

Missions newsletter – June 2019

“Not . . . that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy”
(II Corinthians 1:24).

“Helpers of joy”—this is an opportunity without limitations! No one is excluded because of age, financial ability, talent, or education. We all can and should assist someone within our circle of influence to recognize and experience more reasons for joy.

During the past month, we have endeavored to do just that, and likewise our own joy has increased to overflowing through the love and response of the churches and people in the wonderful district of Tennessee.

During our first service in the state, a young man received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We rejoice with Pastor and Sister Bragg and the church in Lyles!



In every service, people opened their hearts to the Word and Spirit of the Lord, and Jesus answered with power, encouragement, and direction. Among the places we have been honored to minister:

Trenton



Ridgely



Beacon UPC
Darden/Parsons



Humboldt



Rushing Grove/
Decaturville





Although we did not have the opportunity to attend the General Conference of the German-speaking nations, we celebrated long-distance with those who graduated from Purpose Institute at that event. Three of the students—Pastor Alexander Denk, Sister Voahary Overkott, and Brother Christoph Overkott—attended classes at the campus in Paderborn, where we serve as administrator and teachers.



We thank those who minister in the Berlin and Potsdam churches in our absence. The Barak Townsleys (foreground), Sister Amber Hackenbruch, and Sister Sarah Draper (left to right behind Sister Townsley) have given time and resources to maintain those works.



We enjoyed our journey in small (teapots) and large (Reelfoot Lake State Park) ways, but the people with whom we have connected are the most special treasures.

In Arkansas, we ran into the Hendersons, who taught with us in ministry courses on our first missions trip to Germany.



In Tennessee, we met a waitress in Adamsville from the Bavarian region of Germany—and got to practice our German. And lunch with our longtime friends from Oklahoma, Brother and Sister Ellingsworth, was a particular treat!



With Jesus, the next step forward always holds something great. He allowed us to end the marvelous month with a great service in Martin. (A shout-out here to Sister Sledge's family and all the other Martins!) Sister Rachel, who received the Holy Spirit previously, felt her need to be baptized in Jesus' name that night, and the Lord renewed her Spirit experience as well. (The young man in the background, Brother Jacob, won her to the Lord from their college campus.)



Let's go forward in God—in commitment, spiritual maturity, and revival. Then there is nothing ahead but victory!

For the purpose of glorifying Jesus,

Carl and Bethany Sledge

Associate Missionaries, UPCI



Going with the Gospel to Berlin and Northern Germany