

Report on the 2019 Leipzig Book Fair

Dear saints,

From 21-24 March 2019 we participated in the Leipzig Book Fair, which was a coordinated labor between Bibles for Europe and Lebensstrom. From the four-day event we gave out a total of 5,060 German New Testament Recovery Version Bibles to an audience of 286,000 visitors and sold some ministry books as well.

This is a second largest book fair in Germany after the one in Frankfurt. The vast majority of the visitors in Leipzig were typical Germans, many of whom were from the Greater Leipzig Area. In addition, people of all ages were willing to receive a copy of the New Testament. A new one came to a dinner with the saints on the first night, and the local saints are still in contact with this new one. Several other Bible recipients left their contact information with the saints. We pray that the Lord will operate in the hearts of the Bible recipients and grow in them as they read His word. We also pray that the hungrier ones will begin to order the ministry books in German. May the Lord gain many for the church life particularly in the City of Leipzig.

For this four-day event seven saints came from Düsseldorf/Frankfurt, 21 saints from Berlin, and 11 local saints plus two children from Leipzig. The visiting saints experienced the blending and warm hospitality from the local saints as they labored together to distribute the New Testament. Every day the saints sensed that they were laboring in and for the Body and that their labor was being carried by the prayers of the Body. The saints look forward to more events this year for the Lord to further spread His word in this country.

Below are the testimonies from the saints who participated in the Bible distribution:

"I offered the Bible to three young people, but they rejected it laughing. Although I thought they despised it, after a few seconds the three of them came back and asked for the Bible. It was so encouraging see that the young people were so open to the ministry."

"I enjoyed talking to typical Germans. Their standard reply was: I already have a Bible at home. Some still gave us a chance to show them what makes this New Testament different from others. After showing them some verses or reading a footnote with them, about 90% took the Bible. Many of them expressed a real interest and thankfulness."

"A frequent question was: What does "Wiedererlangungs-Übersetzung" (Recovery Version) mean? I enjoyed sharing with them that we need to recover or rediscover the truths in the Bible just as Martin Luther recovered justification by faith. The verses that helped him see this truth have always been in the Bible but nobody saw the light. Because most Germans are familiar with the story of Luther (Wittenberg is just one hour north of Leipzig), they were happy to receive a Bible that would help them follow Luther's footsteps."

"The first New Testament that we passed out on the first day was given to a fellow exhibitor who came to look for us as soon as the fair started. He was a brother who used to meet in the church life in Frankfurt and Stuttgart over 40 years ago. From his interest and his questions I could see that the recovery was still very much on his heart."

"We had some good interactions with a 20-year-old seeking one from Bielefeld who already had the Recovery Version. He and four others got it online and are reading it. He bought a Christian editorial company last year and has a burden for an online shop to inspire Christians to read again. He knows Watchman Nee."

Thank you for all your prayers.

The saints who participated in the Leipzig Book Fair