

Report of the Bible Distribution in October in Berlin and the Surrounding Areas

Monday, November 13, 2017

Distribution Location: Germany (Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Munich, Regensburg, Stuttgart and other surrounding cities)

Distribution Dates: October 9-13, 2017; October 16 - 21, 2017

Participants in Bible Distribution: (95 FTTA trainees, 31 FTTA-XB trainees, and other saints)

Statistics:

No. of Bibles distributed

Week 1: 17438

Week 2: 13928

Grand total: 31366

Highlights:

In one location the saints were handing out Bibles and noticed a police officer observing them from a distance. He then made a couple of slow passes by them. Finally, he turned and began to approach them again. They were certain he was going to tell them they had to either cease what they were doing, or relocate. When he came up to them, he said, "I would like two". He returned a few minutes later and said, "Can I have another one for my boss?"

On one campus, the brothers gave out a Bible to a student who identified himself as the leader of a campus Christian group. He really liked the Bible after he began looking at it, and soon was in fellowship with the brother who gave it to them. The brother shared with him about Eve being a type of the church. The young brother was so enthralled by this fellowship that he asked if he and the brothers could arrange a Bible Study with his entire group.

We had our first meeting with the Christian student group and more than 50 new people showed up so that our house group will expand from 4 to 16 people. God is doing so much amazing work here!

One day we encountered a very seeking student. After some conversation, he invited a brother to have lunch with him in the cafeteria. During this time the student stated that he was seeking a Bible that is faithful to the original Greek text. The brother compared the original Greek text to the Recovery version and showed the student how to use the footnotes. While the two were fellowshiping, a girl sitting nearby overheard their conversation and asked for a free Bible. The student gave his copy to the girl and got another Bible from the distribution station. The student exchanged contact information with the brothers, and we planned to meet with him again the next day.

We met a young German man who was just saved 2 weeks earlier. He said he was one who despised the Bible and was the biggest athiest. But when he received the Bible he was all smiles and so happy.

A student in Berlin saw that we were giving out Bibles. He was walking fast and quickly took the Bible out of my hand. Over his shoulder he put it in his backpack. And then said to me in German, "Thank you very much." After the Bible distribution that day I experienced what the Lord said, "I have food to eat that you do not know about" (John 4:32).

29 trainees and local saints were in Wittenberg from 10:30 – 14:00. We began with a visit to Lutherhaus, where he lived in corporate living with students in an environment of fellowship. We were impressed with aspects of his life and living. Then we had lunch and visited the Schlosskirche, where Luther nailed the 95 theses that many mark as a beginning of the Lord's recovery and an age-turning event in the history of the church.

The old city of Wittenberg is only two streets that run parallel to one another. The 29 of us walked from one end of the city beginning at the Schlosskirche to the other end at Lutherhaus. We had placards showing free bibles with carts full of bibles and instruments for singing. We passed out 110 bibles in about 20 minutes. It was a sight to see 29 young people enjoying the Lord "marching" down the street. We felt it was a triumphal procession celebrating that the Lord's recovery has come to Germany to finish what Luther began, and it was a glorious way to end the two weeks of distributions.

Impressions:

This large number indicates an unprecedented openness among the German people, especially the university students. Behind these numbers is the story of an unprecedented openness in many of the cities and campuses where Bibles were passed out. In addition to Frankfurt, we covered an additional 11 cities and we met a lot of seekers, especially among the young people. We feel the Lord has preserved some of them for this time. Anyway, the harvest is ripe and the workers are few. If we had enough saints, we could have 11 more lampstands around Frankfurt in a short amount of time.

The dilemma for us is how to take care of these promising ones and the many new ones we already have. May the Lord thrust out more workers!

The Lord has done superabundantly above all that we ask or think (Eph. 3:20).

We are very thankful that the Lord has blessed this move of Bible distribution in a extraordinary way in Germany. We also appreciated the coordination and the preparation of the serving ones very much.

Follow-up Activities in Berlin:

There were 7 new German students at the welcome dinner after the first week of distribution in Berlin and 15 at the welcome dinner at the end of the second week of distribution.

There are Bible studies at the following schools in Berlin:

FU (Freie Universität) - Monday 2:00 p.m. and Thursday 5:00 p.m.

HU (Humboldt Universität) - Tuesday 12:30 p.m.

HWR (Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht) - Wednesday 2:00 p.m.
TU (Technische Universität) - Thursday 12:30 p.m.

Our own students, some of the ones contacted in the Bible Distribution, and other new ones are attending the Bible studies.

There is a student dinner and meeting in the homes on Friday evenings. Some of the students contacted during the Bible Distribution are attending these home meetings.

Appointments are being held with some of the new students

One of the students contacted during Bible Distribution week 1 came to the Lord's Day meeting on 12 November, 2017.

Prayer burdens:

- 1) That all who received a Bible will read it and receive the light and life embodied in it
- 2) That many seeking ones, especially the key ones, will be shepherded into the church life
- 3) That all the local saints will be supplied and strengthened to shepherd the many new contacts that have been gained through the Bible and literature distributions
- 4) Please continue to pray the Lord of the harvest will reap from this lovely outreach.

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