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Canada

May, 2010



*Dear Brothers and Sisters in the LORD*

*Greetings in Him Who remains Faithful forever!*

We are writing this letter from our OM headquarters in Mosbach where 22 yrs. ago, Irene and I started living out our marriage and ministry together. We have delivered several banana boxes full of our treasured possessions to be sent to Canada from here. The count-down for our departure is moving fast forwards towards take-off. We are packing, finalising the practical details before we step into a new chapter of our lives and ministry in Canada. It is a time filled with emotions of joy and sadness as both of us have deep roots in relationships and in this beautiful country. More than anything else it is also a time where we look back and praise the Lord for His strength, grace and wisdom in being part of building His Temple in Germany, out of living stones. How we thank you for standing with us over all those years so we could fulfill His Will for our lives in the work He had called us to.

Some of the closing highlights we experienced over the past days during our series of farewells:

**The Messianic Conference:** On the very first evening we were presented with a Certificate expressing thanks and appreciation for the years of service to the Jewish people here in Germany. Several Pastors gathered around us and committed us to the Lord for our ongoing ministry in Canada. On the closing day, Sunday morning, there was a worship service with the local German congregation joining our Jewish (Germany-wide) congregations, approx. 500 people. Anatoli preached from Ephesians 2: "For the Messiah is our peace, Who has made the two, the Jew and the Gentile one, and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." To both of us it was a very moving moment as we heard him giving a powerful message from God's Word to both groups of people: the Jew and the Gentile believers. Many of the elderly German people who had experienced the war were deeply touched as Anatoli shared about his relatives who died in the concentration camps, and God's desire to forgive the German nation. One of our visions in pioneering this work was to see Jews coming to know their Messiah Yeschua and that they in turn would become bright lights in this country, sharing the message of reconciliation. In that very early period of our ministry among the Jewish people the Lord led us to Anatoli and his family in a refugee camp. The Lord has been using Anatoli and his wife Ira, to fulfill that vision of breaking down the wall between Jew and Gentile in this country where 70 years previous the holocaust began.

For us this closing at the conference was like a stamp of confirmation from the Lord that our part was fulfilled. There were many special memory moments in that conference as we met with some from our first Jewish contacts who had come to faith in Jesus. We saw young people from our children's and youth camps, a new generation of young Jewish people who will carry on the torch of the Gospel among their own people and the Germans. The call for recommitment of lives after the message on the Saturday evening brought many lives into a new depth of love for our Lord Jesus.

**Other fruits which remained:** It was such an encouragement to meet with Pastor Willy David, from the Russian German Baptist Fellowship, the very first church the Lord led us to pioneer in Germany. We heard how that church has been growing and moving on with the Lord, having bought their own building and having a vision for the lost. They will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary as a Church this September. We would have dearly loved to attend.





**Feast of Purim:** There was a clear sense of the Presence of the Lord as we celebrated Purim together with a few other Messianic congregations in Köln. . The remembrance of this historical feast of the deliverance of the Jews from the hand of Haman proves God's sovereignty and victory for His people. Over a 100 people packed the place with possibly up to 70 Jewish people. "People might call all the incidents in the Book of Esther, pure coincidence or just luck. God is not mentioned once in this Book, but what you see is His Hand, directing, overruling, intervening just at the crucial moments. That is what you will experience in your personal life as you walk with the Lord." Jacob shared: "God is looking for more Esthers and Mordecais, who are as bold enough to stand up for the Gospel's sake in this present age. What about you?" We could see how the Word was powerful and active and challenging us all to be His bold witnesses.

Valya: "I went to the Purim Feast at the synagogue, (usually a masquerade) but there was not even a word mentioned about God, except someone said 'Thank God' in a poem." Our burden and prayer is for people including the Rabbi in Koblenz to come to know the Lord Jesus as their Messiah, and seeing the synagogue become a place where God and His Word is loved, and Jesus is Lord."

**Passing on the Torch to Our New Leadership:** On April 29<sup>th</sup> we will have our final farewell with our Koblenz congregation, and invited guests. Pray with us for this to be a special time of rejoicing and thanksgiving and anticipation for all that the Lord has done-- and still wants to do—even if there will naturally be sadness in our leaving. We will give over the leadership of our congregation into the hands of a good team. Ivan, our co-leader of 8 years will take over the leadership with his wife, and several of the visiting Bible teachers and leaders who have been regularly coming to preach have assured us of their faithfulness to Ivan and the flock. Jakob Kroeker, leader of the Messianic Fellowship in Köln, is in touch with the Bible School in Bonn regarding finding a Pastor from the Bible School to help Ivan in the future. Several leaders at our Messianic conference have expressed their desire to stand with Ivan and be of any help he would need in his new responsibilities.

**Our Departure:** We will be leaving for Canada on the morning of May 30<sup>th</sup>. The first weekend after our arrival, we will be attending the OM Canada team retreat where we will have the opportunity to meet and fellowship with the staff serving in Canada. We look forward to that first step and introduction/welcome back into Canada. As we mentioned in our previous letter, the Lord has His plans for us in His harvest field in Canada and we trust Him to show us His will and way for our lives for the years ahead.

We can be reached at my sister Lydia at the following address:

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Looking forward to stepping out in faith and adapting to the wishes of the Lord, whom we want to glorify and serve with all our hearts. Also looking forward to fellowshiping with many of you.

Blessings, and His Shalom be with you,

*Henk and Irene*  
Henk and Irene

PS. For your support gifts in sustaining this work you can send your contributions to:

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