



GOOD NEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe

February 2017

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 1: 16. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation for everyone who believes."

A pastor of a fashionable congregation was in the midst of a rather lengthy sermon. Suddenly, he was horrified to see a small boy throwing spitballs at certain people in the congregation. The pastor stopped his preaching and glared at the boy. The boy looked up at the preacher and said, "You go ahead with your preaching, pastor, and I'll keep them awake!"

There are some Sundays, maybe many, when we could use a boy like that to help us stay awake. Maybe the church is too warm. Maybe we didn't get enough sleep. Then, again, the pastor's sermon just wasn't that good. We may wonder just how much we got out of it.

Yet there is something we dare never forget. The power of the sermon is not found in the crafted words of the pastor. The power comes from the Word which comes from God. The Word of God has the power to fend off the attacks of Satan; overcome temptations that assault us from without and within. It has the power to convict us of our sin, take away our fears, strengthen our faith, and equip us to live as one of God's children.

Most important of all, it has the power to save. It saves little children when they are baptized as infants. It comforts the troubled and penitent heart of the one who stands before the Lord's Table and receives the

Savior's body and blood and along with it the promise of God that our sins are forgiven.

Preachers should never depend on the persuasive powers of their own words to draw people to Christ. Nor should they use the awesome power of God's Word to be ill prepared.

The hearer, the worshipper, should not focus on the ability of the pastor to enthrall them with his eloquent speech and stimulating presentation to decide if spending time in worship was worth it. Never forget that the power is in the Word.

It is the same Word proclaimed as the choir sings passages from Scripture, or when the children sing *Jesus Loves Me, this I Know*. Or when we share the message of salvation with a neighbor or friend; or use it to comfort the sick and dying. The power is in the Word. It always has been and always will be.

Through God's Word the Holy Spirit works to bestow the gift of faith and to help it grow and strengthen it. Through the Word the Holy Spirit fills us with His gifts to be God's light in a world dark with sin and unbelief. I don't mean to downplay the importance of the pastor. He has an important job to do as a called servant of God. Yet never downplay the importance you play as you share God's Word with those around you; as you teach it to your children; and as you confess in your worship.

What a comfort it is for the pastor and others alike to know the power of God is not in us but in the Word He gave us. To God be the glory!

Easter Retreat

This year's Easter Retreat will be at Rothenberg ODT, April 13-16, 2017. At this point we need to get a head count. If you are planning to come, please indicate so by email to Pastor Stuppy or Desiree Moser. More information is coming! Cost will be about €30.00-€35.00 per evening per person, depending upon how many sign up.

February Worship Schedule

Northwood, England -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 5

Worship at 13:00 followed by Bible study and fellowship.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 12 and February 26

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship, Bible study, and Sunday school.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -

at the Southside Chapel

February 12 and February 26

Worship is at 16:00 followed by Bible study, Sunday school, and fellowship.

Munich, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 16

Worship is at 18:30

Vilseck, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 18

Worship is at 10:30

Zurich, Switzerland area -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

February 19

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship and Bible study.

Offerings

Still working on getting a handle on everything. Offerings for the Lord's work in January will be reported in the next newsletter. Our thanks for the generous support you give to this ministry to bring God's Word to Europe.

The Lord is gracious

Pastor Wes Bruss has returned safely to America. He will be missed. I know that I miss his help, humor and cheerful spirit. Hope he comes back for a visit.

God bless you!

My wife, Marge, and I want to thank you all for the warm welcome we have received and the assistance you have offered and given. Don't know where we would be without it. We look forward to getting to know you better. I look forward to serving you as your Pastor.

CONTACT US

If you have need of pastoral assistance or just want to talk, please make contact. Your e-mails, phone calls, and letters are welcomed. The contact information does not change.

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