please pray for our monthly outreach activities:** Barbecue in May; hiking in June; fruit picking in July. Pray that God will help us to connect with more new friends and families through various outreach activities.
- **German Chinese Church Easter Worship & Revival Meeting:** The physical and online meetings have been successfully held from April 15 to 17. We give thanks to God for bringing Pastor Leung Ka-Lun (Honorary Dean of Hong Kong Alliance Bible Seminary) to Germany as the theme speaker who helped to enlighten the believers' spiritual life.
- **The growth of second-generation workshop (mental & spiritual):** From March to July, we host a monthly zoom meeting for 5 sessions in total. The series is opened to 5 cities: Göttingen, Kassel, Marburg, Heidelberg and Hannover. More than 50 families (believers and non-believers) signed up for the course. It reflects the eagerness of parents to learn about this topic. May God bless



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the parents with wisdom and perseverance, so they may influence with life testimonies, and raise the children in truth, thus guiding them to the Lord, and bringing Glory to God as a family.



- **June FMCD Pastoral Retreat:** Please pray that the Chinese missionaries in Germany experience spiritual connections and quiet time with God. Especially during this post-pandemic era, may the Lord bless the pastoral staff with wisdom from above, so we know how to expand God's kingdom in Germany and shepherd the congregations effectively.
- **August 4-7th All-German Co-workers' Training Camp:** Theme: Serving in Unity. Pray that the in-person camp can be held smoothly. With a significant shortage of resources, we pray that God will equip and bless the laymen leaders in various regions.
- **Pray for our family:** God led Felain to return safely to Germany in early March. Please continue to pray for Lewis and Felain's physical and spiritual health. May God grant us sufficient grace and wisdom to lead the churches in two cities. We give thanks to God for blessing Caleb during the transition period of studying and living in Canada. He has completed his first year of university studies.

May God guide Caleb in his summer courses and arrangement of time to serve God in the Fall term.



We usually meet online when we were separated in 3 places!

Contact

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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**
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