

Tilling Hard Ground

Driving through the countryside of Bavaria in Germany, beautiful cathedrals accent the landscape. Solid stone foundations support archways rivaling those of the Sistine Chapel. Golden statues are flanked by solid oak pews and magnificent pipe-organs.

Despite the charm of the region, spiritual darkness looms. Our team has lived and served here for three months, and I have yet to meet anyone who has not been touched by the tragedy of suicide. Incidences of mental illness are skyrocketing. Divorce conquers the majority of families. Many youth struggle with promiscuity and substance abuse. Depression is rampant.

The church where our TREK team is serving is led by Pastor Andreas, an inspiring and passionate believer. He prays that his church family will cast light in the Burghausen community. 1500 people petitioned against the construction of this church, but with God's grace, Andreas and the Mayor now work together. Members of this church have been ostracized for their involvement, yet they continue to be involved.

Evangelical churches are closing across Germany – as many as one per week. It is challenging to live as a believer here. Many churches struggle to grow. Andreas' church has seen 30 people come to Christ in 8 years. Local people do not respond kindly to outreach efforts.

So what are we four men with a passion for Christ supposed to do in a land with soil that tills like pavement? We treasure opportunities to share our faith with youth at local schools. We sing at hospitals. Most of all, we pray and fast for the friends we've made and for spiritual healing. Please pray that Jesus' Name and the reputation of this church will be restored in Bavaria.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19

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STORIES

OF PRAYER www.mbmission.org/prayerstories

Young Men Will See Visions

Aadesh* grew up in North India near the birthplace of Buddha. Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists dominate the region, so he had little contact with Christians. Still, there were those who appeared randomly in his life and gave testimony to the love and power of Jesus. Aadesh resisted the call of God, ignoring the invitations to follow Christ. He faced many discouraging trials and difficulties, but he was unwilling to submit to the God he heard about.

It wasn't until a trip to South India that he met a pastor of a Christian church who invited him along to a worship service. Aadesh began to understand the presence of Jesus in his life and to pray for guidance.

One night, as he lay awake in his bed, Aadesh asked Jesus to forgive him of his sins and to grant him peace. It was then that God gave him a vision of a field, and asked him to go and learn to work for him. Soon afterward, Aadesh met two faculty members of the MB Bible College just outside of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. With their help, he was baptized! He began to receive biblical training at the Bible College.

Four years later, Aadesh is confident of God's call upon his life and is ready to serve. He has graduated with a Bachelor of Theology and is moving back to his home village near the border of Nepal. He will rejoin his Hindu family and begin to explain to them what it means to follow Jesus.

Returning home will be challenging, since there are few believers and little support for struggling churches. Yet, he knows that God will use what he has learned to transform lives. He waits expectantly for God to open doors and dreams of seeing a church planted. Pray with Aadesh for the salvation of his family and entire village!

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1



MB Bible College, Hyderabad

* Name has been changed

July 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Russ & Marjorie Speiser Europe	2 Ricky & Karen Sanchez Thailand
3 Reg & Faa Wall Thailand	4 Bob & Chris Davis Thailand	5 Melvin & Gudrun Warkentin Paraguay	6 Alfredo & Sandra Beltran Mexico	7 Jennifer Schmidt Mexico	8 Phil & Carol Bergen Burkina Faso	9 Barbara Block India
10 Trever & Joan Godard Mexico	11 Krista DeBoer Burkina Faso	12 Wendy Eros Japan	13 Jon & Bonnie Esau Thailand	14 Lowell & Melissa Ens Peru	15 Doris Goertz Japan	16 Ben & Melissa Froese Germany
17 Richard & Hazel Funk Austria	18 T & R Restricted	19 R & M Restricted	20 M & A Restricted	21 Einer & Girlesa Zuluaga Panama	22 Gary & Ellen Loewen Germany	23 Greg & Becky Ouellette Thailand
24 Liana Penner Peru	25 Jose & Esperanza Prada Peru	26 MB Mission Lead Team Abbotsford	27 J & M Restricted	28 D & M Restricted	29 Robert & Ann Thiessen Mexico	30 D & S Restricted
31 Andrew & Olga Pritzkau Germany						