

HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 48, Issue 2

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IBC Bremen

**Mission Team
Ministers during
World Cup**

Interlaken

**Celebrating the
All-Sufficiency
of Christ**

BWA World Congress

**Participants
'Hear the Spirit'**

Hear The Spirit

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The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
(Luke 4:18-19)

■ **Every five years** Baptist Christians from around the world, representing well over 100 million people, gather to worship, serve, learn, and fellowship. This year the theme of the Congress was "Hear the Spirit." Billy Graham, perhaps the most well known of all Baptists, could not personally attend but sent a written greeting to all who gathered for the 20th Baptist World Alliance meeting that closed more than 100 years of work and fellowship around common purposes of evangelism, discipleship, and missions for our world. He underscored the congress theme, "Hear the Spirit": "These days present unprecedented opportunities for Gospel proclamation as we follow the Spirit's leadership in spite of daunting problems that confound our world."

The newly elected president of the BWA, John Upton, reflected on the need to listen to God's Spirit as He speaks during these challenging times. "We ... know the healing of the world lies not in the tongue-lashings of politicians or even of preachers, not governments or organizations, nor in the gathering of more facts. The healings cannot come from us. The healings must come from God, in us and through us. It must come by prayer, and, indirectly, by testimony to prayer's light and power. Those who pray are the real light-bearers of any age."

I was personally challenged by the verses of Luke 4, written above. Jesus, as He began His public ministry, chose His hometown of Nazareth as the place and Isaiah's prophecy as the theme of His work. I reflected on the work of IBC churches scattered around the world, each seeking to continue the ministry that Jesus initiated of preaching good news, proclaiming freedom and recovery, releasing the oppressed, and proclaiming a day of hope. In most of the countries where we serve, evangelical Christians are a small minority – often less than 1% of the total population. In the midst of deep social problems, economic woes, spiritual blindness, and other threats, we can grow discouraged and wonder how much difference we really make. Jesus says, "a lot," if we are motivated by His mission and empowered by His Spirit.

We need to receive the words of Jesus as words directed to us. WE are the poor, the prisoners who need to be set free, the blind, and the oppressed. Apart from the work of God's Spirit, we are all prone to wander from the God we love. We are all prone to fall from His grace and become either proud of our own accomplishments or de-

spairing because of our failures. We are easily overwhelmed by the threats around us. We desperately need to hear His words as good news, freedom, recovery, release, and favor. When we do, we become grateful rather than proud, and hopeful rather than despairing. We become useful.

We also need to heed these words of Jesus as God's intention for the world around us, to be carried out *through us*. Jesus' words were not only spoken to the synagogue congregation in Nazareth; they were accomplished during His life. He was good news to the poor, freedom for prisoners, sight for the blind, and release for the oppressed. When Jesus was present, hope and joy and help were present also. Salvation was the gift He brought. He was uniquely the Anointed One, reflected by his title, Messiah. But the Anointed One anoints each of us and all of us to continue the work He began.

I challenge you to make it your prayer that the Spirit of the Lord would be on you, your church, and God's people everywhere. I have made it my daily prayer. I am certain that I have the Spirit, but I also want Him to have me in every way so that I can be Christ's messenger and represent Him in a way that brings hope and joy and help. Let's pray that our churches, in both word and deed, will preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, release the oppressed, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Let's hear the Spirit as He speaks to show us how to move ahead with His mission in the most effective way. Imagine the kind of people we will become if we seek Him in this way day by day. Imagine the impact we will have if we listen for, and follow, His voice day by day, and if we do it together. ■

Serving with you,

Jimmy Martin

NOTE: For a free download of the song, Hear the Spirit, written for the BWA Congress, go to WWW.LOGANJONESMUSIC.COM

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Am Dachsberg 98,
60435 Frankfurt/Main,
Germany, Phone: +49
(0)69 9540 8505, Email:
admin@ibc-churches.org
www.ibc-churches.org
Jimmy Martin, General
Secretary
Judith Lynn Maxwell, Editor
Cover photo by Allan Gross-
krueger

Baptists Gather in Honolulu



Former IBC Pastor Brian Kirby leads the praise team.



A children's choir performs in the atrium before an Evening Celebration.



Photos by Judith Lynn Maxwell



The 20th Baptist World Congress was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, 28 July-1 August. Baptists from 105 countries gathered to "Hear the Spirit."

Opening Celebration features hula dancers and Hawaiian music.



From the Editor's Pen

We're all connected.

■ During one of the breaks of the Baptist World Congress, I was looking through the statistics of the conventions who are a part of the Baptist World Alliance. While the IBC is not THE smallest convention, it is one of the smallest. And yet, as I participated in the convention, I realized how connected we are to the BWA.

Brian Kirby, former pastor of Emmanuel International Church, Paris, France, was the worship leader for the week-long conference. Brian teamed up with a praise band from Virginia to lead the thousands of attendees in worship each morning and evening. Brian and Jerry Jones (Virginia partnership) sang a duet on Saturday morning.

BWA President David Coffey, in his days before being BWA president, spoke at the IBC's Annual Meeting in Aviano, Italy. He even said he hopes to participate in other IBC events now that he is no longer so involved with the BWA. The new BWA president is John Upton, executive director of Virginia Baptists. John hasn't been to an IBC event yet, but he has been very supportive of the part-

nership and the teams coming to serve within the IBC.

I had the privilege of volunteering in the BWA Press Room and covered one of the focus groups for the press team. Be on the lookout for this article in a future edition of *Highlights* (we had no room this time!). Through the press room, I had the opportunity to re-connect with Linda Falimy, who works at the BWA; Wendy Ryan, former BWA Communications Leader and now working with HIV patients in South Africa; and Robert Dilday, editor of the Congress daily newspaper and the Virginia Baptist newspaper.

The week also provided a time to connect with others I know: Ray and Helen Reynolds, former IBC staff members; Lanny and Sheila Horton, who along with volunteers help send out *Highlights* in the U.S.; a former pastor and his wife; a former fellow BSUer (student ministry); and, last but not least, my family.

The next world congress will be in Durban, South Africa in 2015. Plan now to get connected! ■

Judith Lynn Maxwell



In Christ Alone

Interlaken 2010 Considers the Sufficiency of Christ

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire beside you. Psalm 73:25 (ESV)



Saddle Ridge Ranch is the theme of the children's program.

photos by Allan Grosskrueger



Sermon recordings for Stuart McAllister and Tony Carter are available on the IBC website.



Jerry Chambers and his family lead the musical worship times.



Virginia Baptist volunteers teach the children during the morning and evening sessions.

Children's Ministry Certification Begins at Interlaken

■ A special seminar was held this year at the IBC's Interlaken Summer Experience to offer certification for preschool and children's workers. The seminar was taught by Janice Haywood, of Cary, North Carolina (USA), who has taught certification courses for Campbell University Divinity School for 10 years and for the Baptist General Association of Virginia for five years.

The seminar classes went from 8:30-12:30 each day during the Summer Experience and included some homework before and during the week. The certification program will continue through the year and a second session will be held during the 2011 Summer Experience.

Already seminar participants are putting to use what they learned. Stephanie Redmond, Children's Ministry Director at Faith Baptist Church, Kaiserslautern, Germany, writes: "As soon as I returned I was eager to attempt centers in our combined school-age summer Sunday School. I can only tell you that the atmosphere in our room improved immediately. No more huddled groups of bored kids waiting for the action to start! I'm using a VBS kit for the summer and have the main (large) room decorated in the Egyptian theme. Until my training, I had one activity out each week to 'involve' the students as we waited on others to arrive. Upon returning, I set up a music spot with tambourines and such (with the CD playing), a table with clay, another with straws (puzzle smart/body smart), a section with Egypt play-mobil, and a book circle complete with pillows. The kids love it! When our main start time arrives, we clean up centers and have an opening song. Then we divide up as per our normal routine,

for the Bible story, games, and art. Notice I said 'art'. I changed from a craft to more of an art experience. There is a set thing to make, but no examples and a variety of mediums to achieve the 'goal'. Again – the kids love it! They are much more interested and willing to work at their creation." ■



IBC members participate in children's ministry certification program.

Workshop Leaders

	Susi Walther Teaching to Change Lives
	Brooke Philips Share Anywhere
	Julia Klaus Helping Women to Help the Hurting
	Kim Doerr Thriving Amidst the Changes of Life
	Judy Gary Cross Culture Leadership

Divine Appointment Brings IBC Wo

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God (2 Timothy 1:6)

■ **When the IBC** Women's team chose "Fan Into Flame," based on 2 Timothy 1:6, as the theme for the 16-18 April conference in Spain, it had no idea what God had in store; certainly not a volcano.

The day before the conference an ash cloud from a volcano eruption in Iceland began causing havoc for travelers. Flights were canceled, airports were closing, but that didn't stop 190 IBC women from getting to San Jose Conference Center in El Escorial, Madrid, Spain.

"By God's divine appointment we are in this room," said conference speaker Denise Glenn, who had been in London and flew out just before the airport closed. "Not everyone got to come. You're the chosen. God wants to do something this weekend, far over and above what we asked."

Glenn, who lives in Perth, Australia, is the founder of MotherWise, an international ministry based in Houston, Texas, that seeks to equip and encourage women. She has written Bible studies for women and has been the keynote speaker at conferences in numerous countries. At El Escorial, Glenn shared new messages God had given her for the Madrid conference. "No one has heard them, including me. I am trembling in the presence of God."

With her down-to-earth speaking style and using sto-

ries from her life, she brought new meaning and poignancy to some familiar Bible passages. In her session "The Call From the Burning Bush," Glenn spoke about the power of God's words. "Our God is a talking God. He talks in a way we can hear and understand. We need to learn to put up the radar and listen."

In Exodus 3, God "lit a little fire and Moses turned to look," Glenn said. "When God lights a fire in your life to get your attention, turn and look." Glenn shared several examples where she had heard the now-speaking voice of God and made major life changes. God uses people or things to get our attention, said Glenn, who ended the Friday night session calling women to hear God. "The now-speaking voice of God is speaking to you. You're not unspiritual, too young or too old. My prayer is that you will hear Him and obey." She prayed, "Our hearts are full; fan them into flame."

This was a fitting end to a day when flames and fire and the unknown had been on everyone's mind. A day when Susie Dixon, coordinator of the Madrid organizing team from Immanuel Baptist Church, had had to put out many fires and even though she was sick, kept going and focused on God's plans for the conference.

A member of Dixon's conference team, Jacquelyn Sinclair, quickly got the chance to "Fan Into Flame" her gift of music. Dixon recruited her to lead worship

Teamwork Gives Madrid Church a Conference Close to Home

■ **Before Susie Dixon** and her team from Immanuel Baptist Church offered to be onsite hosts for an IBC Women's conference, there was a lot of discussion and prayer. One major reason for stepping up to the challenge was they wanted a conference women from their church could attend. If our women couldn't go, we didn't want to host, said the team in Madrid.

Because of travel costs and other expenses, language barriers and logistics, many women from IBC churches can't attend a conference unless it is near where they live. Jan Johnsonius, team member and seminar leader, said she had noticed that many women who attended IBC conferences were "not representative of my church" where there were many different cultures, nationalities, and ways to worship.

The Madrid group took the challenge, and working with the IBC Women's team, they planned a conference that many in their area could attend. "It was a blessing for us that so many of our women got to participate," said a member of the

Madrid team.

Amazingly, many on this multinational onsite team had never been to a conference themselves. But you would never know it. "We discovered a lot of new gifts among our ladies," said Dixon. "There were detail people we didn't know about."

Putting on a conference is not easy and for the Madrid team there were many obstacles along the way. Four women battled major illnesses, but the group remained strong. One member said: "If everything had turned out right, we would have carried on but we wouldn't have had the opportunity to get to know each other. This has been a great opportunity. I feel closer to Susie and the other sisters."

As the team shared what it had meant to host the conference, the focus was on what had gone right and what God had done, not what went wrong. They shared how during the conference four people had to go to the local clinic and a helpful paramedic there spoke fluent English. At the end of the weekend, when flights out of Madrid were canceled, members of the team found a way home for a busload of

women, including conference leader Denise Glenn, several seminar leaders, and IBC Women's team members. A bus was rented from a small company in El Escorial that was available when all the big companies in Madrid were booked up. Karina Santoro, Paola Linares, and Jan Johnsonius rose to the challenge under much pressure and stress and made all the arrangements.

Of course, our rewards will be in heaven, but sometimes we need a little pat on the back here on earth. A big thank you to the main organizational team from Immanuel Baptist Church; your wonderful service was a blessing for those of us able to attend. ■

*Nancy Blancato
IBC Women's Team*

If you or someone from your church would like to find out about being onsite coordinators and helping to put on a conference in your area, contact IBC Women's Ministry Team leader Denise Marshall (sdenisemarshall@yahoo.com).

men to Madrid

on Friday night because Miriam Wallace and Teresa Gomez, the scheduled worship team, were stranded in London. Sinclair enlisted some other people from the church and ended up leading for the whole conference, as Wallace and Gomez were unable to get to Madrid. It was an unexpected privilege, Sinclair said. "I say 'privilege,' though my initial thoughts were, 'Yikes! I'm not prepared for this, Lord. Can't you get Miriam and Teresa here by Saturday morning at the latest?'" While Sinclair was a blessing to those attending, she received a blessing too. "The Lord took hold of some of my control issues, and allowed me to experience the peace of resting in Him, and allowing Him to make things happen that only He can."

Throughout the weekend when little obstacles presented themselves, people pitched in and made things work. And the planning, organization, and hard work of the Madrid team made it a conference that many will never forget. At the first dinner, women got a cultural treat when they were serenaded by a Spanish Tuna, a special group of musicians dressed in historical costume. On Saturday, many women took advantage of a tour to El Escorial Monastery and visits to other local sites. The Madrid team also set up a large room containing a "book store" and snack area, which became a favorite gathering place for women between the sessions.

Seminars started on Saturday, and women could choose "God's Transforming Work," "Conflict Resolution God's Way," "Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer," "Human Trafficking and Prostitution" "Gifts Every Mother Needs to Give Her Children" and a "Scribble Class." The wide range of choices meant there was something for everybody, with the only difficulty being deciding which three to attend.

Glenn continued to hone her messages to share not only what she had prepared, but also what God was laying on her heart. As she started her Saturday morning session, "The God Who Answers by Fire" (1 Kings 16-18), she said, "God gave us this theme and gave us a visual aid. He blew up a mountain." As she shared the story of Elijah and the idol worship that led to the showdown on Mount Carmel, she reminded the group whom it is we serve: "Our God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. He wants whole-hearted devotion. He wants our hearts." That means "recognizing our 'Baals,'" Glenn said, "our counterfeit Gods, our idols."

Glenn shared how many of us have made idols of things such as "approval and acceptance" or "control." Some are so deep-rooted and have been with us so long we don't see them and have never completely brought them down, she said. Glenn made it real by sharing a personal story. She said God had told her that morning to put a picture of her family at 1 Kings 18 in her Bible. During a time in her life when she was infertile Glenn had prayed: "It's OK if I never have a child. What I want is You." God blessed her with three daughters and nine grandchildren, but "over and over in my mothering God has called me to lay my children down. I keep making them an idol." Of course she will be their mom and grandmother she said, but God is saying, "I am Your God. Lay your children down. They can't take the place of Jesus in your heart."

We are tempted to be Solomons, Glenn continued,



Jacquelyn Sinclair and a team from Immanuel, Madrid fill in for stranded worship leaders.

but "I believe He has called us to be Davids." Of course, David sinned, she said, but he had a "single-handed devotion to God."

She ended the session by giving the women a chance to bring down their idols "so your heart is free to worship Jesus." Women were encouraged to ask God to show them their idols. As the session moved into a quiet time for commitment and prayer, Glenn explained that while commitment times are often done later in a conference, she wanted the women to have time to process what God was telling them.

On Saturday night Glenn's topic was "Take in Your Hand the Fire and the Knife." She reminded the women how God had promised Abraham an heir and that He kept His promise by giving him and Sarah a son, even in their old age. Glenn said, "We could stop here," like in Sunday school where we often focus on how God answered prayer and kept His promises. But the story doesn't end there, she said. "God tested Abraham. He kept poking him to see if there were any idols in there."

In Genesis 22:1-2, God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham might have thought, "What about Ishmael?," said Glenn. But God wanted "the only son I have given you by my divine appointment, by the Holy Spirit. Isaac, whose name means laughter, sacrifice him." God was testing Abraham for mastery, said Glenn. "Have you given up all gods? Am I the only one?"





IBC Jurbise Holds Reunion

■ **Huntsville, Alabama**, was the settings for an IBC Jurbise, Belgium, reunion on 5-6 June at the University Baptist Church. More than 90 families were located and approximately one-third of those came. This came to be 72 people. Each family present gave a brief presentation with pictures of their travels since Jurbise. It is amazing what God did to put families together for His work in Europe and the Christian bonds that developed. Many of these bonds are strong today, and many are heavily involved in ministry today through a local church as members or on staff. Those who were not able to attend sent a report which was distributed to all who were located.

All of the three full-time missionary pastoral couples, including the founding missionary, were in attendance.

The church at Jurbise, over its history, has had many folks called into the formal ministry. Some of these were in the audience, and one couple in attendance is waiting to go overseas with the International Mission Board, SBC.

Amazing stories were told, keeping everyone in awe of the grace of God given to each family and the exciting things happening in their lives. People came from many directions including California, Texas, and Washington, D.C. People were located in Canda, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, and all corners of the U.S.

Meals were served, and on Sunday morning, folks worshipped at either University Baptist or Lighthouse Baptist where two former IBC members are on staff. Many positive hours were spent together by all, renewing relations and building new ones. The time together will not be soon forgotten. ■

Paul Beduerftig, Former Pastor



Nearly 200 women gather in Madrid to "Fan Into Flame" their gifts.

➔ The now-speaking voice of God has always been speaking and calling you, Glenn told the women. He will always test you, "stick in the toothpick and see if you're done." Testing will uncover your hidden idols and give you an opportunity to pull them down, said Glenn. "Don't say, 'Oh, no.' Say 'Yes, He is going to build me up.'" She ended by having the group sing "King of King and Lords of Lords." She encouraged the women to think of their marriage, or a child or other loved one, and pray that God would be King of Kings over his or her life.

By the morning session Sunday it became clear that it was unlikely there would be any flights out of Madrid that day. Behind the scenes members of the Madrid team were scrambling to try and charter a bus to get woman to France and Germany. As Glenn prepared to speak on the Holy Spirit and "Baptist in the Fire," she knew the uncertainties of the day were uppermost in everyone's mind, and she reminded the women that God had more for them. "We are going to need what He's going to give us now for the rest of the week. Before we go on we need to tear down the idol of control," she said. "Guess what, you don't know how you are getting home," but God does. Referring to the previous session, she said, "This is a test. You're doing good." And she prayed, "You knew even before we were born what

we would be doing April 16. You are in control. Not the airlines, not the train companies, not the buses. You are showing us Your power and majesty. Thank you for the volcano."

As the conference drew to a close, women had a chance to share what the weekend meant to them. Women were thankful for the seminars, singing, fellowship time with godly women, and the scholarships that had made it possible for some to come. One woman shared how her husband had registered her for the conference. "I have a one year old and a five year old. This is my first time out of the

house for more than an hour in about five years." One woman said it was the first time in months she wasn't spending a Sunday morning in her church nursery and how blessed she had been to be served and not serve.

It was indeed a divine appointment. God brought 190 women representing 41 nationalities together in Madrid so He could "Fan Into Flame" their gifts, empower them with His spirit, and send them back out to bring His message to the nations. And then, while many parts of the world were in chaos, by car, chartered bus, train, plane, He brought them home again. He is in the business of volcanoes, and He is in control. ■

*Nancy Blancato
IBC Women's Team*

God at Work on Our Trip Home From Madrid

Lana Packer, who was with a group of women who left the IBC Women's Madrid conference on a hired bus, describes how she saw God at work during that trip.

■ **How can one describe** all that God did on a 31-hour bus ride? It's quite impossible, so I will just share seven of the things I saw God do.

First: As we set out on our 31-hour coach trip, there were some seemingly impossible barriers to overcome. In the midst of a Europe scrambling to find transportation, we were able to secure a bus to take us from Madrid to France, Switzerland, and Germany. Many who got on the bus had no idea how they would get home from where they would be dropped off. One woman described her feelings as she first got on the bus as a picture frame, and she wondered what the last frame would look like 24 hours later (not knowing that it would be 31 hours later!). We took our seats knowing this would be "home", where we would sleep and eat until we reached our destination. We had no idea what would happen in the hours to come. God overcame the barriers and kept us in His hands!

Second: God started moving before the bus did. What seemed like an insurmountable barrier was the 7000+ Euro that was required before our journey could begin! Leaders and organizers were exhausted, and, perhaps most daunting, the women were out of pocket change and there were no cash machines nearby. God opened a way, and amazingly, with the help of a 2000 Euro gift, we were able to come up with the amount before stepping on the bus! You see, God had already begun to work in the donor's heart before there was a need!

Third: Two of the women thought they could get home sooner by going to the Madrid train station. No trains were available, but there was a divine encounter that was planned to happen at that station. The women met a family of six who were stranded and invited them to join us on our bus adventure. One of the women shared with them about the Lord, they heard a message on the bus from Denise Glenn (speaker at Madrid conference), and most importantly, they saw love in action! Contact information was exchanged, and we ask that you continue to pray for this family and the bus drivers. The conference continued on in the bus.

Fourth: Ten train tickets were booked on the bus. This may not seem so impossible, but we had no Internet connection and the tickets had to be booked with the credit card of the person who would be

picking up the tickets! Interestingly, each of the 10 was able to book tickets from Nice to outside of Paris, and they got on the bus planning to go to Stuttgart. You see, sometimes we think we are going to one place, and God has a much better place for us to go. God does act in the details of our lives!

Fifth: The trip was not boring. We had comedy acts and devotionals and shared in the Lord's Supper together. (Ask some of the ladies about the baguette from France and the blood-orange juice). We saw some of the most beautiful sights of God's creation from Spain, to France, to Italy, to Switzerland. It was dark by the time we reached Germany. At the end of the route, Denise Glenn and five others continued on their journey by taking a two-hour car ride. What a long day, but God had given us so much. The bus drivers were taken care of as we were all taken care of by God! Adventure with God is not boring!

Sixth: Women connected with each other in a deeply personal way. Testimonies were shared, God's purpose was discovered for others, and our hearts were connected. I cannot describe fully the connection I experienced during this time. Yes, the details were taken care of by God, but for me the intimacy with others that I experienced was the highlight!

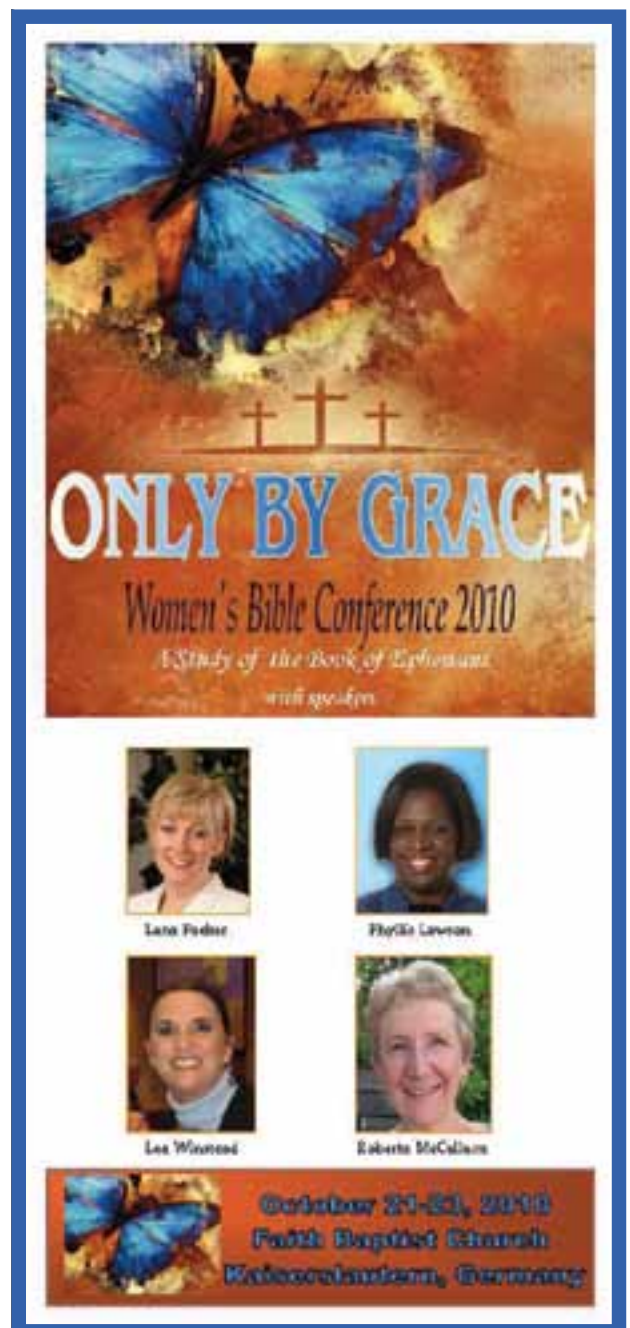
Finally, we were stressed to the max upon entering the bus, but we exited refreshed and full of hope. All the details in our lives were not yet worked out, but we had the calm assurance that God would take care of these details as well.

I would not trade this experience for anything.

But, I think I will wait a long while before taking another 31-hour bus ride! Even when we enter a time where things aren't working according to our plans, God has a much better plan in store for us!

Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think – according to the power that works in you – to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21). ■

Lana Packer
IBC Women's Team



IBC Bremen Ministers in South Africa during World Cup

■ **Only one word** can do justice to our recent mission trip to South Africa – GrrrrRRRRRREEEAT!

The 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa provided the perfect excuse for a team from the International Baptist Church in Bremen, Germany, to travel to South Africa to be “on mission with God”. Eight people, representing five countries, were given a grand send-off at a special commissioning service on 13 June, at which Pastor David Lock (Gonubie Baptist Church, South Africa), on holiday with his family in the U.K., was the guest preacher.

Our first week was spent ministering among the amaZioni people of the Transkei. Based at ZEMA’s Sondela station near Mthatha, we were able to share in a wide range of activities – including operating an outdoor holiday club for children in a village, ministering to youth in a different village during the afternoons (together with the Gonubie Baptist Church team), using the colours of the South African flag to teach the Gospel, facepainting, ministering to a bereaved family at a house meeting, attending an evangelistic crusade in a Zionist church – the opportunities were endless! A village pastor graciously gifted us (together with the Gonubie team) a live sheep in gratitude for the teams’ efforts. While some of “Lambert” was enjoyed that very evening, the rest will be savoured at the Gonubie team’s forthcoming reunion!

Our two Sundays were full and busy, and we participated in seven worship services over these two days. All team members had the opportunity of hands-on ministry, which included sharing testimonies, presenting song items, ministering the Word, and praying with those who responded.

Our second week of ministry was spent with the PE

branch of The Ultimate Goal (TUG) and presented a completely different itinerary to that of the first week. TUG deployed our team in the start-up phases of a new ministry initiative in Gqebera (Walmer Township). We were also privileged to have been invited to attend, and to minister at, a quarterly breakfast meeting for PE church and business leaders.

Our limited recreational time was spent in various ways – enjoying scenic drives, visiting a game park, savouring some of South Africa’s culinary delights (including several “braais”), revelling on golden beaches, visiting a Fan Park, watching big-screen football and shopping!

It would be gross understatement to say that South Africa was “buzzing” during the World Cup season. Such occasions provide amazing opportunity for effective ministry – we found people to be more open as a result of the “World Cup dynamic.” The international flavour of our team undoubtedly raised the interest levels of all whom we met. My advice to you if you are given a ministry opportunity during such an event – GO FOR IT!

Our testimony would not be complete without acknowledging our ministry partners – Gonubie Baptist, ZEMA, River Church, St Saviour’s Anglican, Summerstrand United, Kwanobuhle, Lighthouse, TUG – and many individuals. THANK YOU for allowing us to be part of what God is doing – Gospel partnerships are so awesome!

To God be the glory! And thank you to all who prayed for us. Ayoba! ■

*Pastor Neville Johannie
on behalf of IBC Bremen, Germany*



Unhindered Devotion Focus of IBC Singles' Leadership Conference

■ On 12-14 November, the IBC Singles' Ministry Team will be hosting a Singles' Leadership Conference in Frankfurt, Germany. The seminar is for people who want to make a difference in the lives of singles in their churches and in their communities.

In our cities we all face a growing number of singles. Many are choosing to marry later in life, others are divorced or widowed, and others are even avoiding marriage because of the pain they have experienced in their own backgrounds. Some are international students. Some are immigrants who have left home looking for a better way of life. Some are business people, military personnel, or individuals who are still living in their native countries. There are so many needs and so many different situations.

The conference will highlight the needs and struggles that are prevalent in the lives of singles. It will then focus on how

we can meet these needs and use them as "turning points" as we point singles to a life fully committed to Jesus Christ. The conference will focus on the "Unhindered Devotion" of 1 Corinthians 7. Those who attend will return home ready to help others realize their purpose in their lives, in their relationships, and in their churches. The weekend will be a great time of leadership training, worship, and new friendships with people from all over the IBC.

Please pass this info to singles and those who minister to singles in your church. We would love to have them join us. To register go to www.ibc-churches.org

If you have any questions about upcoming singles' events or would like help ministering to the singles in your congregation please contact the IBC Singles' Ministry Team at singles.ministry@ibc-churches.org. ■

Tim Melton



IBCM Helps IBC Churches

■ Dorothy and George Hayner went to Interlaken, Switzerland, for the IBC Summer Experience on behalf of the International Baptist Church Ministries, Inc. (IBCM) to assist leaders of International Baptist Convention churches. IBCM makes grants to IBC churches through the generous contributions of individuals. Dorothy is an IBCM Board member. The Hayners visited with many church leaders and helped them see more clearly how IBCM can assist the churches. For more information, see www.ibcmworld.org. At Interlaken, the Hayners also set up and supervised the Missions Ministry Snack Table. The table earned profits of at least 1538 Euro designated to start new churches in Darmstadt/Mannheim, Germany, and Panama City, Panama. ■

*Larry Jones, President
International Baptist Church Ministries, Inc.*



Glenn and Sue Herschberger, church planters for Panama City, man the snack table at Interlaken.



**Annual Convention Meeting
Stuttgart, Germany
25—28 October 2010**

Frankfurt, Germany

■ **This year has been** one of change for Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany. Doyle Searcy, who served as pastor of Bethel International for 13 years, retired in February after 50 dedicated years of service to our Lord.

Pastor Hilton Olive, accompanied by his wife Alice Jo, arrived in May as interim pastor having recently served as interim pastor at International Baptist Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Deacons Geoff Charter and Thomas Ofori-Djan along with several guest preachers worked tirelessly to guide Bethel according to God's will prior to Pastor Olive's arrival.

Pastor Olive sees his role as the connector between the retiring pastor and the pastor to come. In preparation for the new pastor, the congregation is working to build its vision statement. With the guidance of Pastor Olive, it is also seeking to determine in which direction God

is leading the church in its giving, leadership, attendance, and proclaiming His Word to Frankfurt.

Almost immediately upon his arrival, Pastor Olive began sending weekly emails to the congregation. They are messages of spiritual inspiration and scripture information for the coming Sunday sermon. He has also begun a Prayer Partners email to encourage praise for prayers answered and prayer for one another and for God's will and guidance in each church member's personal life. Pastor Olive believes *"the work of God is a spiritual ministry, accomplished by spiritual men and women achieving spiritual goals. Work as though it all depends on you and pray as though it all depends on God. Without your plans, thought, vision and prayers, you will not do much. Without God, you will not do anything!"*

With the growth of the congregation

the need for additional deacons has arisen. The congregation has recently nominated several members to be called and ordained as new deacons. They are also in the process of selecting and appointing members to a pastor search committee. Members of the committee will be trained in the process of selecting a pastor and preparing to receive resumes and interview prospects in the very near future.

One of the strengths the congregation continues to show during this time of change is their willingness to volunteer. The music program has developed to include several music leaders, pianists, an organist, and soloists. The children's and adult Sunday schools have seen an increase in attendance. Teachers have come forward to present lessons for spiritual growth and deeper knowledge and understanding of the Scripture. There is now a leader for men's ministry and a leader for women's ministry. Volunteers have also come forward to help with record keeping and other administrative needs. Periodic workdays are held to keep up the appearance of the church and parsonage, and volunteers also clean the church each week. A potluck dinner fellowship, which always includes a wide variety of delicious international dishes, is held after church every few weeks, and every week after church coffee and treats are made available during fellowship time by a devoted group of women of the church.

There is a strong spirit of dedication and service to our Lord among the congregation and an anticipation of God's will to be accomplished at Bethel International Baptist Church. ■

Jeanne Shekmer



Pastor Hilton Olive and his wife Alice Jo

Freiburg, Germany

■ **Royal Family** International Baptist Church, Freiburg, Germany, has had a number of good things going on. We had a fasting period from 3 June-26 July. It was very fruitful, and we have seen the Lord moving on our behalf with mighty miracles. Praise to the almighty God!

Through until today, we are seeing His hand performing breakthroughs for us to the glory of His name. In this period our senior pastor was traveling to Ghana to do some mission work which was also blessed by miracles, signs, and wonders. People got the breakthroughs and blessings they needed to finally advance in their life. Our

pastor came back safely and full of new testimonies.

We also had some baby dedications and a number of newborn babies in our church, and we are thanking God for their lives.

On 8 August, we celebrated our seventh church anniversary which was a success and another reason to thank God for bringing us so far.

We thank God from our hearts for the things He has done for individuals and the church's ministry because it was only possible by His intervention in our life. Praise be to Him who is the source of all victory, comfort, and achievement. ■

Oberursel, Germany

■ **The International** Christian Fellowship of Oberursel, Germany, conducted a Kids Kamp for children five years of age through ten years of age, 9-12 August. The Posse and Buckaroos (children) were led by the Trail bosses (teachers) and assisted by the Wranglers (youth) as they participated in Saddle Ridge Ranch. Each day children participated in Bible study, a missions study, crafts or recreation, music time, a snack time, and a Worship Rally. The children were excited as their new pastor, Carsten Lotz, joined them on the ranch for the week. ■

Pamela Culbertson

Sofia, Bulgaria

■ **Since its founding** as a church in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1992 the International Baptist Church Sofia has baptized new believers from around the world. New believers have come from Korea, Japan, the Philippines, China, many of the countries of Africa and Europe, Iraq, Iran, and even the USA and Canada.

The problem is: how can you baptize someone when you do not have a church building, much less a sanctuary? James Duke, the first pastor of the church, would organize a caravan of cars and travel up the side of huge Mount Vitoshka that overlooks the city. In an icy stream Duke would baptize people in very frigid water. One August around 2001 Duke baptized eight people on a day when the air temperature was about 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit). The temperature of the water felt colder than ice.

Although it was a frigid experience, the people who endured such a baptism seemed to appreciate their baptism in a

natural, open setting rather than in a comfortable man-made baptistery.

In January of 2002 we baptized 20 new believers from Iran. The Bulgarian Bap-



Pastor Ray Smith baptizes a new believer in a converted bathtub.

tist Church in downtown Sofia invited us to use their baptistery. After 20 new converts walked from the pool to the changing room in their wet, dripping robes, so much water soaked through the floor the electricity shorted-out. The closing part of the service could not use the keyboard or lights.

When a banker from The Netherlands joined our church, he invited us to use his swimming pool. One Sunday we baptized 16 people in his pool. Today, a young American pastor who preaches in a Bulgarian-speaking Baptist church invites us to use his baptistery. He and a friend created a baptistery. It is a very long bathtub that can accommodate even a seven-foot tall person.

Regardless of the method we use to obey the Lord's command, we are grateful for the Lord's baptism in the Holy Spirit of all who receive Him as their Savior and Lord. ■

Ray Smith

Portimao, Portugal

■ **"And all the Levitical singers...with cymbals, harps and lyres...were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the Lord...saying, 'He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting'".** (2 Chronicles 5: 12-13)

Thank you so much for your prayers for the visit of "One Voice," a student choir from the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor in Texas who were with us in Portugal from 19-22 May. They were a real blessing, combining a very high level of musical expertise with a solid Christian commitment, which was a delight to hear and see.

After arriving in Faro on 19 May after a mission trip to the Canary Islands, we took the choir to see the Hotel Delfim in Alvor where we will be starting an outreach ministry during the summer months. They gave an impromptu mini-concert in the Sunset Room which overlooks the beach.

The next day, they visited a nearby children's home where they sang and played with the kids, who were delighted with their gifts of skipping ropes and sang "Only a boy named David" for the choir in Portuguese.

Later that same day, One Voice gave a concert at Vale Judeu as part of a united service of English-speaking churches in the Algarve. Two of the students also gave testimonies. People were touched by the musical reminder that "God is all around us, even when we feel we're all alone." As the choir walked up the steps and sur-

rounded the congregation, the delicate harmonies of the song beautifully echoed the awesome truth that God is indeed always with us.

The next morning, the choir set off for Lagos to sing at the nursing home where members of our church visit periodically. As we expected, the old folk loved the singing, but many of them also said they would like to have a New Testament in Portuguese, so members of the choir gladly passed them out as gifts.

That afternoon we took the group on a sightseeing tour which included Ponta da

Piedade in Lagos and Cabo Sao Vicente, the most south-westerly point in Europe. There are no 200-foot cliffs in Texas!

In the evening One Voice gave a final concert in the chapel of the Convent of São José in Lagoa. The acoustics were superb, and all who came thoroughly enjoyed the music and the message in the songs. One Voice left a lasting impression in the Algarve. Many were blessed by their music and especially the message of God's love and presence with us at all times. ■

Joy Borgan



One Voice sings at a nursing home near Portimao.

Hoensbroek, The Netherlands

■ **On 29 June**, the women of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hoensbroek, The Netherlands, started its Ladies Bible Study of the *Book of Daniel* by Beth Moore that will cover 12 weeks of study. We have eight ladies

in the class, and this is our second study this year. The last one was *Believing God*, also by Beth Moore.

We have also our monthly prayer meeting every second Saturday of the month

and a monthly cooking class for all the women (members and non-members of the church).

In July, we had 10 participants in our cooking class, and it was fascinating because from those 10 participants we had nine different nationalities (Ghana, Brazil, India, Philippines, China, Finland, Australia, Taiwan, and South America). We have a number of talented women from the church who share their cooking skills and traditional recipes from their home land. In June we learned a delicious recipe from Brazil while in July we had a hot recipe from India.

We praise God for all these women and their dedication to help and reach out to non-Christian through all these programs. As you may know, our church does not have a pastor at the moment, but God is in our midst guiding us and showing us the way to help each other and reach people in the area. ■

Menchie Bolk



Women gather weekly for Bible study at Emmanuel, Hoensbroek.

Madrid, Spain

■ **Immanuel Baptist Church**, Madrid, Spain, had more than 120 children enrolled, ages 3-11, representing 15 different nations, every day at our "Wildwood Forest," discovering the true nature of

God through Bible stories, games, crafts, worship, and snacks! It was lots of fun, and many eternal seeds were planted in the children's hearts.

Ranger McPhearless (alias Kevin Hol-

lister, former IBC deacon, who along with his wife Gail and daughter Kathryn spent vacation time to come help us with this VBS!) enlivened the general assemblies and helped drive home the points about God's true nature: undefeatable, unmatched, uncontrollable, unforeseeable, unforgettable! (A lot of things had to be done bilingually since many children's English is quite deficient.)

The interactive Bible drama station featured Pastor David Dixon as the old storyteller, aided by several young people who got the kids involved in acting out the Bible story. Afterward, the children grouped with their team leaders to focus on questions and applications.

Other stations included the memory verse station, the crafts station, the games station, and the snack station.

We finished out the morning with another brief assembly time, including praise songs with motions that many children kept singing even after they went home (their parents told us so!). ■

Susie Dixon



Children learn the true nature of God at the Wildwood Forest.

Hamburg, Germany

■ **At 14:00 on 19 June**, the Food for the Homeless project of the International Baptist Church, Hamburg, Germany, took to the streets for the first time. We had already spent the past hour making sandwiches at the Why Not? Café, and so after a time of prayer to give it all up to God, we were ready to hit the Reeperbahn and hopefully distribute the food. There were nine of us, so we split up into three groups and then spent the next two hours visit-

ing parks and shelters where we saw people living in hard conditions, yet were in sometimes surprisingly good spirits. We reunited at the café and shared our experiences. The mission was deemed a success – we had given away almost all 50+ bags of sandwiches and got to hear some interesting stories. Perhaps the most insightful discovery was that what people were really looking for, even more, in some cases, than the food we gave out, was the need

to have a dialogue with someone. This in fact was the aim of the project – to engage people living on the streets by offering a little food and conversation.

The project was repeated on 17 July and 21 August, and it is hoped that it will continue to grow as more people become interested. ■

James Wentworth

Thessaloniki and Athens, Greece

■ **Can you imagine** the Italian government banning pizza and pasta for the next five years? Or croissants in France? Or beer and sausages in Germany? The austerity measures by the Greek government (demanded by IMF and ECB in exchange for a huge loan) is exactly just that. It is a very bitter and a very big pill, but it must be swallowed by the Greeks; otherwise, they will go back to the stone age as one journalist put it. I reckon things will get better in three-five years if the Greeks don't turn this nation into a combination of Baghdad, Somalia, and Afghanistan. Like you, I believe that in every crisis, there is danger and opportunity.

Glad Tidings International Fellowship, Athens, is in the midst of all this chaos – situated five minutes from Omonia, where the protests are held. At one stage, we had to cancel our meeting due to a rally, no transportation, and the danger and risk. Talking about being in the wrong place at the wrong time – but at least I was in the right spot – inside Kentucky Fried Chicken with their main door and safety door closed when a riot broke out. What else can you do in there? Might as well enjoy the hot and spicy... . The Bible says, "There is a time for everything." I guess it was the best time to quickly take photos and then run like on steroids. No one in their right mind wants to be there.

The good side of all these things are:

- I found it easy to convince the church that we have to relocate.
- Many shops are closing and so we have places to choose from and bargain with the rent. There are two locations near the train station we are currently negotiating.
- Many desperate people around us are now open to the Gospel. I guess most of us are during a crisis. So the church is in a very exciting place with exciting opportunities.



Glad Tidings' Pastor Ernie Gutierrez and a team from North Sea share in downtown Athens.

We are thankful for the recent visit of Pastor David Fresch and his awesome team from North Sea Baptist Church, Stavanger, Norway. The passion and energy of the team was really something. We are so thankful to God for their sacrifices and commitment. Their time with us was short but very fruitful and refreshing. Not only that they ministered to us as a church, they also helped us big time practically, financially, and spiritually. God used them mightily in our street evangelism in Omonia. Two men were added to the church and a few others have been coming since. My assistant, David from Nigeria, is now running a small men's fellowship! Four or five of them are from the Omonia outreach.

The Stavanger team started a fire here. The church was really challenged by them. Small as we are, we are now doing something bigger than ourselves. We are now providing a meal once a week for a few refugees. Our goal is to feed 50 or more per week and provide second-hand dry goods such as clothing and shoes. David Fresch is already sending boxes of dry goods from Norway. To have a "shower

ministry" (provide a shower for the many homeless refugees) in the near future is very much in our hearts and prayers.

Certainly the team's street evangelism wasn't as smooth as I'd like it to be. There sure was intimidation by the police authority and strong verbal abuse by some Greek Orthodox zealots. There was also a moment where I felt overwhelmed and had to finish our outreach earlier than planned. That "There is a time for everything" again tells me that it was time to retreat! The Apostle Paul and our Lord Jesus did it. Just following their example I guess.

Glad Tidings International Fellowship, Thessaloniki, is doing okay. The leadership team is very capable of running the church when I am in Athens. But I can only pastor two churches for a period of time and for the best interest of the churches. Please join me in prayer to find someone to pastor Thessaloniki.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Good to be serving the Lord in this region with you. ■

Ernie Gutierrez

Bremen, Germany

Opening doors outdoors

■ **In terms of sun** and warmth, spring left quite a lot to be desired in Bremen this year – with the notable exception of Sunday 23 May! Just in time for our open-air worship service at a popular lakeside location in town, the sun appeared!

Our new banner was hung up in a prominent place between two trees, identifying us to passers-by. We were also able to hand out copies of our flyer giving introductory information to those who stopped to watch and listen.



More than 100 people from International Baptist Church Bremen, representing approximately 30 different nations, gathered for a special outdoor service including lively praise and worship, a message from Pastor Neville Johannie (with a German translation), and testimonies from our three baptismal candidates. It was both encouraging and moving to hear personal accounts of initial struggles and doubts which were ultimately blown away by decisions to say yes to Jesus Christ.

The service culminated with three baptisms in the lake which drew large crowds of curious onlookers. Pastor Johannie led the way, demonstrating how not to enter the water and getting a lot wetter than he had planned!

Following the service we shared a picnic lunch complete with BBQ. The buffet table proved to be every bit as diverse as the nations represented.

We were reminded again that there are many, many people around us who would not normally find their way into our church building but who will stop and listen if we meet them where they are. A large group of happy people of all ages, shapes, sizes, and nationalities causes a stir and provides an immediate opening with strangers. Who are we? What are we doing? Why? We are already looking forward to another opportunity to answering questions like these when we take our worship service outdoors again on 8 August.

“Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity” (Col 4:4).

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...” (1 Peter 3:13).

Heidi

12th birthday celebration

Unity in diversity – that’s what describes International Baptist Church Bremen best.

At our worship service on 16 May IBC Bremen celebrated her 12th birthday. We wish to give glory to God for what He has done in birthing an international, English-language church right here in Bremen.

In advance Pastor Neville Johannie had encouraged our members and visitors to wear something representative of their respective home country – whether something traditional, reflective of the country’s national colors, or even a soccer shirt! So it turned out to be a really colourful display of the nations represented in our congregation.

Some of our members also brought flags of their countries for display and we laid them down at the stairs to the feet of the cross, dedicating them to our Lord Jesus, to honour Him and to give Him the praise and glory He deserves. The roll-call of countries showed 35 nations present from five continents.

The service started with Owen Griffiths, one of the still active founding members (or to quote Pastor Johannie “he is like dear, valuable furniture”), giving a brief history of our church. IBC Bremen began as an English-speaking church, serving American military personnel. Then in 1991, as the military was withdrawn back to the United States, the church ministries began to focus on the growing international presence in the city of Bremen. Initially English-language worship services were conducted once a month but soon were held every Sunday afternoon in the building of a German Baptist Church, the Kreuzgemeinde, who generously opened her doors for us. Wednesday evening Bible studies and prayer meetings were also introduced.

In May 1998, IBC Bremen was recognized as a constituted church with a charter membership roll of 27 believers and was also accepted as a full member of the European Baptist Convention (now International Baptist Convention), supported by the Southern Baptist Convention (USA).

Uwe Münster, one of our four deacons, shared with us, why he as a German citizen has been with IBC Bremen from the

start. We learned how long-term residents can ‘anchor’ what God is doing and how God uses our German members to form an important backbone of the church.

Florence Bröffel from Kenya gave a brief testimony how God has worked in her life for the 1 ½ years she has been worshipping with us at IBC Bremen, what it means to her to be a member of this church, and how the Lord is blessing her ever since.

Pastor Johannie preached God’s Word to us on “What is God’s vision for this church?,” based on 2 Corinthians 10. God has a purpose for us here at IBC Bremen – to exalt the Lord our God, to equip believers, and to evangelise the lost. But we are not doing this in our own strength, in our own power. God has given us the ‘weapons’ (or ‘tools’) of true power and true spirituality, as it says in 2 Cor. 10:4-5.

After the service everyone was invited to join for another of our delicious ‘Meal 4 Missions,’ which was graciously provided by a team of IBC women ‘cooking their hearts out’ – so to speak. The proceeds of our M4M on this occasion were dedicated to the planting of new IBC churches – our gift to the International Baptist Convention, with whom our church is in membership.



Even though we have many nations represented in our weekly worship services, this service was very special, making us even more aware of Matthew 28:18-20: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

How blessed we are by our Lord to have so many of His nations present at IBC Bremen every Sunday.

Already now we’re really looking forward to May 2011. After all it’s going to be IBC Bremen’s first teenage party! ■

Heike Herzog