

Volume 61 | Issue 1

Message

A quarterly publication of ABWE

A New Reformation

Reaching postmodern Germany for Christ

IN THIS ISSUE: Breaking the Sex Slavery Cycle | 2012 ABWE Annual Report | Saving a Life

EDITORIAL



Which part of the world do you think presents the greatest challenges to missionaries? You might say Africa, where missionaries face third-world conditions and nationals ascribe to traditional tribal religions. Or you might think Asia, where security issues and religious persecution are everyday trials for our missionaries.

But what if I told you Western Europe presents what is arguably an even greater challenge? Skepticism, postmodernism and atheism now grip this once thriving, decidedly Christian region. Sadly, this part of the world is now considered post-Christian, as you'll read in our cover story on Germany.

ABWE missionary Michael Landoll knows firsthand the challenges of ministering in post-Christian Western Europe. A native German, he grew up with that same skeptical mindset, only accepting Christ after a missionary showed him the joy in following Jesus.

Michael has ministered in his native Germany for 27 years, seeking to show his fellow countrymen that life can have true meaning and purpose in Christ. By building a church facility, training center and summer camp in Kusel, Germany, Michael hopes to bring much-needed missionary and layworker support to a country that needs it so desperately.

As you pray for our missionaries around the world, remember those ministering in Western Europe. While we have long heard to pray for the 10/40 Window, we seldom hear to pray for the 40/70 Window, an area that includes Europe and has the potential to trigger sweeping missions movements. ■

Jenni Autry | *Message Editor*



CONTENTS

volume 61 | number 1

FEATURES

12 A New Reformation

How an ABWE missionary is reaching postmodern Germany for Christ

20 Breaking the Cycle

Helping women escape the sex slavery trade in Sonagacchi, India

24 Milestones and Miracles

The 2012 ABWE annual report offers a glimpse of God's work in the last year



IN EVERY ISSUE

02 Editorial

Spreading the gospel in a post-Christian world

04 Connections

Your guidebook to global missions

30 Visuals

Germany's role in a new reformation

32 Fieldnotes

An unexpected gift helps save a life

34 Focal Point

A new perspective on German spirituality

35 Spotlight

Celebrating 30 years of ministry in Hong Kong



ON THE WEB

www.abwe.org/messageonline

Subscribe to *Message Online* for expanded and interactive content



facebook.com/abweministries



twitter.com/ABWE_Intl

Executive Administrator: Al Cockrell
Director of Communications: Leah Pickard
Message Editor: Jenni Autry
Art Director: Lauren Miller
Staff Writer: Paul Luce

ABWE, P.O. Box 8585
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585
Phone: 717.774.7000 | Fax: 717.774.1919
Email: abwe@abwe.org
www.abwe.org

WHO IS ABWE?

ABWE (Association of Baptists for World Evangelism) was founded in 1927 as an independent Baptist mission. The objectives of ABWE are to establish indigenous Baptist churches and to train national pastors and leaders. About 1,000 missionaries serve with ABWE to advance God's work in 60 countries around the world to share the story of hope, build communities of faith and serve the world with love. CPC Agreement #1469436.

RIGHTS AND PERMISSIONS

We encourage churches or others supporting ABWE or its missionaries to use material from the *Message* to mobilize church members for missions. Permission is granted to copy material as published or excerpt material without photos for these non-commercial purposes as long as this publication is credited as the source. Suggested credit: "ABWE *Message*. Used with permission." We request copies of material republished pursuant to this permitted use. All other rights are reserved by ABWE and permission for other commercial or non-commercial use requires written permission from the editor (communications@abwe.org).

TO UNSUBSCRIBE, visit: www.abwe.org/news/message-subscribe

CONNECTIONS

Your guidebook to global missions



TOGO

A Matter of Life and Death

Rory and Kristy Moore, ABWE missionaries to Togo, encountered a series of unexpected events on a safari drive in Benin with their teenage sons, Davis and Austin. As the boys rode in the back of the safari truck, they reached out to touch the elephant grass growing along the road.

Suddenly, the thick grass sliced deeply into Davis' finger, cutting him badly. The safari guide took Davis to the nearest medical clinic, where a doctor stitched his finger and cleaned the wound while Davis held a flashlight to provide proper lighting. Little did Rory and Kristy know that cut finger would save their sons' lives.

The day after the accident, Rory and Kristy made the decision that no one would ride in the back of the truck. Their sons rode inside one truck, with Rory and Kristy leading the safari in another truck. When they noticed their sons' truck had fallen behind, Rory and Kristy turned back, only to find the truck lying on its roof in the mud.

Aside from minor scrapes and bruises, the boys were unharmed; but Rory and Kristy knew the situation could have ended very differently. Had Davis not cut his finger the day before, he and Austin would have been riding in the truck bed and could have been killed. Praise God for His mysterious ways and constant provision. ■

57

ABWE missionaries
serve in Togo

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

— Philippians 4:19

TOGO

Bernadette's Story

Four-year-old Bernadette came to ABWE's Karolyn Kempton Memorial Christian Hospital in Tsiko, Togo, last fall because of severe headaches. A CT scan showed she had a brain tumor. While doctors believed the tumor to be benign, it was putting pressure on all areas of her brain. She needed surgery to remove the tumor immediately, or she would die.

ABWE missionaries, including Dr. Kelly Faber, worked to arrange Bernadette's surgery, which could not be performed at the hospital in Tsiko. Plans were made for Kelly and Bernadette to fly to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where a shunt would be placed in her brain to help relieve pressure. Then Bernadette would fly to the U.S. for surgery. But Bernadette's condition worsened in the 48 hours leading up to the flight. By the time Kelly and Bernadette reached Ethiopia, a neurosurgeon decided it was too dangerous to place a shunt and fly her to the U.S. He decided to perform the surgery himself.

The next morning, Bernadette underwent a five-hour surgery to remove the tumor. After the surgery, Kelly rejoiced when Bernadette immediately began yelling, as removing tumors like hers can lead to a permanent loss of speaking ability.

Bernadette's parents, who were unable to travel to Ethiopia due to the expense, were able to Skype



© PHOTOS BY JUDY BOWEN

with their daughter after the surgery. One week later, Bernadette returned home to her parents in Togo, who rejoiced that God protected their daughter.

Bernadette is now back to being a healthy, happy little girl. Bernadette's story is one of many that show how ABWE's hospitals and missionaries are working around the world to provide excellent medical care to people who so desperately need it. ■



HONG KONG

Churches Celebrate 30 Years

The fellowship of ABWE churches in Hong Kong celebrated 30 years of ministry with a large joint worship service last fall. The fellowship began with four churches — Heritage, Evangel, Woo Lok and Kwai Hing — and has since grown to encompass 24 of the 32 ABWE churches in Hong Kong.

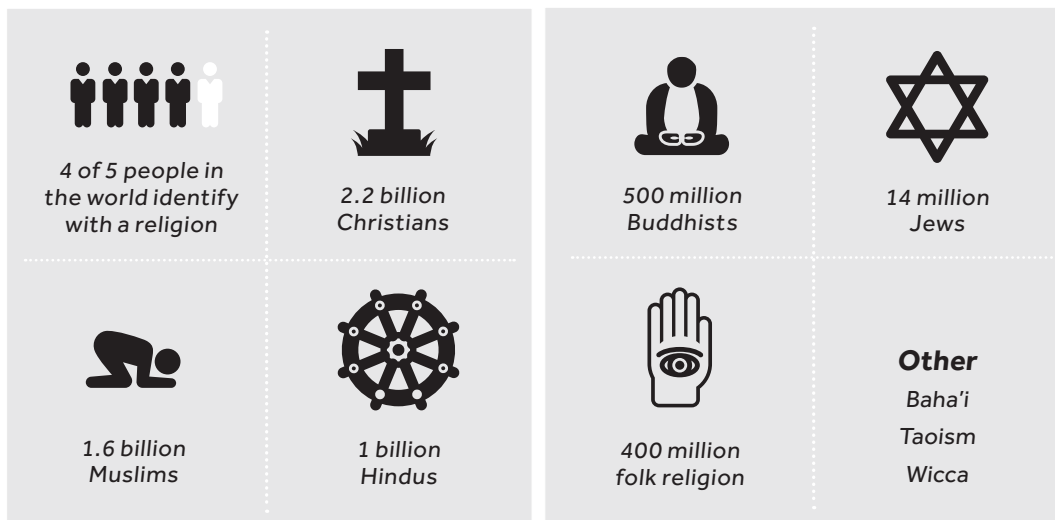
Bill Commons, a retired ABWE missionary and current chaplain at the ABWE Home Office, helped form the fellowship 30 years ago with Po Wan Yeung, then the pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Hong Kong. Both Bill and Po Wan, who now lives in Toronto, returned to Hong Kong for the 30th anniversary celebration, much to the delight of the fellowship members.

ABWE seeks to plant churches that will start church-multiplication movements. We then pass the torch of missions to these new churches, empowering them to multiply in their homeland and beyond. The fellowship of 24 churches in Hong Kong is a thriving example of ABWE's missions-movements philosophy at work. ■

[STATS]

Breaking Down the World's Religions

Four out of five of the world's 6.9 billion people identify with a religion, according to a recent study from the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.



16%
Unaffiliated with religion

About one in six people around the world — approximately 1.1 billion individuals — claim no religious affiliation. After Christians and Muslims, the religiously unaffiliated make up the third largest religious group in the world, equal in size to the global Catholic population. While many of those who claim no religious affiliation hold some religious or spiritual beliefs, they do not identify with any specific faith.

3/4 of the religiously unaffiliated live in the expansive, heavily populated Asia-Pacific region. In China alone, the number of religiously unaffiliated people exceeds 700 million, more than twice the total population of the United States.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life,
"The Global Religious Landscape," Dec. 2012.



THAILAND

Exploring a New World

Phil and Barb Klumpp, ABWE missionaries to the Philippines, visited Thailand during a break from their teaching duties at Bukidnon Seminary. They toured Bangkok and visited the tribes in northern Thailand, where they hope to encourage more of their seminary students to take their ministries. Pray for Phil and Barb as they train the next generation of Filipino pastors. ■

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’”

— Matthew 19:14



HAITI

A Merry Christmas for Orphans

Jim Cook, director of Next Generation Ministries at ABWE, spent Christmas in Haiti with his family and hundreds of Haitian orphans. The Cook family brought 14 tubs filled with gifts to orphanages in Port-au-Prince.

The orphans also received the children’s edition of *The Story of Hope*, a Bible-teaching tool that presents the gospel. Many of these orphans live without running water, electricity and bedding. But thanks to the generosity of ABWE donors, these children received presents for Christmas and the hope that comes through Jesus Christ. ■



SOUTH ASIA

A New Leg for Taj

A little boy named Taj* was flying a kite with a copper wire attached when the kite suddenly hit an electrical wire. High voltage electricity surged through his small body, and he was admitted to an ABWE hospital in South Asia in very serious condition.

He lost his left leg, but God spared his life. Taj spent many months in treatment and rehabilitation at the hospital, and during that time he came to know the Lord as his personal Savior. Taj's father and mother also came to know the Lord.

Today, Taj is 16 and a student at an ABWE Bible college in South Asia. He leads the children's program at his church and continues to serve God faithfully. As a Bible college student, he comes to the hospital to help the social workers, talking with patients and sharing the gospel with them.

Taj recently had an opportunity to share Christ with a young man who lost his right leg in a car accident. Taj could relate to this young man in a way that no one else could; God is using him in a unique and wonderful way. ■

* Name changed for security reasons



MOLDOVA

Donors Raise Funds for College

Thanks to ABWE donors' faithful support, the College of Theology and Education (CTE) in Moldova has become the most successful End of Year Appeal in the mission's history. More than \$94,000 was raised toward CTE's \$1.3 million expansion goal. As promised, every dollar given will be matched by an anonymous donor's \$500,000 gift. ■



BRAZIL

Missionaries Honored with Award

Retired ABWE missionaries Dick and Mavis Buck received the Christian Service Award at Corban University in honor of their many years of service in Brazil. Three family members and 10 friends attended the awards ceremony to celebrate this milestone. Thank you, Dick and Mavis, for dedicating your lives to reaching the people of Brazil. ■



INDIA

Seminary Expands in Hostile Area

Beacon Baptist Bible College & Seminary, an ABWE partner ministry in India, is building a new campus to accommodate growing enrollment. The seminary began when an Indian pastor and his wife purchased a home to house the school in a suburban neighborhood. The inside of the house served as dorms and classrooms, while the carport and yard became the auditorium, chapel and dining hall.

As the seminary grew, the pastor began renting other houses nearby. With a waiting list of students eager to study at the seminary, the school tried to buy land to build a new facility. But the Indian state where the seminary is located does not allow non-profits to own property. In addition, the government recently enacted anti-proselytizing laws that prevent students from passing out tracts and evangelizing.

After a long search, the seminary has purchased land in a nearby state with more lenient laws. Construction is now underway on a new facility that will accommodate the 76 current students, as well as those on the waiting list. Pray for the seminary as construction is completed and students continue to minister in India. ■

[STATS]

Mature Believers Show Faith, Trust in Spiritual Walk

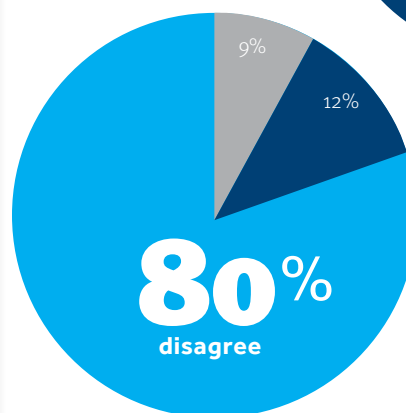
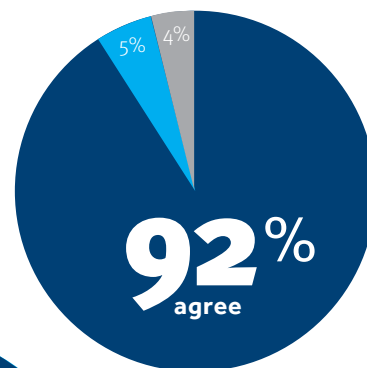
While most Christians believe God has a plan for everything that happens in their lives, it takes a mature believer to remain joyful as God's plan unfolds during difficult times.

A recent study from LifeWay Research showed 92 percent of American Protestant churchgoers believe God has a purpose for all events, regardless of whether the event is "good or bad." Eighty percent believe that God is involved when events occur that can't be explained.

The Transformation Discipleship project, a LifeWay Research study, examines the status of discipleship and spiritual growth in North America. The eight attributes of discipleship that must be evident in Christians' lives for them to grow spiritually were published in the Winter 2012 issue of *Message*. The attributes are Bible engagement, obeying God and denying self, serving God and others, sharing Christ, exercising faith, seeking God, building relationships and being unashamed.

I believe that God has a purpose for all events in my life, regardless of whether I perceive each event as being good or bad.

4% disagree
5% have no opinion



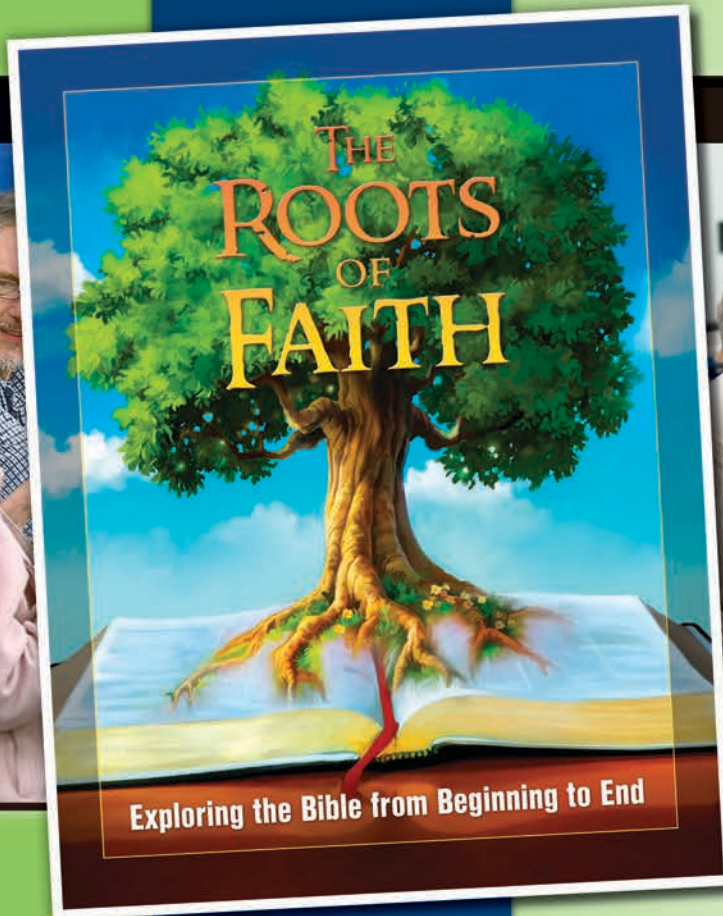
When things happen in my life I can't explain, I typically doubt that God is involved.

9% agree
12% have no opinion

Source: LifeWay Research, "Survey: Maturing Believers Exercise Faith," Dec. 2012.

The Roots of Faith

Exploring the Bible from Beginning to End



\$250/wk
registration

Classes Available:

The *Roots of Faith* consists of two courses: *The Roots of Faith – Old Testament* and *The Roots of Faith – New Testament*.

June 10-14, 2013 (OT) June 9-13, 2014 (OT)
June 17-21, 2013 (NT) June 16-20, 2014 (NT)

For more information and to register:

www.GoodSoil.com/roots

wayne@abwe.org

717.909.2397



These courses are taught in the training center of ABWE - The Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, near Harrisburg, PA (522 Lewisberry Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070).

100

Major Bible Events
unfolding the Bible's Big
Story, chronologically
from Genesis through
Revelation!

Introducing The Roots of Faith

ChronoBible Cards

Bonus Feature: 125 pocket-size cards for reviewing and mastering the major eras and events of the Old and New Testaments.



Interactive

abwe
INTERNATIONAL

Good Soil
Evangelism & Discipleship

MAKE *Hope* A PRIORITY

Nothing can be more important than sharing the story of hope. That's why, when you name ABWE in your will or living trust, you're taking a simple — yet life-altering — step toward serving the world with love.



GET STARTED

Contact Kevin Kurtz, Director of Planned Giving, at 800.921.2293 or Kevin.Kurtz@abwe.org for your FREE planning guide ***Make Your Final Wishes Come True***, where you'll learn how to help ABWE change lives with the gospel while ensuring your loved ones will be cared for.



In Canada, contact David Green, Planned Giving Representative
1.877.690.1009 | planned.giving@abwecanada.org

abwe | Planned
FOUNDATION Giving

A New Reformation

Reaching postmodern Germany for Christ



Michael and Li Landoll

By Paul Luce | Staff Writer

Nearly 500 years after Martin Luther initiated the Protestant Reformation, a new reformation is poised to begin in Germany. Challenging the atheistic beliefs that dominate Germany and much of Europe, ABWE missionary Michael Landoll and his team are redefining what it takes to spread the gospel in a post-Christian nation.

The need for the gospel in Germany is enormous. In the small town of Kusel in southwestern Germany, ABWE missionaries see these challenges firsthand. A survey conducted in Rhineland Palatinate, the state encapsulating Kusel, discovered 76 percent of the communities with populations between 5,000 and 20,000 do not have an evangelical church.

Due to religious abuses of power throughout history, many Germans are generally mistrusting when dealing with the traditional Christian church. As a result, church attendance is extraordinarily low, with only 1.5 percent of the country's 82 million people considering themselves to be evangelical believers.

Only 10 percent believe that personal faith is of any real value, while roughly 40 percent consider themselves pragmatic atheists. This skeptical outlook trickles down to Kusel. Traditionally a very poor area, residents cynical toward anything that does not pertain to their immediate physical needs or surroundings, Michael said. All the while, the church is widely perceived as irrelevant and marginalized, even to the point of open hostility.



© PHOTOS BY MIRIAM GRUN AND LORI DIMLICH



“There is not a very high meaning of life,” Michael said. “People think their purpose is to go on vacation or to have a nice house. They don’t believe in anything above. If you approach them to talk about God, they are absolutely indifferent.”

A Postmodern Culture

However, if mobilized for the gospel, Germany’s population could revolutionize world missions. Geographically located in the center of Europe, Germany has by far the largest population of its nine direct neighbors and its 11 indirect neighbors. A core member of the European Union, Germany produces one third of the EU’s economic output and plays a dominant role in world affairs.

Realizing the strategic importance of Germany in winning Europe for the gospel, ABWE partnered with Michael and Kusel Mission Ministries to establish and equip biblical churches that can demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to Germany.

However, Michael knows the philosophy of postmodernism — the denial of any absolute truth — is a

major obstacle in ministering to the German people.

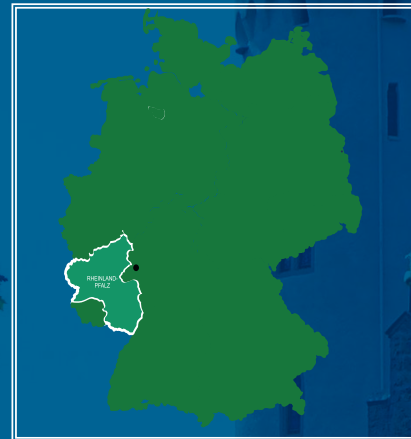
“For many, this means the simple idea of a universal truth, especially the truth of the gospel, is denied and usually not even considered,” Michael said. “Rather, a type of experience or personal conviction is elevated to the level of truth.”

Having ministered in Germany for the past 27 years, Michael attests to the sad truth that many postmodernists’ lives are “simply an emotional, moral mess.” Michael remembers counseling the grieving family of a dying architect, whose final wish was to spend the last day of his life gazing upon an expensive Mercedes sports car he purchased and never got the chance to drive.

“When you talk with them, you discover in their lives that they have a legitimate need, like love and acceptance,” Michael said. “But they are going about getting that



Kusel at a Glance



Name: Kusel

State: Rhineland-Palatinate

Population: About 5,000, 1.9 million in surrounding 70-mile radius

Location: Southwest Germany

Government: Mayor Ulrike Nagel, Social Democratic Party

Currency: Euro

legitimate need in a very illegitimate way, like using money, or a car. When you listen to these stories, you hear their longing for more, but they have no idea where to get it.”

Relational Ministry

Logic and reason are not the ideal ways in which to engage the German culture, Michael said, because the philosophy of postmodernism fundamentally attacks any form of absolute truth. Instead, the most direct route that a missionary can take with a postmodernist is to engage and embrace the individual.

However, this often presents even greater challenges for missionaries who become involved in the lives of this secular people group. As their lives can become very chaotic, many missionaries find it incredibly difficult to minister in Germany.

History

Once occupied by Celts and later Romans, Kusel came under Frankish rule after the Battle of Tolbiac in 496. During the Middle Ages, Kusel was the location of an important Roman Catholic estate. Ravaged three times by the Plague during the 1500s, Kusel was also burned down three times: first by the Croatian army during the 30 Years’ War in 1635, then by King Louis XIV’s army in 1677 during the Nine Years’ War and once again in 1794 by French revolutionaries during the French Revolution. Though it eventually developed into a town of craftsmen and trade workers, Kusel was bombed several times during World War II. An influx of industry in the late 1940s helped the town overcome post-war inflation and unemployment.

Source: University of Hohenheim, “Spirituality in Germany.”



“Emotionally, it’s a mess. Morally, it’s a mess,” Michael said. “You have to be very tolerant. You don’t have to accept everything that they do, but you have to be able to be close to sinners, and be able to communicate the love of God to them in a way that is culturally understandable. The problem is it is tough to live in that kind of environment.”

This can be especially difficult for young graduates of Bible colleges, eager to preach but still developing their ministry and relationship skills, Michael said. Additionally, missionaries unaccustomed to a ministry built on cultivating relationships often find themselves quickly burning out on the mission field and becoming disheartened.

Of the more than 65 missionary interns who have worked with Michael in Germany since 1996, 20 percent have stayed for an extended period of time, which he considers to be very positive considering the ministry challenges. The difficulty, Michael said, lies in building healthy, Christ-centered relationships with people who are often spiritually and morally unhealthy.

The 3C Project

Michael and his team recently launched a bold new vision to encourage churches and missionaries struggling against the postmodern mindset found in Germany. Called the 3C Project, Kusel Mission Ministries’ vision is to construct a specialized building that will house in-depth training for

the local church, a summer camp ministry and a missions training center.

Michael’s vision has already produced real fruit. He has seen his church in Kusel grow to host a congregation of about 130 people, ranging from young adults to seniors, that has outgrown its current location.

Additionally, with ABWE’s help, the church adopted struggling churches in Zweibruecken, Kaiserslautern and St. Wendel. The 3C training center will become a new home for Michael’s church, allowing it to continue growing and ministering unhindered by current space limitations.

In an effort to raise up a future generation of church planters, the training center will also be utilized as a summer camp ministry for young children from surrounding churches. Currently, Kusel Mission Ministries’ summer camp ministry can only host about 20 or 30 youth in an outdated building.

Perhaps the center’s greatest asset, however, will be the training component. Using the training center as a home base, an

“

You have to make sure you really live what you preach to them. Being authentic — not only in good things, but even confessing that you are a weak person and in need of Christ — is immensely important.”

intense program will oversee the placement of international interns and missionaries in local church plants to build relationships with the surrounding residents.

The center will also host frequent theological symposiums, in which a wide range of national and international speakers can encourage church leaders pastoring in this difficult postmodern environment. These symposiums will go hand-in-hand with the center’s church-planting seminars, used to inform, initiate and chart Michael’s vision for church planting in postmodern Europe.

The Three L’s

This focus on providing the proper training for those ministering in Germany will help missionaries with listening, learning and living — the three L’s Michael believes are necessary for reaching the people of Germany.

“Many people think the training center is a Bible college,” Michael said. “But potential missionaries here don’t lack knowledge, they lack experience. In most Bible colleges, we train people to talk. But the first thing you need to know how to do in a postmodern culture is to learn how to listen. We want to help our missionaries go through that process.”

By listening, missionaries can learn where they can most effectively share the gospel. Missionaries can also demonstrate the power of the gospel by developing

relationships with the unsaved and being a living example as to what it means to have eternal life in Christ. It is at that point, Michael explains, that people begin to realize God has been working in them all along.

“Sometimes, as missionaries, we think we need to go someplace and bring God to a people who don’t believe in God,” Michael said. “But God is already here. He is just working in ways we don’t always recognize.”

One-eighth of the funds needed to build the 3C training center have been raised, which allowed construction to begin last year. Ultimately, Michael knows God is already at work in the hearts of the lost in Germany.

“You have to make sure you really live what you preach to them,” Michael said. “Being authentic — not only in good things, but even confessing that you are a weak person and in need of Christ — is immensely important.” ■



For more information or to give to the 3C Project, visit abwe.org/give/project-details/3C





God's *fairytale*

Sale of property used by Stasi leader funds project

By Jenni Autry | *Message Editor*

Many generous donations have been given to fund ABWE missionary Michael Landoll's ministry in Germany, but the story behind a \$50,000 gift from the Wolletz family* belongs in the history books. It's an incredible tale about an average, middle-class family that inherited a piece of property in Wolletz, Germany, worth millions of dollars.

A 2,680-acre tract of land owned by the family's late uncle, the property contained a beautiful 80-room hunting lodge he built in the early 1930s. The uncle used the property to help 16 Jewish families escape Germany into the U.S. in the 1930s, before he was discovered by the Gestapo and fled to America in 1938.

The uncle never returned to Wolletz. When the Cold War began in 1953, the Stasi seized homes to serve as headquarters for its party leaders. The property in Wolletz

— located behind the Berlin Wall in East Germany — became home to notorious Stasi leader Erich Mielke.

An avid hunter, Mielke lived in the hunting lodge, while an estimated 60 other members of the Stasi lived in various other buildings on the property. He hosted elaborate hunting expeditions and social gatherings for high-ranking officials, included Socialist Party leader Erich Honecker and Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mielke lived in the hunting lodge in Wolletz until the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. After Germany reunited in October 1990, Mielke was arrested for the 1931 murders of

two German police captains, for which he was convicted and sentenced to six years in prison. He passed away on May 21, 2000.

News articles from 1989 chronicling the fall of the Communist Party refer to the hunting lodge in Wolletz, incorrectly stating that the Stasi built the home for Mielke. His Wikipedia page refers to “a large area of ground where he would hunt animals with other top East German and Soviet officials.”

After the Cold War officially ended in 1991, Germany began to return the seized land back to its rightful owners. The Wolletz family had known the property existed, but they had always assumed it would never be returned back to them, as it was located behind the Berlin Wall.

The Wolletz family’s shocking discovery that they would indeed regain ownership of the property began an arduous six-year legal battle, as Germany originally intended to return only a small parcel of land to the family. The family battled deceitful attorneys, vexing language barriers and scathing local news reports in their quest to recover all 2,680 acres.

In the spring of 1997, the Wolletz family sold the property for a sum well into the millions. As longtime supporters of missions, the family tithed 10 percent of the sales price to their church to establish the Wolletz Fund. “Whatever came, 10 percent was going to the Lord,” the family said. “We were committed to that.”

The fund has financially supported a variety of missions projects over the past 15 years, including missionaries serving in Germany. The Wolletz family always

hoped the money would be used to further missions work in Germany — the place where the story began.

After traveling on many trips to Germany to oversee the property and reclaim the land, the Wolletz family saw firsthand how desperately missionaries are needed in the country. “We saw so much in Germany that was dark and depressed when it came to religion,” the family said. “It opened our eyes to how much missionaries are really struggling.”

“We saw so much in Germany that was dark and depressed when it came to religion. It opened our eyes to how much missionaries are really struggling.”

When the Wolletz family heard Michael speak about the 3C project at their church, they knew right away that this was the type of opportunity they had always hoped to find. The \$50,000 donation to the project — which

was matched by a \$50,000 donation from the family’s church — became the largest amount ever donated from the Wolletz Fund.

The Wolletz family continues to live in the modest home they purchased 40 years ago. While sudden wealth has a way of altering people, the Wolletz family never changed. “People have asked us why we didn’t buy a bigger house,” the family said. “We’ve chosen to help missions and do a lot for our family. That has been more joyful than material things.”

With the financial help from the Wolletz family — who call their story “God’s fairytale” — construction has begun on the new church, summer camp and training center. The 3C project will help transform Kusel into a critical ministry epicenter in Europe — all thanks to a piece of property in Wolletz, Germany, with a storied history.

“We were the vessels God used,” the Wolletz family said. “We don’t understand why he used us. When you look at people’s lives, you wonder why things happen the way they did. We are just grateful we could be a part of it.” ■

** At their request, the names of the Wolletz family are not printed.*



Breaking the Cycle

Helping women
escape the sex
trade in India

By Paul Luce | Staff Writer

It's unknown how many prostitutes work the streets of Kolkata, India. Some estimates place the number at as many as 60,000 women trapped in the vicious cycle of the sex slave trade.

There are recurring narratives in the stories of these women. Whether they are rural girls lured with promises of jobs in the city, sold by parents desperate to feed the rest of the family or just cast aside by uncaring husbands, they find themselves trapped in a life they didn't choose with no way out.

But ABWE partner Kerry Hilton saw hope and a future for these women on the streets. If he could help these women learn valuable trade skills and push against cultural stigmas by offering them a job, then maybe they could be free from a life of sexual slavery.

“They didn’t have a choice to get into the trade, and they don’t have a choice to get out,” Kerry said. “We thought that a business opportunity might be a goal for these women.”

Thus, Kerry founded Freeset in 2001 to give these women a solution. This fair trade business trains women to sew jute bags and

apply silk-screen designs to organic cotton T-shirts so they can leave the sex trade.

Founding Freeset

Kerry moved his wife and four children from their home in New Zealand to work with the women in Sonagacchi, India, in Kolkata, more than a decade ago. Kerry signed an apartment lease during daylight hours, only to later discover he had inadvertently moved into India’s most infamous red light district.

Within a few square miles of his home, more than 10,000 women stand in line on the streets, selling their bodies to men. Instead of moving away from Sonagacchi’s red light district, Kerry and his family chose to stay to find a way to help women leave the sex trade.

The Hilton family began Freeset with 20 women who were brave enough to leave and trust a group of foreigners they barely knew. Slowly, the women learned how to sew the jute bags.

“The majority of these women we started with were older; some of them had young ones,” Kerry said. “They had never been to school and they didn’t even know how old they were. So, in terms of the skill base, it was pretty low.”

But Freeset ultimately has grown into a thriving, self-sustaining business that today employs more than 170 women who have left the sex trade. The women sew nearly 1,000 bags a day, in addition to screen-printing T-shirts, and are paid almost twice what similar jobs in the area offer.

A Vision for Kolkata

But Kerry’s vision — and the vision of the women he works with — goes beyond providing a safe working environment for women who leave the sex trade: “We want to see this community change from the inside out.”

Kerry knows the women of Freeset will prove to be the ultimate agents of change. As these women find hope for a better future, they pass that hope on to their children, breaking the cycle of hopelessness and despair.

Freeset’s vision of hope for future generations in Kolkata spurred Jim Cook, director of ABWE’s Care for the Children Ministries, to partner with Freeset. After taking a survey trip to Kolkata last year, Jim knew ABWE needed to become involved.





“A number of these women have children, and these children are rejected by society because their moms have been on the street,” Jim said. “These kids don’t have any hope. There is a cycle that is established of a mom trafficking her body, and the kids are watching it; that is all they know.”

“These kids don’t have any hope. There is a cycle that is established of a mom trafficking her body, and the kids are watching it; that is all they know.”

Hope for the Future

Though their vision is still in a strategic planning stage, Jim and Kerry hope to found a school dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing environment for children whose mothers have left the sex trade.

“The first step is helping these children receive a good education to stay off the street,” Jim said. “If they have an education, they stand a better chance of breaking the cycle — and that’s the key.”

For Jim, the importance of ministering to these children lies in demonstrating to them the love of God — first through action, then through words.

A Personal Challenge

When he returned from his survey trip to Kolkata last year, Jim reflected upon his experience and found himself shaken to the core. While he has traveled the world in his work with ABWE, no trip to date has impacted him so deeply as to see Kolkata’s sex trade firsthand.

“I thought, ‘Why aren’t I there now? Why aren’t I doing more?’” he said. “Here I am in my comfortable life, but Kerry is living in the Freeset factory with a kitchen and a bedroom. That’s all he has.”

In partnering with Freeset and developing a vision to help the women and children affected by Kolkata’s slave trade, Jim knows ABWE is living out the command found in James 1:27: “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” ■



What is fair trade? Freeset is a member of the U.S.-based Fair Trade Federation, as well as the global World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO). According to the WFTO, fair trade is an approach to business and development that seeks to create greater equality in the international trading system through dialogue, transparency and respect. Monitored by the WFTO through a rigorous assessment process, fair trade contributes to sustainable economic growth by securing the rights of marginalized producers and workers and offering them better trading conditions.

How are the bags made? The bags are made by the women of Freeset. The bags are made out of jute fabric, commonly called burlap or hessian. The fiber comes from the stem and outer layer of the jute plant. Jute is an easy-to-maintain crop that does not require much fertilizer or pesticides. Mostly grown in the Ganges delta area of India and Bangladesh, it takes roughly four to six months for jute to reach its harvesting height of 12 feet. The stems are tied together, soaked in water to soften and then stripped of their fiber. More than 50 different styles of bags are available in 20 jute colors. The women are also trained in screen printing and can custom print nearly any design on the bags.

How are the T-shirts made? The T-shirts are sewn by the women of Freeset with 100-percent Global Organic Textile Standard organic cotton fabric. The cotton is dyed using an environmentally friendly process that produces six colors to choose from: red, blue, black, pink, melange gray or white. The women can also custom print nearly any design on the shirts.



To order a bag or T-shirt, or for more information about becoming involved with Freeset, visit www.freesetglobal.com.

Milestones and Miracles

2012 ABWE Annual Report

An annual report is more than just numbers on a page. This report illustrates how we share the story of hope, build communities of faith and serve the world with love. In reviewing the annual report, we pray you will be blessed by the many milestones and miracles you helped us accomplish in 2012.

You'll notice three distinct sections in the 2012 ABWE Annual Report:



How we serve: If not for our wonderful supporting churches and individual partners, ABWE would not have been able to accomplish a fraction of what we did in the last year. This section provides information on how the mission is funded and who partnered with us to make possible the many milestones and miracles we saw in 2012.



Where we serve: ABWE is blessed to have more than 900 missionaries serving in 60 countries around the world working to make disciples among every people group on earth. This section of the annual report will show you where our missionaries are located, as well as how many new missionaries were appointed in 2012.

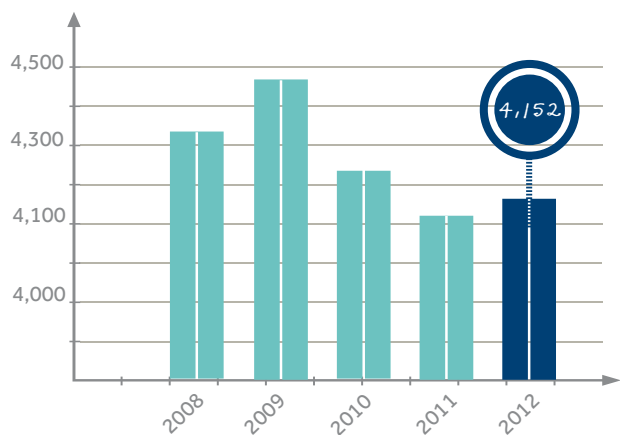


Who we serve: You'll learn about the ways ABWE ministered around the world in 2012 in this section, including how the mission was involved in various church ministries and leadership training programs. This section also contains information on our partnerships with other mission agencies around the world, as well as the auxiliary ministry opportunities those partnerships afford us.

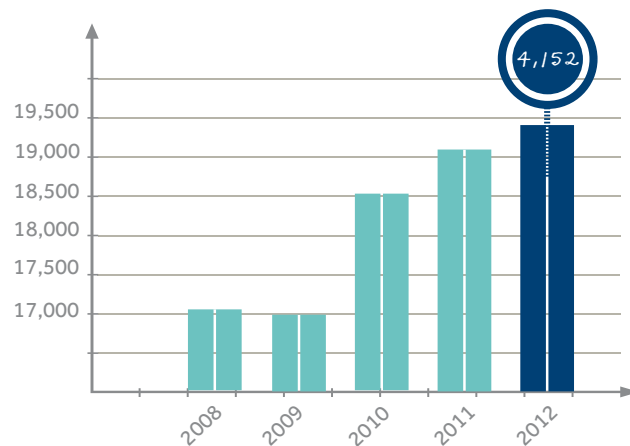
Share the story of hope. **Build** communities of faith. **Serve** the world with love.

How we serve

Monthly supporting churches



Total individual donors



Monthly support



57% churches

\$234/month*



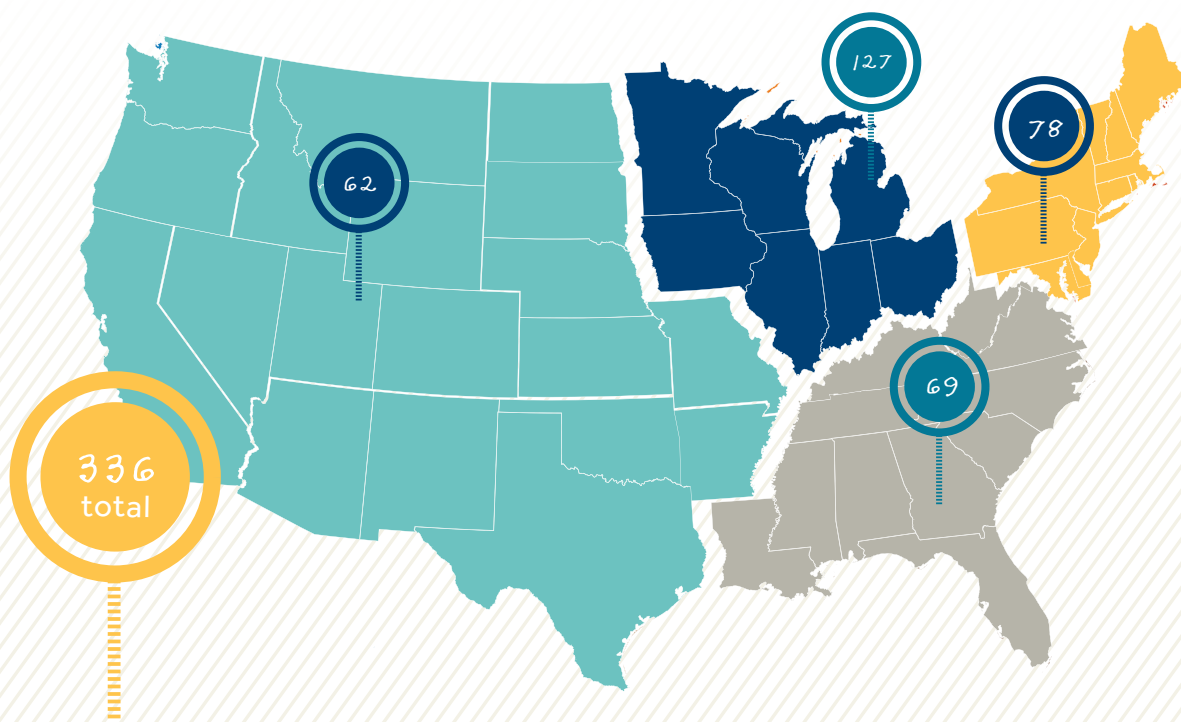
43% individuals

\$98/month*



* average gift

Sending churches



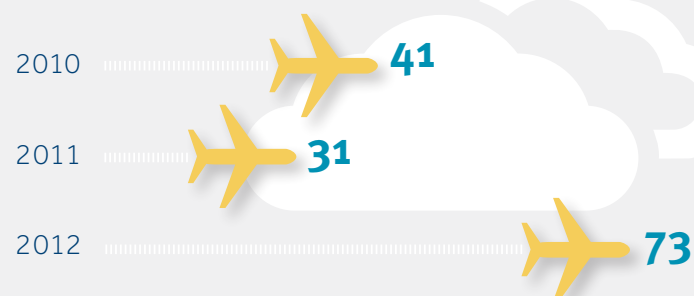
Where we serve



Regions where we serve*

- Africa
- North America
- Latin America
- Europe and the Middle East
- Asia

Missionary departures



* 52 missionaries serve with ABWE Canada in 13 different countries around the world

Getting to the field

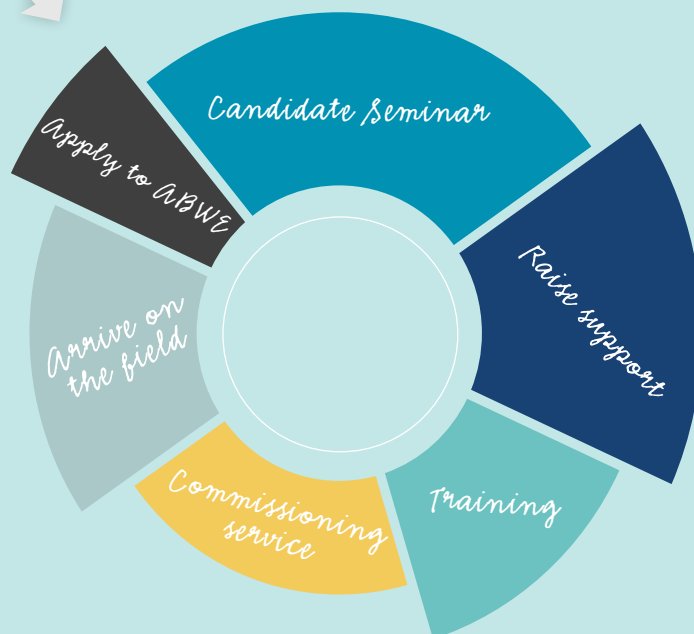
115

missionaries

PREFIELD

In recent years, the prefield process took an average of three years before missionaries would arrive on the field to begin their ministry.

Now the support-raising process takes 12 to 18 months, thanks to innovative training and increased support from individual donors.



Total missionaries serving in 2012



1,073

* includes prefield, career, GAP and AMP

GAP / INTERNATIONAL

missionaries who are serving in restricted-access countries or in cross-region ministries

CAREER

missionaries who are currently serving full-time in one of 60 countries around the world

112

missionaries

Short-term missions



AMP

for individuals who are post-college and beyond



IMPACT

for college students



EXPEDITION

for high school students and youth groups

724

missionaries

122

50

12

Trips in 2013

EAST ASIA

(Open to anyone 15 and older)

Focus: English camp, sports, discipleship, relationship-building

Dates: July 11-29, 2013

SOUTH AFRICA

(College-age students only)

Focus: Bible club, missions-focused mini classes, work projects

Dates: June 13-July 9, 2013

For more information

or to apply, contact:

impact@abwe.org | 717.909.2303

In Canada, contact: 519.690.1009 |

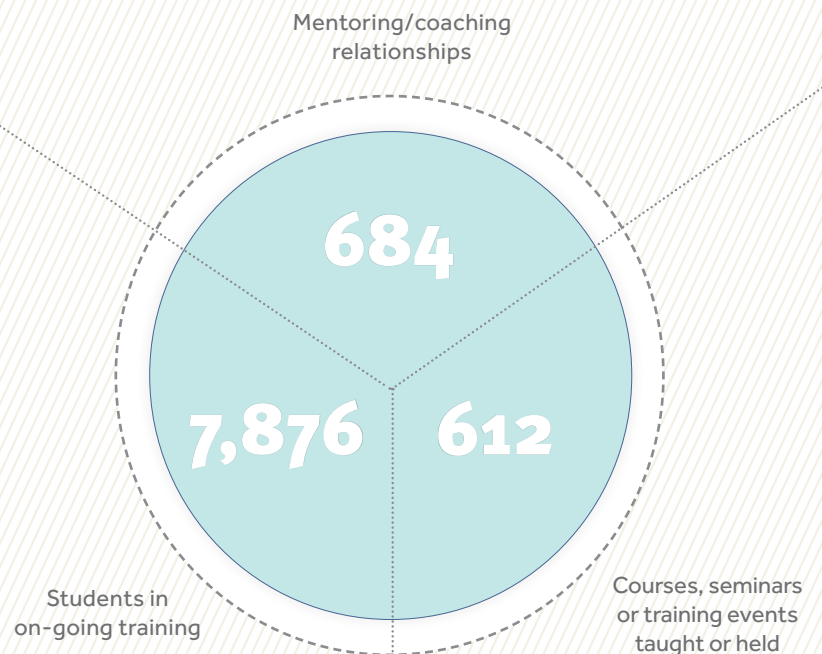
mobilization@abwecanada.org

Who we serve

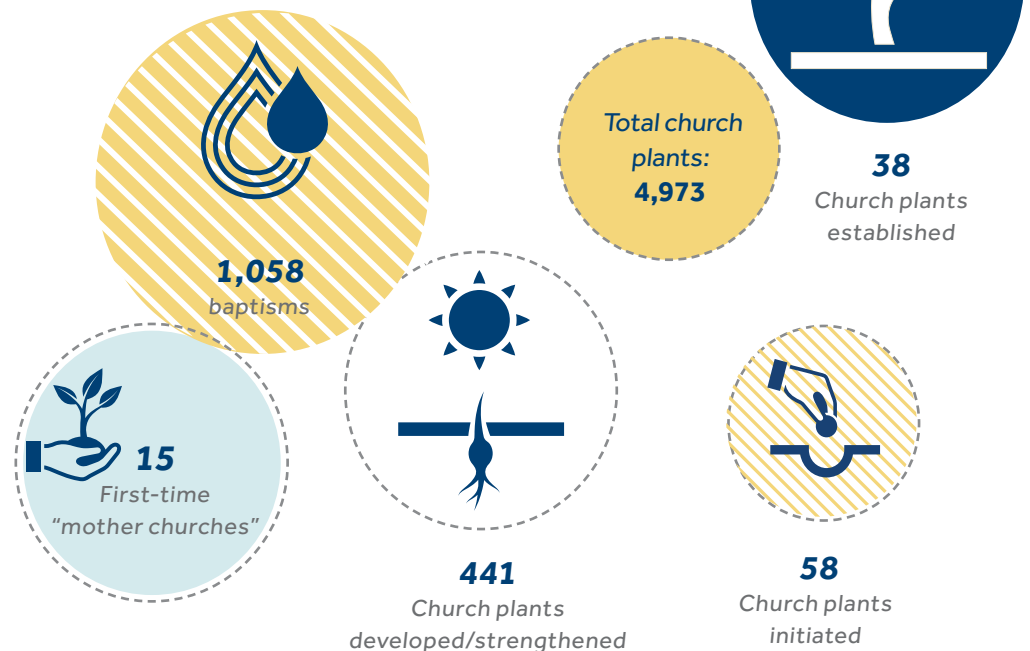
Partnerships



Ministry and leadership training programs



Church Ministries



Syria Relief

ABWE raised more than \$69,000 to purchase food and other critical supplies for Syrian refugees who fled the war-torn country.

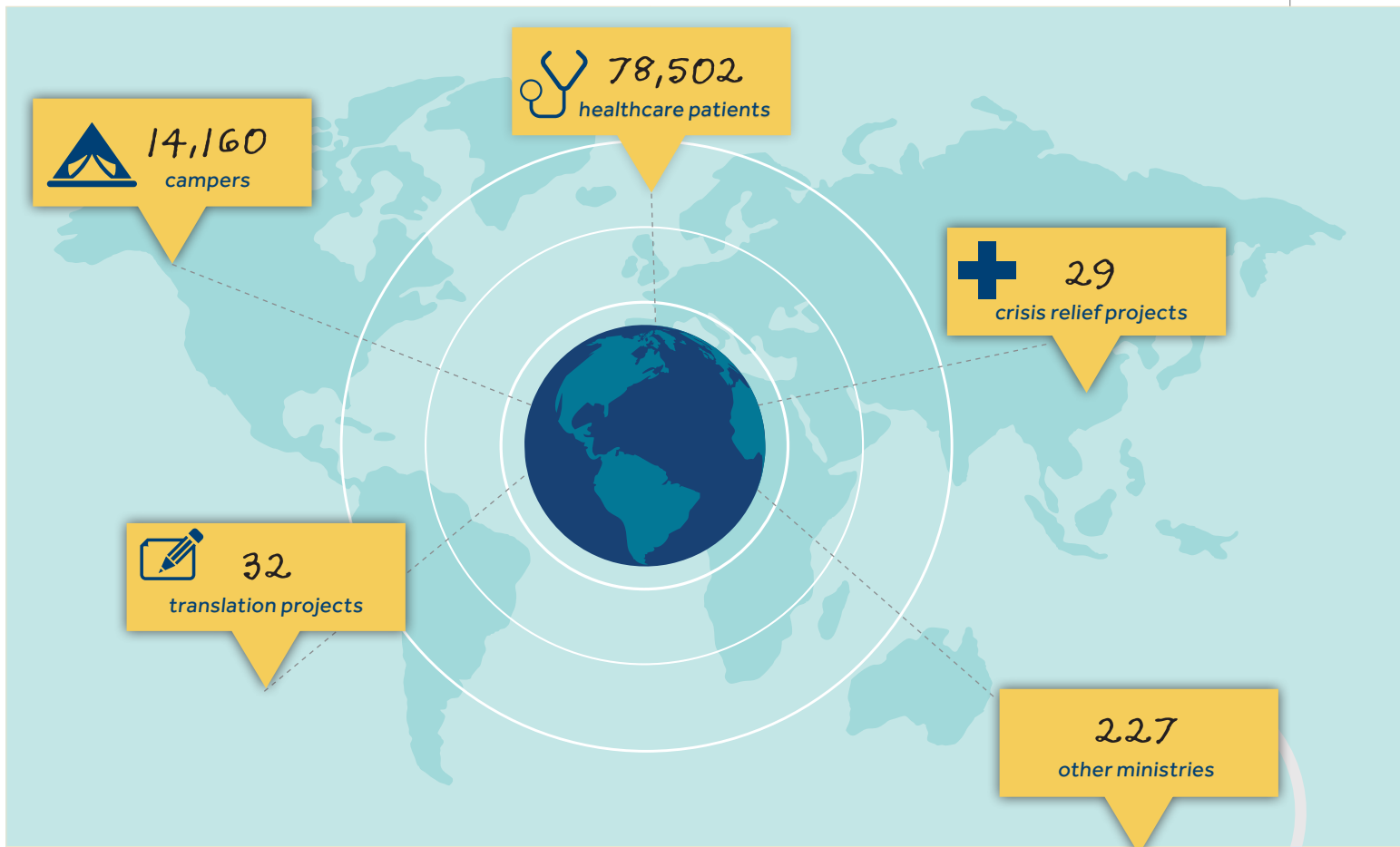
Thailand Flood

ABWE distributed food, water and funds to rebuild after a flood in Thailand displaced almost 9 million people.

Haiti

The ABWE Project Office mobilized volunteers to rebuild two churches and seven homes for Haitian pastors and their families.

Auxiliary ministries



Mobilization in 2012

People being encouraged to serve in missions with ABWE

392

People who visited the mission field

2,040

Missionary interns serving overseas

58

Interested in short-term trips post college?

Visit abwe.org/serve/short-term

Interested in career missions?

Visit abwe.org/career or email mobilization@abwe.org

In Canada, contact: 519.690.1009 | office@abwecanada.org

ESL schools

Community health training

Orphanages

Literature production

Libraries

Audio visuals

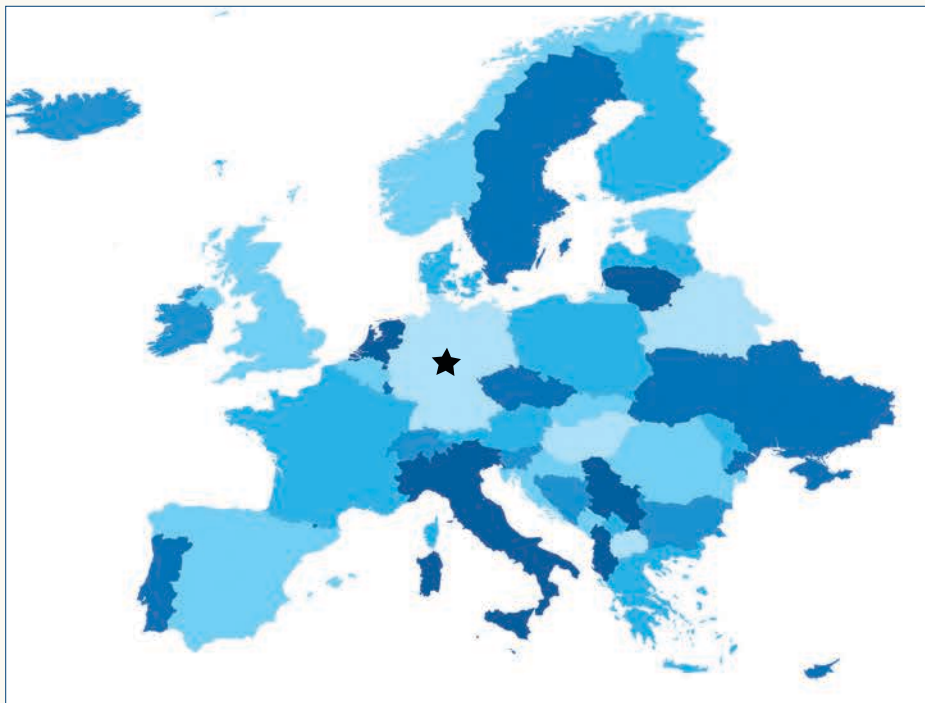
Farming

Sports clubs

VISUALS

Germany's role in a new reformation

What role could Germany play in a new reformation? As the largest country in Europe by population with a strategic placement in the European Union, Germany has the potential to start a revival movement that could reach Western Europe for Christ. Here's how we think Germany could play a vital part in spreading the gospel to Europe, and why we think it's critical to focus on bringing post-Christian Germany back to God.



Germany's position

82.2 million

Germany is the largest country in Europe, with a population of 82.2 million (excluding Russia).

1/3 output

Germany is the central power in Europe, as it produces one-third of the European Union's output and boasts a strong global economy.

20 neighboring countries

Germany is strategically placed in the European Union, with nine direct neighbors and 11 indirect neighbors.

Germany's Influence



Germany is a core member of the European Union and plays a dominant role in European affairs.



More than 60,000 foreign students are enrolled in German universities.



More than 3 million Muslims from 40 nations live in Germany.

Greater European Mission, www.gemissions.org; "Spirituality in Germany," University of Hohenheim/Germany; Operation World, by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk.

Spiritual breakdown

40%

pragmatic atheists

who believe men are a product of nature and their **lives have no higher meaning**

35%

religious creatives

who belong to traditional churches but **do not hold to** the teachings of **traditional Christianity**

15%

spiritual seekers

who will engage in religious dialogue and are **interested in new religious experiences**

10%

traditionalists

who believe in God and wish the secular society would be more **influenced by Christianity**

40/70 Window

Missionaries have long sought to evangelize the 10/40 Window, which includes portions of Africa and Asia. But the 40/70 Window, which includes Europe and the former Soviet Union, has the potential to trigger sweeping missions movements.

The 40/70 Window is the largest region outside the Arab Muslim block where missions work progresses most slowly. For example, proportionally fewer Christians live in Poland and Spain than in Nepal and Japan.

Breakthroughs in the Muslim world could begin through non-Arab Muslims in European countries like Turkey and Germany.



15% of Germans question the meaning of life

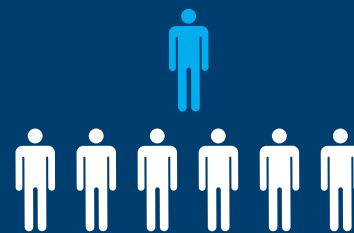


17% of Germans believe it is very important to engage in spiritual discussions



Less than 2% of Germans are evangelical Christians,

with **55%** of those Christians over the age of 50



1 in 7

Germans are spiritual seekers

Ask and it will be *Given*



By Sarah Damick | ABWE Missionary

You have not because you ask not, so I decided to ask and received way more than I ever expected.

Rainy season in The Gambia always brings sickness to the general population and to the missionaries alike. Usually what comes along are intestinal issues, so I wrote to my go-to person at church to ask her to put out the word for Kool-Aid packets and sugar so that I could make Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) for the clinic.

It would be nice to have a greater supply so we could be generous in our prescribing at the Ndungu Kebbe Health Center. I soon received the package of Kool-Aid packets, along with some candy, but there were also two very large bottles of a sports drink called Cytomax.

As I read the label, I was impressed because this was not just a Gatorade-type drink; it had more

vitamins, a carbohydrate system and herbs. What I did not realize was how important that mix would become to a little girl named Ida.

Ida's Story

"Sarah, would you please take a look at this little girl? I don't know what to do with her. She is very sick."

I was shocked at the almost lifeless little girl lying on the stretcher. Quickly, I ordered the blood work, but it came back normal. A nurse read her patient card to me, and I realized she had been to a different clinic almost every two weeks for the past four months.

I just stared at her and wondered how this happened. Her little body was wasted away, almost every bone visible. We diagnosed a yeast infection in her mouth and groin; she was so dehydrated that she hadn't urinated in over a day.

She had no tears — though she tried to cry — and we couldn't get an IV into her tiny arms. Her mother said she would not eat, drink or nurse, and she would vomit up whatever she tried to eat.

What to do? No fever and no outward sign of infection, just dehydration — but can't get an IV — and starvation, but she won't eat and has no appetite. She had no reserves to fight an infection; she was barely surviving.

I inserted a tube into her belly and a put in a little water and anti-vomiting medication. After 30 minutes, I tentatively put down a little more water, but this time with ORS mixed in. She didn't vomit, so every 10 minutes, I put in a little more.

Finding a solution

After a few hours, she started to stir and a faint cry could be heard — life! But with it came a temperature that spiked quickly to 103 degrees, and with a small amount of hydration came lungs that you could now hear were filled with pneumonia.

She still had no strength, not even enough to cough. She needed more hydration, more than I could give her in our working hours. I talked with the mother and she refused to allow me to send her to Essau Health Center, fearing that her daughter would surely die if sent there.

All day I worked with Ida, knowing that in order to send her home, she needed to be eating or at least drinking on her own. Still, by the end of the clinic day, she would not take anything by mouth. I asked and received permission from my teammates to allow her and her mother to spend the afternoon and evening at my house. The mother agreed as well.

At home, I still didn't know what to do, as Ida's temperature was still high despite Tylenol and being under a fan. I also knew the mother did not have much money, so I scrounged around to find as much free medicine as I could to give her. But I still hadn't found a way to make Ida eat or want to eat.

As I sat there praying for this little one and her mother, God brought to mind the gift that I had just recently received. The Cytomax would work just like the ORS, except that it had vitamins, minerals and carbohydrates in it.

I hoped that it would not only nourish Ida's body, but also stimulate her appetite. It was worth a try. So down the tube it went in increasing amounts to see how she would handle it.

A miracle

After a couple of hours, Ida had received almost a quarter of a liter of the Cytomax and held it down. She was also perking up a little more and her temperature had come down some. Hope was renewed in my own heart.

As Ida became more alert, I started wetting her lips a little with the drink to see if I could get her to lick at it. Ida was taking the Cytomax and was allowing me to give it to her by mouth more frequently. Hope was also renewed in her mother's heart.

I continued with the tube as well to try to get as much fluid in her as possible. As we waited, I made up dose packages of the Cytomax to send home with her, enough for a week. I also gave her mother vitamins to make her breast milk better for Ida.

By that evening, I had pulled the tube and Ida would sip from a cup. She had medicine for the infection, Cytomax for hydration and a nutritional supplement, and she would swallow by herself. She left with all she needed, assurance of help if she needed it and, most of all, hope.

A week later, Ida's mom brought her back to see me with a heart full of gratitude. But the gratitude doesn't belong just to me. It belongs to God for moving the heart of one man to send such a gift to help out the missionaries. ■



Sarah Damick is an ABWE medical missionary serving at the Ndungu Kebbe Health Center in The Gambia.

Take a second look

By Michael Landoll

“After Christendom” is a term nobody knew many years ago. Today, when we describe the culture and religion in Germany and Western Europe, this term best explains the situation.

First impressions of Germany are positive. This center of global export stands for economical power, a high work ethic, wealthy people, awesome landscape with castles and sauerkraut with bratwurst. It is a country with a rich Christian heritage, as the Reformation started in Germany and influenced the whole world.

At the same time, you spot the weakness and humiliation of the German people — two World Wars; the Holocaust; the devastation of a country that was, for the most part after 1945, absolutely ruined and emotionally traumatized. It took a miracle for Germany to get its feet back on the ground.

Today, Germany is a world player and influences many countries; but Germany has changed. It has a rich history, but a difficult legacy. The past is behind us, but it has shaped the national identity and the lifestyle of Germans today. Germany is now de-churched and at the edge of de-Christianization. The decline of Christianity is tremendous. For missionaries, this creates a new situation and a new challenge.

Missions work in a post-Christian environment is tough. You work mostly with small churches. You face small rewards, constant confusion and frustration. People will misunderstand and misrepresent you. The dropout rate of missionaries in Western Europe is high, and that's understandable — who wants to work in a place where you constantly feel like you are talking to a wall?

I was 17 when I heard the gospel. I grew up in a Roman Catholic family in Germany. A missionary invested his life in me, talked about Jesus and lived Jesus. It was not my head but my heart that told me: This is the right thing!

Jesus became real to me in the life of an American missionary family. This missionary was not very fluent in the German language and still lived a very American

lifestyle, but his effort to reach me with the love of God changed my life.

Post-Christian people appear very irreligious and indifferent about God, but in their heart there is this longing for meaning, peace and hope. Only Jesus Christ is able to meet those needs.

After I became a Christian, my family kicked me out. I was disowned and unable to see them for three years. I went to Bible college, graduated and married. In 1985, my wife and I started churches in the southwestern part of Germany.

Today, we are on the edge of the greatest adventures of our journey. We are building a training center that will help missionaries become better equipped for the post-Christian context. We want this to be a place where national and international church planters can be encouraged and a base that will facilitate local churches in their effort to reach people with the love of God.

We dream of building a school where Christians will not only learn the grammar of the culture, but also the language of the heart. We need your help to make this dream a reality. We need people to pray, to give and to go.

But many people are still holding onto their first impression of Germany — that the country is beautiful and there are church buildings on every corner. As a result, Germany is not high on the priority list when it comes to missions. It is time to take a second look and redefine our perception of this post-Christian land. ■



Michael Landoll is a German-born ABWE missionary and director of Kusel Mission Ministries. He pastors Freie Baptisten Gemeinde in Kusel.

SPOTLIGHT



© PO WAN YEUNG

Celebrating 30 years

The fellowship of ABWE churches in Hong Kong celebrated 30 years of ministry with a large joint worship service last fall. The fellowship began with four churches — Heritage, Evangel, Woo Lok and Kwai Hing — and has since grown to encompass 24 of the 32 ABWE churches in Hong Kong.



Po Wan Yeung served as the ABWE Director and Consultant of International Chinese Ministries and Administrator for East Asia before retiring to Toronto. Prior to that, he pastored churches in Hong Kong and Canada for 30 years.



PO Box 8585
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585

Change Service Requested

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARRISBURG PA
PERMIT NO.52

Are you **PASSIONATE** about **short-term missions?**

ABWE's Assistant Missionary Program (AMP) is designed to provide ministry opportunities for adults to serve alongside our career teams around the world from several weeks to up to two years. We provide targeted training for our short-termers through PreAMP, a seminar designed to help you navigate a foreign culture, new language and all other aspects of missionary ministry as you seek to serve on the mission field.

INTERESTED in learning more about
our adult short-term program?

Visit abwe.org/serve/short-term



Mark your calendars for PreAMP:

June 26-28, 2013 or Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2013
ABWE Home Office | New Cumberland, PA

For more information on PreAMP,
visit abwe.org/training/preamp

QUESTIONS

Contact Terry Large,
Director of Adult Short-Term Mobilization
717.909.2341 | terry@abwe.org

In Canada, contact 519.690.1009
mobilization@abwecanada.org

