

THE WALENT STREET JOURNAL

Spring 2008 edition



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Dear Friends and Partners,

Warm and heartfelt greetings from spring time Dresden.. We apologize that this edition is a bit late. That has a reason... Christina just got back from almost 3 weeks in Finland due to the death of her Aunt, who together with Christina's Mom raised her. The funeral service was a beautiful celebration of a life lived in devotion to God. A faithful prayer warrior is home - who will take her place? Will you step in and hold us up in prayer? Now, let us get you caught up on what God has been doing here in East Germany since we wrote last.....



The Church Renewal School has started!

In trying to establish the church planting movement we found we must also concentrate on strengthening our base of existing churches. At the moment about 40% of our churches in Saxony are under 25 church attendees with another 40% between 25-50. Some of these churches have been at this level for years!! This is how the vision of the *Church Renewal School* (CRS) came into being. We want to help our existing churches take inventory of their present position - assess how they got there - discover what they need to move ahead in order to become the church God has called them to be. The themes we will focus on are personal renewal / spiritual dynamic, the church, relationships, leadership, team, discipleship, structures and change dynamics and processes.

Some of the participating church teams in the CRS.

We are happy to report, that the *Church Renewal School* (CRS) had a very good start on March 15th. Teams from 10 churches signed up to take part...one of them was from an Evangelical Free church! We had about 65 participants on our first day. Our focus is to have at least three people from each church leadership team present, because it is the combined leadership of a church that needs to realize the need for change and then move together in this process together. Most of these 10 churches do not have their own pastors, therefore we are working with lay leadership - many of whom have had very little (if any) training.

Our first theme, presented by Manfred Lanz (our church planting team leader for Germany), was "Personal Renewal/Spiritual Dynamic". This subject touches the foundation of who we are and what we are called to be - both as an individual and a church. The response of those participating was very positive. We had times of teaching; time together in our teams to apply what we were hearing to our situation on the home front - this is where everyone is confronted with the reality of their need, and then is challenged to seek ways to move forward. Lastly, but most important, we spent time together in prayer - asking our heavenly Father to grant us grace and direction to move ahead with his plan for our respective churches. We move ahead with great anticipation as to what our Lord will do among us!! Please keep these teams in your prayers - this is vital!!



The Oasis Underways

Our motto for evangelistic outreaches during 2008 in the *Oasis* church is "Underways". What we mean with that, is that we want to be underways with the Gospel out there where the people are. In order to utilize the gifts and creativity of many church members, we let small groups take responsibility for coming up with one outreach and lead it. Dressed in our Underways

T-shirts we get out there and until now we have had the following outreach-ideas: One cell group turned the church into a cafe' with Gospel music for a night, Christina's cell group offered free child care with face painting and puppets in a shopping center one Saturday. The youth hosted a game night for teenagers in the church with playstation, X-box and board games and 15 new teenagers from the area showed up for the event. All of this is of course only a tool to help us get in touch with people and share the Gospel with them. It is exciting, and we'll keep you posted on further Underways happenings.



Pictures from the Underways outreach in the mall with Christina's cell group.



Thank you so very much for your support in prayer and financially. It touches our hearts so much when we get emails in response to prayer needs and we know you really lift us up to God's throne. We can feel it, and it is such an encouragement. Thank you! It is a privilege to serve the Lord here in East Germany and we are grateful that you stand with us. The Lord will reward you and bless you for your faithfulness.

Your missionary friends,

Steve & Christina Walent



Steve with Manfred Lanz during the first Church Renewal School (CRS).

Check out our website:
www.walent-street.com

Please join the Walents in prayer & praise:

Praise God for for the amazing recovery of Pastor Frank Stenzel from the young church in Weisswasser. He had open heart surgery following a heart attack and is now doing very well thanks to prayer.

Remember to pray for the many new church plants God is birthing here. Some of them are facing difficulties and need the Lord's help and wisdom to know how to proceed.

Ask the Lord to continue to help and comfort Christina's Mom, who now is alone after Christina's Aunt Doris went to be with the Lord the end of March.

You can help us pray for the next Church Renewal School coming up on May 24th. Pray that the coaches working with the teams can help them gain depth so that change can take place where needed.

Earnestly pray for the financial situation here. The American Dollar is constantly getting weaker against the Euro and things are getting tight. We need God to provide some additional funds for our budget.

Remember to continue to ask the Lord for more German workers for our churches. There are still so many positions that need to be filled by spiritfilled, called Germans. And Jesus is still Lord of the harvest! Pray for more workers that are called and take up the challenge and say: "Here am I, send me."