

Faith of Our Fathers Germany 2023 Journey - Wittenberg, Dresden, Berlin

1. Introduction

This report provides feedback with regard to a Unlimited Prayer Frontiers (UPFSA) prayer outreach to Germany in September/October 2023, which included the centers of Hermannsburg, Wittenberg, Dresden, Herrnhut and Berlin. The outreach had a challenging mandate from God and was to serve as a forerunner to more outreaches from South Africa and Africa as a whole to Europe. The report is thus to serve as a source of information to follow-up initiatives, both by UPFSA and by other organisations. The report relates the experiences on the outreach in relation to specific words received from God during the nine weeks of preparation and during the outreach itself. A joint team understanding of the impact of the outreach, as reflected in this report, has been gained in various feedbacks that have already happened, i.e. a focused, externally-led team de-briefing, individual feedbacks to the communities/churches which were represented on the outreach, and the country-wide feedback meeting on Zoom on 11.11.23.

To speed up the feedback, the first two reports addressed Hermannsburg and Herrnhut, which were our main thanksgiving locations. *This third and final report addresses the blessed time spent in Wittenberg, Dresden and Berlin.*

2. Purpose of outreach

Since a prayer journey to Germany in 2019, a vision from God has emerged and has grown over time, in various joint 'Europe / Africa Nations Redeemed' events, into a clear purpose: *"for spiritual children (Africa tribes / nations believers) to come back to Europe to show prophetic gratefulness to their spiritual parent nations for the gospel they brought to Africa already centuries ago (Eph. 6:1-3; Malachi 4:6); bringing gifts that will bless the parents (Matt. 2:10-11).* This was to be done to encourage our brothers and sisters, the body of Christ in Germany, with a sense of God's end-time purpose for the nation of Germany. We experienced God's preparation and leading towards his mandate throughout the journey and thus the report is to serve first and foremost as a testimony to an amazing God.

3. Preparation of the journey

In the beginning of May 2023 an invitation went out to join the journey: "We want to especially invite descendants of our 'first nation' – the Khoi / San people of South Africa as well as Xhosa, Zulu and Sotho believers. We want them to represent their communities to bring thanksgiving and prophetic expressions of gratefulness for the gospel that German believers brought to southern Africa." By beginning of July, God had provided a wonderfully representative team:

Sophia Hendricks, Angela Dunn: Khoi descendants impacted by the Moravian mission from Herrnhut;

Victor Vilakazi: from the Zulu nation impacted by the Hermannsburg Mission Society;

Rolf Gevers, Irma Lammerding: German-speaking descendants of missionaries from Hermannsburg;

Eberhard Braune: born in Germany, with links to the Rheinisch Mission Society to Namibia;

Karine Derieux: French speaker with a prophetic ministry for Germany;

Leon Coetzee: Afrikaner of Huguenot descent and leader of UPFSA.

God had played a big role in the bringing together this team. Irma took an in-faith decision on very short notice, when Friedhild Böhmer of the Mkhondo German community had to withdraw because of an operation her husband had to undergo. Leon was able to join the Germany team when a parallel journey to France / Switzerland had to be called off, because no more bookings for visa were available, months ahead of time (because of the World Rugby Cup in France).

Team preparation is vital for UPF prayer journeys. This started immediately, with regular Zoom meetings and then daily joint prayer on the Whatsapp group during the last four weeks. The first in-person meeting only happened at departure from OR Tambo airport on 24 September 2023. The strength of the team effort for this outreach can be gauged by the 97 intercessors that were brought together across the country to support the outreach.

Wittenberg

Wittenberg – we all knew it as the place where the Reformation had started long ago (1517) and now we would get a brief glimpse of it ourselves. It was not one of our main 'thanksgiving' stops, but lying on our way between Hermannsburg and Dresden, we did not want to miss it. In planning, we realized, that we knew nobody in Wittenberg. The Mkhondo team remembered an Onkel Wilhelm. On the phone he gave us an idea of the lay of the land and we booked a hotel near the station. On the internet we found information of a short daily service in English in a chapel next to the Schloßkirche. God had other plans! Our Dresden friends

provided contact to Jesus Gemeinde in Wittenberg and a Markus answered immediately. “All 8 can sleep in the Gemeindehaus, but they would be busy preparing for a big youth event the next day and would have little time for us. Would we bring sleeping bags and sheets?” No, unfortunately not. “Also, no problem, just come!



Jesus Gemeinde Wittenberg

And there we suddenly stood, so time after midday, in front of a wonderful modern, all-white 4-story building ‘Jesus Gemeinde’ on the outskirts of town opposite a railway shunting yard. Markus Karohl turned out to be the youth pastor. In the end, we had a wonderful supper with him and wife Debbie, with young people all around us preparing for the next day. We were even joined by Pastor Siegfried Eyke and wife Maria and felt as if we had known each other all our lives. To our amazement, they knew Gerda Leithgöb well and shared how she had taught and connected many in Germany in a time when the church was rising up again out of the ashes of post-war Germany. We learned of people like Alexander Garth, Heinrich Wachsmuth, Ortwin Schweitzer and Wolfgang Margies, early leaders of the renewal, with a strong focus on prayer. The umbrella that connects places like Wittenberg, Berlin and Dresden is the ‘Bund Freier Pfingstgemeinden’ –BFP (Pentecost churches) and at a wider renewal level, the ‘Geistliche Gemeinde Erneuerung’ (GGE Deutschland). It is a Lutheran Church movement, but with links to similar Holy Spirit renewal movements in the German Catholic and Baptist Churches. A broader alliance of all protestant churches is the Evangelische Allianz Deutschlands (EAD).

We also heard the most shocking statistic. Wittenberg, where the Reformation was birthed, today gives itself as 99% unbelieving. In the former East Germany, an average of 80% call themselves unbelievers, but it appears that the devil is most active where God had established his fortresses of old. We felt the oppressive atmosphere inside the monumental cathedral of the Schlosskirche. But outside on the street with young Pastor Markus, there was a joy, which we would love to experience again.

It became clear to us, that where the Holy Spirit is welcomed, one sees the miracle-working God and new church growth. It was touching to see Pastor Siegfried cry when he shared the miracle of his Wittenberg church. The complex had been built with every gadget and comfort for a millionaire company. Through a sequence of miracles, an old couple of the church acquired it and through more miracles the pastor bought it for an absolute song of Euro 600 000, when they only had Euro 10 000 in their bank account.

Out of the young people preparing for the youth event, we met a 14 year old, who was part of the Royal Rangers, the youth movement for 7-17 year olds that Jesus Gemeinde had adopted. When the Rangers call the youth of the city, like was intended on that Saturday, a thousand will join. In 2022, 17 000 Royal Rangers had gathered in Gotha, Thuringia. “Just do it!” is a motto of the church. God will do the rest - a lesson to take home.



Schloßkirche door with the 95 Theses



On the Schloßplatz outside - Joy with Pastor Markus

A small incident to remember and bring a smile back - we were so involved with God, that we sometimes forgot everything else. The backwards and forwards and the many steps in Wittenberg were a massive challenge for Victor, who had received all the possible anti-biotics, creams, and bandages for his hurting leg the day before. We took turns to look after him in his wheelchair. But when our cars came back from the first city outing to our overnight home, somebody asked: where is Rolf and Victor? Can you imagine, the ladies Karine and Irma, had not noticed that the men were not in the car when they left the large parking area at Schloßkirche. Back they had to go – found them fortunately, despite the team’s limited Germany Wi-Fi connection.



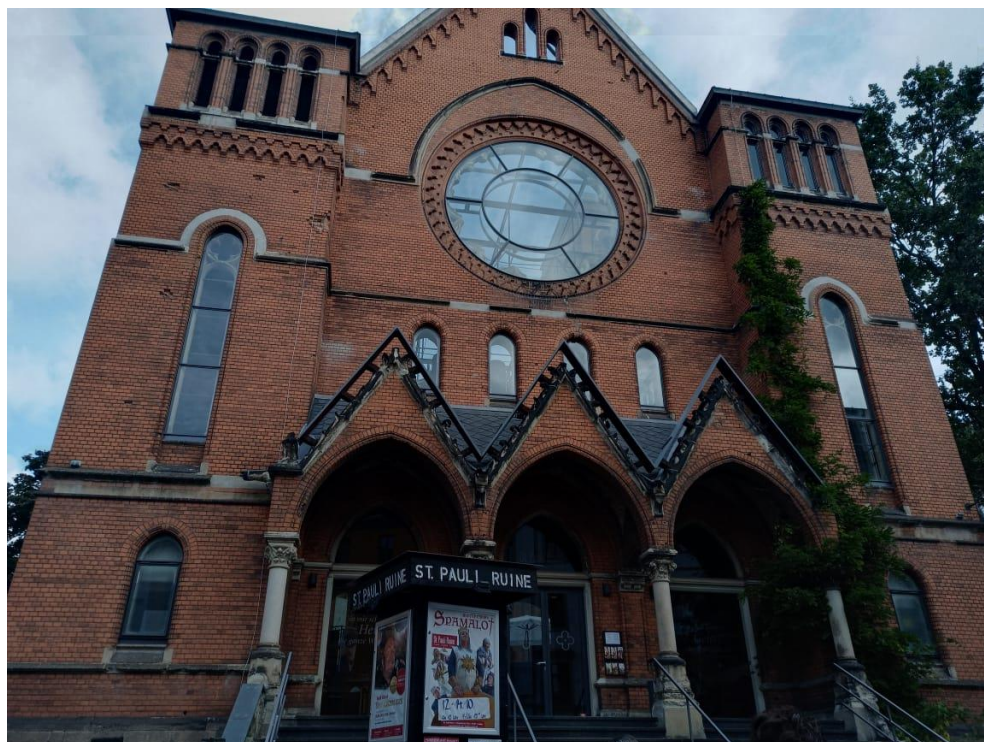
We were blessed and could bless in turn: “please bless us before you leave!”

The two days had been wonderfully intense in the Spirit and many images and words from God had come. The image of a dove chained in a cage gave us an understanding of the Reformation freedom God had brought here long ago, but people had put their own enlightenment chains around it. Only the Holy Spirit can break these man-made chains. “Assyria shall not save us ... return to the words of the LORD” (Hosea 14). Even before arriving in Wittenberg, we had stopped at a tram station to locate ourselves. The station map of different suburbs connected by the tram, and even more so, by the River Elbe, brought a prophetic vision that grew as we went on and came across the Elbe again and again. God is working across generations and the old springs of revival across Germany can break out miraculously again under his will and our obedience (Job 14:7-9; 2 Kings 3:16-17). The Elbe became symbolic to us of the water of life that flows unendingly from the temple, rising in the Bohemian mountains and blessing Herrnhut, Dresden, Wittenberg and Hermannsburg on its way, and finally, via Hamburg and the ocean, becoming a blessing for the whole world and for us in South Africa (Revelation 22:1-2).

We had experienced the obedience of one family (Eyke/Karohl). Through them, through their love, peace and wisdom, God was doing a new thing in Wittenberg (Isaiah 43:18-19: 11:2). We spoke over them, that God had a new season in mind for them, preparing a German youth for its end time purpose.

Dresden

Dresden is one of Germany's most beautiful old cities. It is also one that suffered terrible destruction and loss of life during World War II bombing raids. To have wonderful prayer friends in this still hurting city is a great blessing. Pastor Michael's church, the St. Pauli Ruin, is a symbol of Dresden – destroyed and rebuilt, given a glass roof in 2012 and used as a theater during the week. Only in 2017 was the church bell replaced – more than 70 years after the terrible war.



The St. Pauli Ruin – the remains of a church built in 1889 and destroyed in 1945

We were warmly received in the church hall. From the foreign languages around us, we soon realized that something had changed in Germany since we had been here 4 years ago. We had already noticed it at the rest stops on the Autobahn – just foreign looking people and strange number plates. It turned out to be mainly Ukrainians. Soon we learned from Pastor Michael that he now had an international congregation in the center of Dresden, which was already bigger than his church family at the Ruine. Some of them joined us for the evening of thanksgiving and worship. We prayed for a revival among the new youth of this city – German, Russian, Polish and even former Muslim – a wonderful challenge for youth pastor Tobias. He takes a discipling team into the city every Friday night (2100 - 0200 am). They find, that there is still a lot of war pain and guilt around, but people are starting to have enough of atheism and the occult - these do not give life. A great harvest is ready for the gathering in East Germany. Our continued prayers were called for.

A special blessing was that our friend Uta (she had been on an outreach to White River in 2022) was part of the evening.

We prayed in particular for Pastor Michael. He is due to retire from his Lutheran pastorship during 2024. Interestingly, his father had been a pastor in Communist East Germany and Michael had always wanted to become a missionary. Ten years ago he visited South Africa and his preaching shows where his heart is – in the township in Knysna and in the 'Church without Walls' in Kyalitsha. May he and Katharina be a continued blessing to the body of Christ in Dresden and beyond.



Pastor Michael and Katharina receive our thanks for the gospel that Germans had once brought to us



Christian brothers and sisters in Dresden praise God together in many languages

On the next day, our hosts took us to many historic sites in the city. Fascinating for us was the Zinzendorf link. Zinzendorf was born in Dresden in 1700. The nobility in Saxony and particularly in the city of Dresden, were strong Christians. Count Zinzendorf was still a public servant of 'August der Starke' of Saxony when he received the refugees from Moravia on his Berthelshof estate. Herrnhut is only some 80 km from Dresden.



Royal Opera House in Dresden

So much of the old city renewal is still very new. The famous Frauenkirche has only been rebuilt since 2005. Its wall includes black stones throughout – taken from the burnt remains of 1945.



Prayer for revival at historic springs in Dresden and for some of those who will lead it.

*"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!"*

Isaiah 55:1

The biggest gift of all – salvation and eternal life is free – “Umsonst” – ‘for nothing’. Germans will come running for it one day – soon.



God’s blessing on this journey was so wonderfully clear, when Leon was able to invite all of us to a special meal in the midst of scenic Dresden. Thomas, our amazing guide during the whole day, could continue his story of Dresden through the ages – a bit like Jerusalem.

How sad when, a few months later, we had a long letter from Thomas und Sibylle Klinke, enquiring what had made our country South Africa accuse Israel of Genocide at the International Court of Justice. Both our nations still have to deal with their past and prayer must continue.

Berlin

God had played his part in the final journey programme, in particular the open roads from Herrnhut to our last stage, the capital, Berlin – on a public holiday, 3. October, the German Unity Day. In the blind prayer on the road, we were reminded how the faithful prayer of a few could bring about miracles – like the Monday peace prayers started in the Leipzig Nikolaikirche around 1982 over time led to candle light marches in other GDR cities and ultimately in 1989 to mass demonstrations, and finally to the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification.

We were blessed to have received the contact of Pastor Andreas Bauer through our long-standing prayer friend Siegfried Fritsch. In 2019, on our last day in Berlin, we had prayed in front of the closed doors of the Jerusalem Gemeinde, Pastor Bauer's church in Berlin. There had been no time to make contact then. Now we had planned our Thanksgiving event in Berlin together in a number of Zoom meetings. It was to be in his 'Berliner Gebetshaus für alle Nationen' (prayer house for all nations) on the public holiday, with the opportunity to invite wider. Still, we had no idea, what would await us, when we arrived there in the early afternoon. It turned out, that they wanted to celebrate Sukkot with us. In the Jewish festivals calendar, Sukkot 2023, also called Feast of Booths, is from 29.9 - 6.10.23. It is a double thanksgiving – for the harvest and for Israel protection, when the Israelites lived in leave huts (sukkot) during their years of wandering in the wilderness, after the Exodus from Egypt. It was a joyous celebration of our common roots in the nation of Israel.



Germans and South Africans celebrating Sukkot – 3. October 2023 at Berlin International House of Prayer

The gathering had a wonderful international flavour:

Pastor Andreas Bauer and wife Adelheid

Pastor Christian Stalay, youth pastor of the Jerusalem Gemeinde, Berlin and married to Ruth, eldest Bauer daughter.

Pastor Arnhild who has a church in Potsdam and a son in South Africa

Pastor Segun Alan

Pastor Emmanuel Sservyange, Church Restoration Prayer Ministry in Uganda (emmarvins@yahoo.com; +256782948011)

Pastor David from SriLanka (he mentioned Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, the first Protestant missionary to India)

Tragically, 4 days later, on October 7th, at the end of Sukkot celebrations, a day after we arrived home, the massacre in Israel happened, the deadliest attack on Israel since the Holocaust. The book we were given during the 'Aufwiedersehen', "Eine Herde - Ein Hirte" (One Herd - One Shepherd), now has a prophetic meaning for us. It is about the end time birth of the completed church of God - Israel and the nations – the pregnant woman in Revelations 12.



One Herd One Shepherd

The title page image symbolizes the completed church of God.

The *gate* consists of three elements:

At the top - “Yeshua”

On right - “One Herd”

On left - “One Shepherd”

The *steps* – „Jacobs ladder to heaven“

The *triangle* – the Triune God (the heart is the heart and soul of the bride – one with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – bound together in a Star of David)

The *Menorah* – the Israel of God (Jews & nations)

The *rock* – the Rock on which the church is founded - it is Jesus.

The *two trees* – these are God’s anointed (from Zachariah 4) with the Words from Exodus 35 and 36 (the construction of the Tabernacle)

The *big letters* in the trees - Jehovah Jireh

God’s Church on the way to completion

During the next day, Siegfried took us to strategic sites in Berlin, where we wanted to conclude our intercession for the German nation. We started at the French Church of Friedrichstadt, commonly referred to as Französischer Dom. It was built by French Huguenot refugees to Berlin from 1701-1705. During this time, Huguenots constituted about 25 percent of the city population. It was a time of revival for Berlin and Germany.

Already during 2019, we had heard that Berlin is seen as the Babylon of Europe. Now, during breakfast, we were shocked by a Berlin newspaper full front page image of half-naked dancers. A new show with a budget of Euro 14 million, “Falling – in Love”, was to be premiered on 11. October. At the statue of Frederick the Great (1712-1786), King of Prussia, Siegfried shocked us with information, where it all had started.



Frederick the Great statue in Berlin

Frederick had been a homosexual throughout his life, well known in European society. His father, Friedrich Wilhelm I of Prussia, known as the Soldier King, hated his son, because he appeared to be a weakling, loving music, literature and young men. A Prussian court had young Lieutenant von Katte, with whom Frederick had tried to escape from home, executed in Frederick's presence. Though he had an arranged marriage, Frederick produced no children and was succeeded by his nephew. He wrote and spoke French by preference and invited French Enlightenment writer, philosopher and God-mocker, Voltaire, to his court. He brought enlightenment, Freemasonry and religious freedom to Europe, but deeper down, he had opened the door, some 300 years ago already, to sin and to idolizing the state above God, ultimately opening the door to Hitler's Third Reich.

To Eberhard this was a particular shock. The whole morning we had been in the surroundings where his mother had grown up in Berlin. Both grandfathers had been career officers in the German army. Frederick the Great had been an idol of their generation of nationalistic Germans. An image came during prayer at the statue of an axe for chopping off roots. Germans have already forgotten the miracle of reunification. The continued mix of cultural and religious things is blocking a people from returning into God's will – one cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. Only the Holy Spirit can break this iron yoke (1 Corinthians 10). Back at home, Eberhard had to break a family idol, a miniature statue of Frederick the Great he had inherited from his mother.



An idol has fallen – Eberhard's statue of Frederick the Great in Haven Village, Pretoria

Our Berlin time had a wonderful closure, with a prophetic evening hosted at Bärbel's home. It was here that the Germany-South Africa relationship, which Gerda Leithgöb had built during a life time, had been rekindled in 2019. Siegfried and wife Anja were part of the evening. They had been central to the follow-up 'Nations Redeemed' prayer seminars in Cape Town and Pretoria in April 2022, held up by two years by the Covid epidemic.

We left Germany with the promise from Isaiah 43:18-19

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

On 6. October back at OR Tambo Airport in South Africa, Irma concluded her prayer notes.

"Mission accomplished! Thank You LORD!"