



Keith and Debbie Gandy

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Dearest Partners,

At the beginning of this year we began a church dialogue concerning how do we expand as a church? More services? Bigger building? Daughter-church plants? Each requires a particular set of parameters, in order to make it happen. What is always required to plant churches is an alpha leader that steps up to carry the responsibility. That has been a particularly large challenge in Germany and Europe as a whole.

The beginning of November a family began a house study in their living room to reach people that we are presently not reaching. Their kick-off service was a bang and over 50 people showed up. In the meantime they meet regularly, host anywhere from 15 to 40 people in their renovated living room, which is specifically redesigned to handle 40 people. This has always been our desire to see Europeans branch out with a step of faith.

On the Sunday before Christmas we baptized - again. This year 18 adults followed the Lord in believer's baptism. It is what drives us as a church, people connecting with Christ for the first time in a way that impacts their life, their worldview, their relationships. When they tell their story to a video camera, we show it in the services and our church is always moved as they hear what impact a friend has had, how that a bible study in someone's home has made them consider their own heart, how that a church has given them hope that Jesus does answer their prayer for forgiveness.

Due to the need of churches needing to get better traction in the European context, along with a fellow missionary, we will host some 15-20 church planters in January. During this three day event, we are attempting to challenge them to a greater level, expose them to additional resources, and simply to pray for one another's most challenging restrictions. It is always intense, it allows us to look at ministry potential and further expand our skillset. Pray for the dates of Jan 25-27. We want Jesus to pour out a boldness and freshness on us for His honor and kingdom impact.

On a personal note, after a seven month battle with intestinal cancer, my kid sister, Karen Richardson, went to her Saviour and Lord on November 9th. As she requested, I participated in her funeral - which 1100 people attended. Her church, Placerita Baptist Church in Newhall, Ca., ministered to her needs, to her family, and to us as extended family. Eternity alone will know what that meant to us. Following the return to Germany, we find ourselves struggling from time to time with sorrow. We too are not exempt from hearts that hurt.

Your partnership means so much to our lives and ministry.

Grace for your ministry,

Keith and Debbie Gandy