

First Step Ministries, Inc.

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Rhema Germany / New Roles and Responsibilities

There are times when we can have a greater impact in building the Kingdom Of God. But to take advantage of the opportunity means that we need to shift or increase responsibilities that may not have been part of the original strategy.

Since my arrival in Bonn two plus years ago, I have been helping Rhema Germany in a various capacities and occasionally attending their staff meetings. This was in addition to my First Step Ministries, Inc. projects. During the last few months the Lord has increased my desire to help them in a greater way.

The biggest benefit I could be to Rhema Germany was to become their business man-

ager or administrator. I had been exploring this with Pastor John and Michelle Grunewald who head up the ministry. We agreed that this was the best plan. Because of this, I have made a one year commitment to serve Rhema Germany in this capacity. The position is unpaid and I still need to increase my financial support but this commitment is a win, win situation for all of us and The Body of Christ.

In addition to administrating the church and school, the position will include helping set strategy, goal setting and planning. And of course the classic "catch all" job description we all know and love, "...and all other duties as as-

signed".

There is a spiritual principle that says if you help build up someone else, you will be built up. Specifically I am "sowing seed" in truly "good ground" and expect to see a harvest in many areas. Is this selfish? Not really, don't farmers plant seeds expecting to reap a harvest.

Rhema Germany consists of Rhema Bible Church, Rhema Bible Training Center and oversees the Rhema European Alumni Organization with over 700 members. One of the reasons I am highly motivated in this area is because of the incredible impact Rhema Germany already has had on Germany itself, Europe and other

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American Man "Survives" Nearly Two Years Without Car.

A Big Praise Report

The above headline really didn't appear in a local newspaper but it could have.

After nearly two and a half years without a car, the Lord blessed me.

The 1986 Opel Kadette comes with lots of German road "experience". One might say that it is a "Classic" or "Vintage" vehicle in its own time. How did this happen?

One of my neighbor's named Werner and I were riding home on the train a few weeks



This is not my actual car but one of the same year and model. Mine needs some detailing before it is brought out in public.

Note: New Cell Phone Number:

+49-(0)160-598-6135.

From the U.S. dial: 011-49-160-598-6135

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Rhema Germany (Cont'd)

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continents in bringing people to Jesus.

Rhema Bible Church members represent thirty-two countries. One-third of the church is made up of people that have been saved less than ten years.

Over the past five years, Rhema Bible Training Center students have represented twenty-seven different countries. Besides Europe, students have come from Asia, Far East Asia, Africa, the United States and the Caribbean.

Rhema Germany has tremendous potential to increase its impact on the world. All the indicators are there to move the or-

ganization to the next step. But it needs additional resources and direction to make this happen. I believe I can play a vital role in helping Rhema Germany move up to the next level.

It is important to note that I am not reducing my First Step Ministries, Inc. projects or responsibilities but rather increasing my workload. Pastor John and Michelle Grunewald have given me flexibility in this area to be able to continue to minister and travel as I deem necessary for FSM.

It will be exciting to see how the next year evolves for both Rhema Germany and First Step Ministries, Inc..

Germany, its History and Future

Germany has had an interesting role in world history. The country is geographically located in the center of Western Europe. As the European Union grows to the east with the inclusion of the Eastern European countries, Germany's role and importance in the EU is being redefined. Currently the two major players in the EU are France and Germany.

Germany is struggling with a bad economy and 18% unemployment and the fear of cheap labor from the new Eastern European countries that have recently joined the EU. The country struggles with attempting to adapt to a changing world economy as it tries to rearrange its internal social and economic structure. Bringing down the Berlin wall in 1989 removed a physical barrier but as a society invisible barriers and resentments remain.

Recently some prophecies have come out about Germany's role in the next church phase. God has a specific plan for this country. It is the birth place of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. The Gutenberg Bible was printed here, making bibles available to the common man. Europe as a whole has a rich church history but for the most part, has walked away from religion and relationship with God. What ever past history it has been, does not now reflect a tangible relationship with God but rather a desire to become more and more secular.

I am excited that He has placed me here to use Germany as my base camp to work and minister. Within an eight hour flight time from Germany, I can be in Asia, Africa or the United States. Within the last two years have discount airlines opened up the entire European Continent including Turkey to cheap airfares. Recently on television, there was a discussion about creating a discount airline link from Cologne/Bonn airport to Shanghai, China. Currently there is a discount airline serving Moscow, Russia. It will be interesting to see how the plan of God unfolds for Germany and me.

American Man "Survives" (Cont'd)

**THE BIBLE
SAYS...
"DESPISE NOT
SMALL
BEGINNINGS."
ZACHARIAH
4:10**

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ago, when he just spontaneously asked me if I wanted one of his cars. He had recently bought a small van to haul his motorcycle and didn't want to maintain two

vehicles. Werner did not want the hassle of trying to sell it.

For two years he has seen me ride the train and my bicycle so he thought since the car was in good shape overall, I could use it.

With some detail work, "Mein kleiner rotes Auto" (my little red car) will be a blessing. Glory!!! The Word talks about "Despise not small beginnings...." Believe me, I am not. This is much the same excitement I had when I was sixteen and got my first car.

I haven't taken possession of it yet. I am waiting for my insurance company in the States to provide me with the proper documentation that will help reduce my German insurance rates. Getting reason-

able insurance has been a real challenge and at times a bit frustrating. It is just like being a new driver again. Finding someone that could speak English in the German insurance companies has been the biggest problem but I finally solved that problem. Then the German insurance company's requests for documentation changed a number of times which caused weeks of delays. I think we finally got it.

I believed that The Lord wanted me to increase my involvement with Rhema Germany. So one in prayer, I reminded Him that it was a waste of time to spend three hours traveling on the train and bus, going from my apartment to the ministry office and back each day.

It would only take a total of forty minutes for the same round trip in a car. He apparently agreed with my "astute time management observation". Sometimes it really pays to be a praying business analyst. The car will serve me well and be a blessing. Thank you Lord for taking care of this transportation need.



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Donation Information

First Step Ministries, Inc.

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U.S. donations can be sent to the Phoenix Post Office Box.

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* SIMs Card Factoid

SIMs cards are little microchips that identify a specific phone number and account to the card and phone. The card is then placed or can be moved from one phone to another as necessary. Or you can buy a SIMs card for specific countries to take advantage of the cheaper non-roaming rates while you are in that country and still only need one cell phone.

GALLUP POLL

Religious Attitudes in Europe

According to a 1999 Gallup survey of religious attitudes, 48 per cent of people living in Western Europe almost never go to church; the figure for Eastern Europe is just a little bit lower at 44 per cent.

In the Netherlands, Britain, Germany, Sweden and Denmark, less than one in ten of the population now attends church at least once a month. Only in Catholic Italy and Ireland do more than a third of the population worship on a monthly basis or more often.

By contrast, more than twice as many North Americans as Europeans attend religious services once a week or more. And scarcely any Americans could be characterized as atheists, compared with 15 per cent of Europeans.

The claim that Britons are the most Americanized of Europeans does not stand up well in this regard. When it comes to religion, the British are west Europeans, not eastern Americans.

Less than a third of Britons surveyed in a recent BBC poll agreed with the statement "My God is the only true god", compared with half of Americans. Less than a fifth of Britons say they would be willing to die for their beliefs, compared with 71 per cent of Americans."

Quoted from an article by Niall Ferguson titled, "The atheist sloth ethic, or why Europeans don't believe in work." from the London Telegraph

After Two Years, A Cell Phone

Yes, I've finally come back to the 21st century by having a cell phone. In Germany cell phones are called "Handy's". Recently, some friends moved to Geneva, Switzerland and no longer needed their prepaid German cell phone SIMs* card. Because the SIMs card is tied to a German phone number, all their calls would be expensive roaming calls.

All I needed was a cell phone without a phone number, to put in the SIMs card in to make it work. Getting a new phone number or the phone itself meant contracts that I didn't want or need. When some other friends of mine found out that I had a SIMs card but no phone, they gave me a spare cell phone that they no longer needed. We put the SIMs card in the phone and I joined the electronic communications age again. My cell phone number is: +49-(0)160-598-6135. From the U.S. you dial: 011-49-160-598-6135

Thank you again Jesus for providing one more tool to be effective in your work.

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