

New Beginnings

"We choose to follow God. He sees the big picture. We believe beyond a doubt that God is good."

These are the heartfelt words of Richard and Hazel Funk, who recently worked alongside the leaders of the Salzburg Mennonite Church in Austria to close their doors after membership dwindled to a very small group. "As church planters, we felt like we were doing the exact opposite of what we were sent to do," explains Hazel. Yet, despite the sadness of this loss, the Funks are hopeful about the new life that is growing in the hearts of believers in this region. The witness for Jesus will continue as each remaining member finds fellowship in other evangelical churches.

On the very last Sunday the Salzburg members gathered together, the Lord encouraged the congregation with signs of spiritual life and growth in a man named Johannes. As a teenager, Johannes was in a major accident. For decades afterward, chronic pain lingered and he endured intense physical suffering. A true survivor, he even underwent successful open heart surgery. He began to get to know some of the people from the church, but he continually resisted making a commitment to follow Jesus. Recently, at age 54, he decided to say 'yes' to God's invitation to abundant life. At the final Salzburg service, Johannes was baptized!

In the midst of the disheartening decision to close the church, Richard and Hazel wept tears of joy as they experienced God's goodness in Johannes' life. Please pray that God will strengthen Johannes' faith and bless him with a community of solid, supportive believers.

Pray for Richard and Hazel as they share in North American churches from April to June. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom as they communicate His love, and pray that their hearers will receive the message openly. In July 2011, the Funks will return to Europe to begin a new term in mission. Pray for guidance as they discern where to live and how to move forward in service to God's church.

For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6

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STORIES

OF PRAYER www.mbmission.org/prayerstories

Training Leaders

The team at the Matthew Centre is excited about our first, five-month HADIME internship program for Latinos and North Americans! God is stirring hearts and calling young adults across the Americas to transform lives through the power of the Gospel. We are committed to training, discipling and guiding the interns to discover and use the gifts God has given them.



Watch our video for more about Alfonso and his family: www.mbsivideo.com/shineon/videos/gods-peace

One of our interns, Alfonso, is from Guadalajara. His mother, Eudes, has struggled to make ends meet as a single mother of two. As the only male in the family, Alfonso feels responsible to provide financially for his family. And yet he strongly senses God calling him into ministry. Alfonso is taking a big risk of obedience to that call by joining the internship program. Serving in mission means a step in the opposite direction of 'financial security' as the world sees it. Thankfully, Eudes is very supportive of her son's desire to serve the Lord.

Praise God for Alfonso's faithful response to God's call to ministry. Pray for Alfonso and the other six interns (three Canadian, three Mexican) as they learn about church-planting in Oaxaca and make connections in various indigenous villages. It is never easy to learn a new language or adapt to different cultural customs, especially when limited to bathing in the river once a week!

Pray also for Sandra Plett and the team as God uses them to mentor and encourage these young people on their journey of faith. Our goal is to see hundreds of trained and fruitful workers serving among the nations, making disciples for God's kingdom.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight." 1 Cor. 3:19

April 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Edd & Ingrid Russell Thailand	2 Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters Thailand
3 Otto & Lidia Funk Peru	4 M & R Restricted	5 Member Care Volunteers Worldwide	6 B Restricted	7 S Restricted	8 Discipleship Making International Worldwide	9 S & N Restricted
10 S & L Restricted	11 Sandra Fender Thailand	12 Cynthia Friesen Thailand	13 TREK Worldwide	14 Rob & Judy Griffioen Thailand	15 Christoph & Antonia Haegele Lithuania	16 Motoshiro & Mariya Hamana Thailand
17 J & F Restricted	18 C & F Restricted	19 PK & C Restricted	20 Stacy Kuhns Restricted	21 Jim & Marilou Nightingale Brazil	22 Baudouin & Marie-Brigette Nsulunka South Africa	23 S & B Restricted
24 Sandra Plett Mexico	25 Andy & Carmen Owen Thailand	26 S Restricted	27 K & W Restricted	28 Blaine & Michelle Warner Burkina Faso	29 John & Evelyn Wiens Ukraine	30 James & Alyssa Wiest Mexico