

January 26, 2026

To the saints of the church in Irvine:

Joyce and I wanted to give an update and a word of sincere appreciation and gratitude to the church in Irvine for the support in the Body through your giving and your prayers. Our hearts are so full of thanksgiving to the Lord for the abundant love and care we have received through the church. We have no words to describe our love and appreciation for you all. Through your prayer and giving, you have become our fellow-workers in the grace of God.

It has been almost ten years since Joyce and I migrated to Düsseldorf, Germany, in June 2016, for the Lord's move in Europe. As you may recall we were burdened by the Lord to move to Germany to preach the gospel of the kingdom to the many Middle-eastern refugees flowing into Europe and Germany at that time. From 2016 until 2020, we were very burdened and active in gaining many from among those refugees. We thank the Lord for His blessing on that labor. Many were saved and baptized into the Kingdom of God through our gospel labor.

But the Lord had so much more concerning His move in Europe. Not only was it for the refugees, but even more to re-establish a strong testimony of the lord's recovery in the German-speaking world. The first migration to Europe was to Germany in 1971. But as many know, the turmoil in the late 1980's destroyed much of what was built up. In these last ten years, the Lord has been building up again what was lost and even going far beyond what was there before. Not only have we witnessed an increase in churches and in numbers, but we also have experienced a great increase in the experiences, enjoyment and expression of Christ in the constitution of the saints and church life. While we appreciate the increase in numbers, we are also very encouraged by the increased hunger for the truth, the ministry, the deeper dealings, the growth in life among the saints, and the functioning of the saints increasing more and more.

When the pandemic hit in early 2020, like everyone on the earth, we were forced to maintain our church life through Zoom meetings. But thank the Lord, after two years of lock-down, we were able to resume our in-person church life and even advance in our numbers and churches. When we first arrived, there were four churches in Germany: Düsseldorf, Berlin, Stuttgart and a small locality in Versmold. In Austria there was a church in Salzburg and in Switzerland there was a church in Bern. The total number of saints throughout the German-speaking world was roughly 325 active saints in the churches. Today in all the countries of the German-speaking world (Germany, Switzerland and Austria), our number is close to 1,100. In addition, the Lord has added nine local churches in the last ten years in the same countries. We also expect that more churches will be added in the coming months. Here is a list of the nine churches added since early 2016.

2016 May – Frankfurt, Germany  
2018 October – Munich, Germany  
2018 August– St. Gallen, Switzerland  
2019 September – Bielefeld, Germany  
2020 February – Hamburg, Germany  
2022 March – Bad Wildungen, Germany  
2022 September – Tübingen, Germany  
2022 November – Zürich, Switzerland  
2023 November – Leipzig, Germany

While we claim no credit from this advance as if it was something that we have done, we can only praise and thank the Lord for His blessing. We know we are nothing and are only weak and useless slaves, as it says in Luke 17, “We are unprofitable slaves; we have done what we ought to have done.” (v. 10). Many of the churches are still quite small and struggling, yet are standing firm for the Lord’s testimony of the oneness of the Body of Christ. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Again, how we praise the Lord for the church in Irvine, who has been our supply, support and backing for all these years. May the Lord remember you in that day for your faithfulness and service in the Body.

Yours in Christ,

Tom & Joyce Goetz