



Newsletter

Date: December 12, 2007

Dear Friends,

we send you warm greetings and God's blessing from Berlin.

Once again we want to share news with you from city mission work all over the world. For example, recently two conferences of city missions were held: one in Cesky Tesin, Czech Republic, for the Eastern part of central Europe; the other in Genting Heights, Malaysia, bringing together people from Southeast Asia and Australia. For more information on those conferences turn to page 2 of this newsletter.

We also have a moving report to make about the blessings that come with city missions networking across the globe: Albert Hahl, a 70-year-old German citizen that had been working for the Port Moresby City Mission in Papua New Guinea for the last 15 years, felt his health fading and had the strong wish to go home to Bavaria, Germany. Larry George in Port Moresby took up contact with the Berlin City Mission and asked for help. Albert Hahl then flew 20.000 km to Berlin. He arrived at the airport with another plane than scheduled and thus no one was there to meet him. He looked for help and the airport police brought him directly to the mission center. There Berlin City Mission staff got him the necessary papers and enabled him to get a place in a suitable senior citizens' home in Bavaria.



Rev. Hans-Georg Filker during an evangelistic service in the Central Railway Station in Berlin.

This and other big happenings show what mission is all about. They encourage us because they make us realize the importance of being connected with one another to work for the Kingdom of Lord Jesus Christ: bringing people home, physically and spiritually.

Wishing you God's richest blessings as we move toward the Advent and Christmas Season

Hans-Georg Filker

News

The Americas

- The **Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM)**, North America, has a new "smart" format for its online newsletter. You can browse through it here: <http://www.agrm.org/streetsmart/>.
- The Board of CMWA is looking for missions which have contacts to missions in **Latin America**. If you have contacts or know of missions in this area of the world, please give us a short note.

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News (continued)

Africa

- An **Association of African Urban Missions** (AAUM) is on the way of being formed under the leadership of our Board Member **Dr. MacMillan Kiiru**. The association is presently working on a constitution and is planning an **African conference** in **South Africa (Durban)** in **May 2008**. To get in touch with Dr. Kiiru mail him at: mackiiru@yahoo.com.

Asia

- The **Asia Pacific Conference** took place in Malaysia from **October 5-7, 2007**. There were 92 delegates present from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the USA. The CMWA Chairman Hans-Georg Filker participated and shares the following: The staff of **Mission International**, an international and local department of **Mission Australia** had done a wonderful job of organizing the conference. A lot of remarkable presentations were held and one key note was, "Let the people speak for themselves. Those that have the problem have to speak." Very touching Biblical reflections were held by **C. B. Samuel from India**. To quote, "**We are sent out** – not to organize – but **to spread the love of Jesus Christ**. We should love people, not our programs. You never retire from love." And here is a real challenge for CEO's, who can ask themselves this question: "When did I last talk to the poor?" Another wise word to all that carry responsibility in city missions world-wide: "Don't wait for a heart attack to take a break and be aware of the Biblical orientation in your Christian organization. The fruit defines the tree."

Europe

- A **partial conference** for city missions in the **eastern part of Central Europe** took place in September in **Cesky Tesin, Czech Republic**, hosted by the local mission. The idea was to get more city missions from the regional area into the boat of the **European Association of Urban Missions (EAUM)**. About 35 participants attended from Slovakia, Poland and of course, the Czech Republic. The Board of the EAUM also participated.
- The **City Mission in Tampere, Finland** turned **100 years** old in September. There was a big celebration, but also a seminar in the university about the different aspects of poverty with contributions from the new CEO of the **Stockholm City Mission** (Sweden), the Chairman of the CMWA, and from two Finnish professors who are experts on the subject. The next **Scandinavian Conference** will take place in the year **2009** in Tampere.
- The last magazine of **London City Mission** raises the **question of the environment** and how city missions should respond to the "green questions" of preserving God's Creation and using our resources wisely. You can order the newsletter here: <http://www.lcm.org.uk/> – go to the lower right hand corner.
- In November, the **U.S. Ambassador to Germany** celebrated **Thanksgiving** for the third year in a row with the needy and homeless at **Berlin City Mission**. He and his family dished out delicious Turkey and dressings and spoke with our guests from the street. On another note, Berlin City Mission once again has the fine opportunity to celebrate a **Christmas Eve** service within **Berlin's Central Railway Station**. Not only will the trains be rolling in, but we also pray that the Holy Spirit comes to every visitor there celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with us.

Please note the date of the next **European conference of the EAUM**. It will take place in Zurich, Switzerland, from **September 19-22, 2008**.

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News (continued)

Israel

- The first city mission in Israel was founded in **Tel Aviv** and is called "**Ohel Avraham**" (translated it means "Tent of Abraham"). The mission is working with the homeless and addicted (alcohol and drugs) and is setting up a recovery program. The need is great as immigrants continue to pour into the land, bringing their addictions with them. The mission is interested first and foremost in allowing God the lead. You can view their website at: www.rescueisrael.org.

Prayer Requests

- Christians and city mission work in **India**, especially in the region of **Bangalore**, are increasingly under attack and suffering from persecution. Please keep them in your prayers.
- We have had contact with city mission workers in **Myanmar (Burma)**. Despite the peaceful demonstrations in mid-September in that country which were crushed by the authorities, all employees and orphans in the city mission are doing well. Please keep missionary **Hung Ling Dai** and his workers and charges in your prayers.
- Please keep the **Board Members of the CMWA** in your prayers and that they may have safe journeys in their international undertakings.

If you have a bit of international news that you'd like to share in this newsletter, please contact Sabina Jaeckel-Engler from the Berlin City Mission at jaeckel@berliner-stadtmission.de.

Next CMWA World Conference:

September 17-22, 2010



Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany –
the place where the Reformation started
nearly 500 years ago!