

# Germany

Missionary Seth Richards

January 2021

How can I, except some man should guide me? Acts 8:31

Dear Pastor and church,

## COVID-19 Restrictions

We have gone into a full lockdown, which means there is a curfew set for 9p.m. and you are not allowed to be outside of your home after this time, unless you have special permission (such as work, medical reasons, etc.). You are also only allowed to meet with one person outside of your immediate family (the people who live in the same household) at one time. So, if a family wanted to have grandma and grandpa over, this would not be allowed (only one grandparent at a time would be allowed to visit). Only grocery stores, gas stations, and pharmacies are open. You can get take-out from drive throughs or pick-up orders, but no restaurants are allowed to let you dine in. Beyond that, everything else is closed, so no barbershops, hair salons, electronic stores (like Best Buy), furniture stores, hardware stores, etc. If the city you live in goes over a certain number of new COVID cases, then you are only allowed to travel 9 (yes, this is not a typo - only nine) miles away from your home unless you have special permission, and if you are caught outside this 9-mile radius you must pay a very high COVID violation fine. So far, praise the Lord, we are allowed to assemble at church under restrictions, such are: no singing, wear a mask and a minimum safe distance.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This is one of the highlights of our church. All members were able to attend. Praise the Lord! As we do every year, we invited many visitors; however, unfortunately none of the visitors attended, so the main focus of the message was to challenge the saved. Normally we see many visitors during our Christmas Eve Candlelight service as this is a traditional time in Germany to attend a church service. Given COVID, many unsaved people are afraid to attend services in person. Please pray that we can follow up on the promises and see them attend at some later time.



## Soulwinning and Outreach Events

I have had the opportunity to meet my neighbor, who lives in an apartment below me, on a more personal

Note, since I was able to lend him some sports equipment for home workouts due to the current covid situation. His name is Harrald, or we would say Hary, I call him dirty Hary and gets a kick out of that. Please pray that I will have the opportunity to share the gospel with him soon and that I will have that opportunity to invite him to one of our services.

Please also be in prayer for a man named Herman. Herman is a German who moved to Lithuania because he married a Lithuanian woman. Although his wife passed away last summer, he still lives in Lithuania. Missionary Brian Johnson to Lithuania, gave me the contact information for Herman and asked me to get in contact with him. Fortunately, I have been able to get to know Herman on a more personal basis as he is very happy to be able to speak German with me as he does not really speak Lithuanian or English. The next time I am able to preach at the church in Utena for Brian Johnson, Herman has promised to come to the church as I will then preach in German and English. The English part will be translated into Lithuanian, but Herman will be able to understand the German message. I am greatly looking forward to meeting Herman in person and to see him attend the Baptist Church there in Utena. One of our outreach events last month was Waffle Sunday which was held on the Sunday evening before the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. We enjoyed waffles and a traditional German Christmas drink which is called 'Glühpunsch.' Germans traditionally drink 'Glühwein' during this time, but since this is an alcohol drink we of course only drink the children version, which does not have alcohol and is called 'Glühpunsch.' We had a great time of fellowship during this time.

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Because of Christ,

Seth Richards

November

December

### Sending Church

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El Paso, TX 79904  
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Pastor Joe Dickinson