

CHURCH PLANTING IN BERLIN

David & Patricia Ayres



In Verbindung  *⇒ Staying connected*

Trinity 8 - 2026

Happy “Belated” 250th We congratulate our friends in the USA, who have celebrated 250 years of independence. (I started this newsletter before the 4th of July! Oh, well!) On our side of the pond, on Ascension Sunday, Christ Church Berlin celebrated its 10-year anniversary! We had 17 join us for our Holy Communion service, which included a Thanksgiving Litany and time for testimonies to God's faithfulness over the years. After worship, everyone pitched in to set up the tables for a pot-luck lunch, and we enjoyed dishes from the various countries represented in our congregation. We toasted the occasion and gave away water bottles and other memorabilia marking this milestone in the life of our church. During lunch, we watched ten years of church photos on PowerPoint loop!

In addition, last month, Luca turned 30, and we (Patricia and David) celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary! Hard to believe I (David) have lived in Germany nearly a quarter of my life.

Kidnapped! Last month, Patricia was suddenly taken away with a bag over her head and interrogated by her kidnappers—all while I and a whole room of people watched the scenario unfold on camera. I should mention this was part of a security training segment conducted by Samaritan's Purse in Stuttgart. We were participating in DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) training. We are joining the Samaritan's Purse DART roster and will make ourselves available for world crisis deployments. Samaritan's Purse has built a solid reputation mediating crises in Jesus' name through professional humanitarian and medical relief efforts. The training week was quite impressive and certainly memorable!

Virginia. David attended the REC General Council in Richmond, in June. Such meetings are always a good time to see old friends and to make new ones. This council was encouraging as we had opportunity to see how the Lord is at work growing His kingdom through church planting both in the USA and around the world. The REC European church planting cohort met for a few hours of training the day before the council.

The following week, David spent a week with his sister's family in Roanoke—just a few hours from Richmond. Part of that week was devoted to taking care of estate issues following the death of David's dad in November. In addition, David finally cleaned out a filing cabinet containing seminary and college notes and even grade school projects. The hardest part was getting rid of nearly a lifetime of cards and letters. It seemed like self-inflicted dementia to throw away the only remaining remnants of old relationships with people long forgotten and now who will never be remembered again!

Opa and Oma all over again! David also took advantage of his time in the States to fly to Texas to visit Joe and Beka and 19-month-old Amelia, who greeted him wearing a “big sister” t-shirt! This was how she broke the news that a baby sister is scheduled to appear at the end of October! What a happy surprise for which we praise the Lord!

New interest. We have been encouraged in recent months by lots of new visitors to Christ Church—mostly men. We are reviving our weekly men's fellowship. We also have a couple of new families traveling significant distances to church each week, including a family with five sons! Please pray we might see this trend continue!

Liebe Grüße aus Berlin! **David & Patricia**



REC Board of Foreign Missions



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