



# GOODNEWSletter

*Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe*



*May - 2020*



## EUROPEAN CHAPLAINCY UPDATE AND DEVOTION

Greetings to all in the name of the Risen Savior!

Things are progressing. However, there is no word yet on services at Ramstein or at Rose Barracks in Vilseck. Hopefully things will open soon.

London looks like it may be possible in July. Marge and I will be headed to the US on July 3<sup>rd</sup> (unless there is a change). Right now, we are planning to have services Munich and Switzerland in June.

A grave side service for Jerry Galow is being planned but attendance may be limited by virus regulations.

I believe that Pastor Hartwig will be free to leave after June 14<sup>th</sup>. His commissioning is being set up for May 31<sup>st</sup> – Pentecost Sunday at 930 .am CST. It will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Thiensville, WI. The service may be streamed.

Isaac and Allison Nelson's baby will be delivered on June 23<sup>rd</sup> if it has not arrived before then. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Hefti family – Michael, Katie, Titus, Zeke, Gideon, and Sonora are leaving soon for the US. They are part of our group at Vilseck. We wish them the Lord's blessing. They will be missed.

## TAKE HEART! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!

<sup>NIV</sup> John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Well, it appears that things are improving. It will be good to get back to normal again. Yet, when will that be? Will things ever be 'normal' again? How will our lives change? We've felt pretty safe tucked away in the small town of Spiesheim. Around 900 people live here and no cases of Coronavirus to report. Soon, however, we will be traveling again. Not sure yet when Ramstein and Rose Barracks will open up. We do plan to go to Munich and Switzerland in June – Lord willing. As soon as I think about it, I start to wonder if we are going to be safe. It means eating out at restaurants and staying at hotels. Then I wonder about our flight back to the States in July. Will the plane be full? Will some on board be unconsciously infected with the virus?

We are certainly seeing the fulfillment of Jesus' words, "In this world you will have trouble." The Coronavirus is only one of many troubles we face. Unemployment, bankruptcies, travel restrictions, separation from loved ones, are just a few of the trials and troubles we face.

Last week on Friday evening I stopped to speak with our good friend and neighbor Sebastian. We see each other many times each day. He was born in Sicily and for many years had a pizza shop. We made plans to have a pizza night when the restrictions eased. We talked for a while,

laughed, and then went into our homes. Only a few hours later, ambulances came to his house. He had died suddenly of a heart attack. He was 43 years old. He is survived by his wife, a three year old son, two teen age daughters, his parents and many other friends and family. "In this world you will have trouble."

When Jesus said these words to His disciples, he knew what He was talking about. (Now that is an understatement if there ever was one.) Of course, Jesus knows what He is saying. We will have troubles in this world. There is no doubt about it. Jesus had them too. Jesus spoke these words on Maundy Thursday. A short time later He left for the Garden of Gethsemane to pray while His disciples slept. He was in agony as He prayed for He knew the pain and suffering that lay ahead.

Then He was betrayed by Judas, one of his own. A mob made up of chief priests and Pharisees, and Roman guards arrested Jesus. He was taken to Pilate where He was mocked, beaten, and whipped. Pilate questioned Jesus and found no fault with Him. Fearing the crowd, however, he condemned Jesus to death by crucifixion. There Jesus carried the burden of sin for the world. He was punished in our place as the punishment for sin and His Father's wrath was poured out on him as He endured the pain and torment of hell. It ended, as His body was placed in the grave. "In this world you will have trouble."

Because of Jesus, we will never face the punishment for our sins, the wrath of God the Father, or the pain and torment of hell. Jesus not only said, "In this world you will have trouble." He also said, "I have overcome the world." Through His suffering and death, Jesus took care of our troubles. The devil, the grave, our sins, even hell, threaten us no more. We now have peace, peace in times of troubles.

I don't know what life will be like in six months or in six years. I do know that there will be trials and troubles in this world. I also know that Jesus has taken care of them all. Our lives may not be easy but they will be blessed by our loving and merciful God who gave us His Son as our Savior.

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