

Dear praying friends and family,

Hello from the Klaus family. You may notice that this letter is a bit different. For the first time *I* am writing the prayer letter from a woman's perspective. It has been a wonderful few months here in Germany. Spring has finally arrived after a long and snowy winter. The flowers are blooming everywhere and everything looks fresh and new. I love spring, especially here in Bavaria. Germany is, in my opinion, the most beautiful place in the world.

The last few months have been very busy and the next few months promise to be just a busy. As you know, our church has been looking for a new building closer to Regensburg. We have been actively searching through the communities on our side of Regensburg. There is one possibility in Etterzhausen. This would be a wonderful building and a very good location for our current members and visitors, however, the building was renovated as a restaurant and we would only need the top floor. The landlord is hesitant to divide the building into two rental areas. Please pray for the Lord's will in this. We also have been looking in Sinzing, which is a little farther away from our current location and nearer to Regensburg. We found a building that used to be a small grocery store. It is about 400 m², has good parking, and is in a decent location. It would require a bit of renovation to divide the one large room into 3-4 useful rooms. We are praying about this location also. The searching would be made easier by the hiring of a realtor, but the cost for a realtor in Germany is prohibitive. We are praying that that will not be necessary.

In the past few months we have had many visitors. The short story is that a "Baptist Bund" church (German Baptist Union) has been moving more and more toward ecumenicism and a few families have decided that they did not want to go in that direction. They have left that church and are now actively searching for where God would have them. Some have been faithfully visiting our church and Keith had been meeting with them to discuss our statement of faith and constitution. A few families have showed interest in joining our church, and we are excited about what the Lord is doing in this area.

Recently in our church Bible studies Keith has been teaching on personal evangelism. We have many opportunities to practice what we have learned. A college choir from the States will be visiting Germany. They will be coming to our church on the 23rd of May. Keith has gotten permission to use a large hall in a restaurant in our little town. We will be passing out tracts and invitations, hanging posters, and personally inviting our friends and neighbors to this meeting. A Bavarian friend will be giving his testimony and Keith will preach a simple Gospel message. Germans tend to be very interested in American music and we pray that this will be a great opportunity to reach out to our town, unsaved

Keith Klaus
Ostpreussenstrasse 5
93164 Laaber
Germany
keith@klaustria.com
www.klaustria.com

sent by:
**Mountain View
Baptist Church**
5568 Chalkville
Mountain Road
Birmingham
AL 35235
(205) 854-2741

serving with:
**World Wide
New Testament
Baptist Missions**
P.O. Box 725
Kings Mountain
NC 28086
(704) 730-1440



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neighbors, and friends. We have another opportunity in the near future. A sister church in Landshut will be having an evangelistic outreach with the "Leben ist Mehr" bus. Basically, this is a bus that has been renovated into a coffee shop. Tracts and evangelistic material are then distributed throughout the pedestrian zone in Landshut. Included in the material is a coupon for a free coffee and a free book at the bus. When people come for free coffee, there is a great opportunity to discuss the gospel at some length with them. We are excited to be able to take our teens to work in this outreach. Keith will also be preaching in the service at the bus on Friday evening the 21st of May. Please pray for us as we reach out to the people of Landshut on this day.

As for the family, we are doing very well. We survived flu season and no one in our family got the swine flu. We are very glad that flu season is over and that the Lord protected us. We have all been very healthy. Bethany plays volleyball on a team with her school. Her team won 3rd place in the county volleyball tournament. She was very excited. In the interest of full disclosure I must mention that there were only 4 teams involved in the tournament. Nonetheless it was an accomplishment for Bethany. Kaleb recently got braces. Levi is growing like a weed. It is hard to believe my baby is 8 years old. (sniff sniff) I have been volunteering at the local high school teaching English. It is a chance for me to stay in contact with the school on a personal level and to meet new people in the community. I praise the Lord for this opportunity. Keith will be keeping very busy. Pastor Radank, pastor of Hohenfels Baptist church, will be taking a short furlough this summer, and Keith will be filling in for him. This means that he will be preaching twice in English each Sunday, in addition to our German service. I told him to get over it. It is only English, after all. Just kidding. Please pray for him as it is difficult to preach in two different languages in one day.

We are excited to be having Andrew Klaus, Keith's brother, as intern with us for two months starting May 12th. We are glad to have the help in this busy time. Please pray that we will be a blessing to him and that he will learn much about the ministry in his time here.

Keith has told me that I must stop talking. I do tend to be longwinded. If I want to be able to write to you again I had better say goodbye. I do appreciate your thoughts and prayers for us. We are praying for and thinking about you too. May the Lord bless and keep you as you continue to serve Him.

Your missionaries in Germany/Austria,

Julia Klaus

The Klaus Family

PS. For those interested, we are working on a new church website:
www.freibaptistengemeinde.de