

# THE WALENT STREET JOURNAL

Summer 2007 edition



## STEVE & CHRISTINA WALENT

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Germany



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### Dear Pastor, Family and Friends,

Warm summertime greetings from Dresden. Last quarter we shared with you a couple of the open doors we are experiencing in the area of church planting, as well as the opportunities that are developing to assist our existing churches to rediscover their reason for being - to become a vibrant witness and assist the church in becoming all that God has ordained it to be.

In this edition we want to share some of the challenges we are facing directly related to this "reason for being" in relation to our new church plant in Kamenz.

### Victories and challenges in Kamenz

In April we experienced God's wonderful grace first hand as three people gave their lives to the Lord! All three came out of a "right-wing" extremist group (known here as the Neo-Nazi's), and as we found out a little later, were also heavily involved in the occult. Jens, a young man of about 30 years of age, after receiving Christ, sensed in his heart to get rid of all his Nazi paraphernalia and started digging in to God's Word. His girlfriend, Nancy, saw such a dramatic change in his life, that a week later she gave her life to Jesus as well. Nancy started bringing her girlfriend, Doreen, to church, and by the end of April Doreen gave her life to Jesus as well. All three attended church faithfully, but then the attacks began.

Both Nancy and Doreen began to struggle with nightmares, hearing voices, depression, etc. Due to their previous involvement in the occult, we realized Satan wasn't going to let go so easily. Jens too, began to struggle again with alcohol abuse. Ricardo and Katrin (out of our church leadership team) began to spend much time with them - praying, counseling, spiritual warfare. Breakthroughs would come, and then set backs. Our young church started to realize, that though we rejoice when souls get saved, that it is then when the real work begins. People who have lived in bondage and dysfunctional surroundings all their lives are not always immediately free from the effects of their history. They need a church behind them that will love them, spend time with them, nurture them, and pray for them in the power of the Holy Spirit. This of course requires a willingness to sacrifice on the part of the church family - that is easier said than done. Right now the Kamenz church is realizing that this battle for Jens, Nancy and Doreen is primarily a spiritual battle - victory will cost us something. Our prayer focus for them has intensified. Would you please join us in this Challenge?

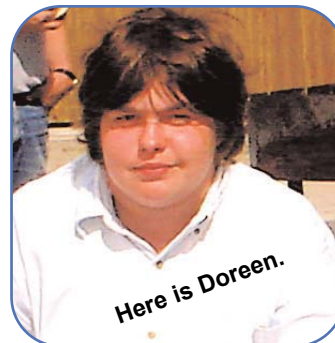
In June, Jens and Nancy set up a meeting so that Ricardo and Katrin could share with some of their "neo Nazi" friends. The following Sunday some of them came to church and three more gave their lives to Christ! Amidst the battle, God is working and breaking down spiritual strongholds. The battle doesn't let up, but in the battle we are learning what it means to be "the Church".



This is Jens



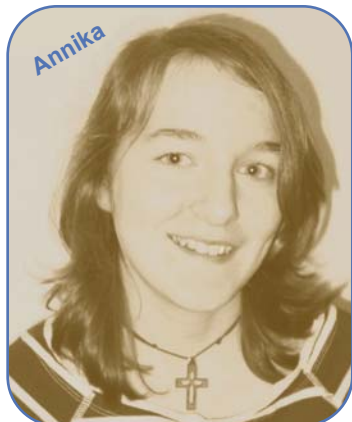
Nancy



Here is Doreen.



Katrin, Steve and Ricardo, the ministry team in Kamenz.



Annika

### Grateful for God's direction

Our oldest daughter Annika will be changing schools this coming school year. That is not easy at 15, being the new kid in an existing class. But God has orchestrated it beautifully and she already has two Christian friends in the new school, one girl in her class and a girl from church a grade lower. Our heavenly Father truly looks out for *all* details of our lives!

We want to express to you again how grateful we are for your support, both in prayer and financially. We truly could not do what we do without you and we pray you know what a vital part YOU are in reaching East Germany with the good news of Jesus. May this summer be a special time of blessing and refreshing for you.

We love and appreciate you!

*Steve & Christina Walent*

### Please join the Walents in prayer & praise:

**P**raise God with us for the new converts in Kamenz. They have taken steps in the right direction and are continuing to follow Jesus.

**R**emember to lift Jens, Nancy and Doreen and their other friends in the Neo-Nazi group up to the Lord. They need much prayer to be able to break free from their old lifestyle.

**A**sk the Lord to continually help us as we develop the program and curriculum for the Church Renewal School. We need His guidance and inspiration so this school can "scratch where it itches".

**Y**ou can help us pray for direction for our church in Dresden-Gorbitz. We are looking for a larger facility for Sunday services as we are outgrowing the old one. We need the Lord to guide and provide the necessary funds.

**E**arnestly pray for our church planters. Some of them are facing difficulties with health issues and need the Lord to touch and heal.

**R**emember to pray for the 6 church planting teams that have signed up for the next Church Planting School; that the Lord will prepare them and bless them. We also need to find coaches for each team.