



Silent night, HOLY NIGHT!

Jeffrey & Katherine Robinson
December, 2011

Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago, almost to the day, we left Cleveland to begin our missionary service in Germany. One-way tickets in hand, two small children in tow, we left with a deep sense of calling, much nervous enthusiasm and, like all first term missionaries, a large dose of naiveté. We still remember with fondness our first Christmas in Bremen, complete with a Charlie Brown Christmas tree with only three ornaments, a few small presents we had carried with us and eating at a card table with milk crates as chairs.

Now, twenty years later, Jeffrey and I are boarding a plane to Germany again, this time half way through our year-long home ministry assignment. The tickets are round trip, the children are not with us, and this time we are leaving with a deep love for the German people, a desire to reconnect with all our dear friends, ministry partners and contacts in Leipzig, and much amazement and thankfulness for all God has done in the two decades that have passed.

During the six months we have had in the States, it has been humbling and encouraging to share all we have seen happen, despite the difficult spiritual climate of Europe. The years have brought measureable things like outreach efforts, a church planted that is now planting a daughter church, home groups started, individuals guided and encouraged to be faithful followers of and effective witnesses for Christ. We marvel at the diversity of the people God has brought through our lives, who are now living out the Gospel in northern Germany, Switzerland, France, the Black Forest, England and Leipzig. And we trust He has used us to touch lives in ways we are not aware of. Thank your for your unfailing prayers, financial support and care and encouragement all these many years.

As a family, we can look back and see His goodness and faithfulness throughout the many challenges living in a foreign culture brings. God's strength, guidance, comfort and care were evident as our children were growing up and continue as they pursue their lives as young adults. We are so thankful for our two wonderful children and for their courage as missionary kids and support of our work in Germany.

We will return to Cleveland on December 21st, German visa requirements met, in time to celebrate Christmas with Ben and Emily. Again, the tree is a bit Charlie Brown-ish, the ornaments are lacking, but the seating is much more comfortable! As always, we will be

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

thanking God for the gift of the Incarnation, so that we may see life and gain life through Jesus Christ. We will be celebrating His goodness to us, and enjoying being together as a family again. And we are especially grateful to have had the extra times together these months in the States, especially in light of Ben's impending deployment to Afghanistan.

In closing, as a family, we thank you for the privilege it has been to partner with you in bringing light and hope to lost souls in Germany. We truly appreciate all you have done to support us these two decades, and hope you rejoice with us in all He has done through you. We wish you a lovely Christmas celebration filled with a deep awareness of His presence, love and mercy.

Yours in Him,

Katherine

Katherine for Jeffrey, Ben and Emily

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