

First Step Ministries, Inc.

Rev. Lawrence E. Blakeslee

SEPTEMBER, 2004

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

RHEMA Germany / The First Month

Well I completed my first month as RHEMA Germany's new Administrator. As with any new position, it has its challenges. This past month it seemed like I spent most of my time asking everyone where to find things, i.e. stamps, folders, and documents. The team was patient with me and showed me where everything could be found.

Normally September is usually a high activity month while getting ready for the Bible School to start the first week in October. Add to the start of school, people taking on new roles and changing some staff responsibilities, we just about "maxed" everyone out. When school finally started, we all took a deep breath.

Now it is time to start writing some new procedures, transferring some other responsibilities for the office, church and Bible school and to start to set some short and long term goals. One primary goal is to find a building to move to. For the last five years, we have been renting conference rooms in a community center for church and school. Our offices are currently located in a small basement room of Pastor John and Michelle's home. We are so limited in office space, we rotate which person needs one of the three computers and who is going to be in the office at the certain time. Add to that mix much needed volunteers to help with church tasks and it gets a bit interesting.

Since RHEMA Germany is

an international ministry, English is the language spoken and written in the office. Currently we not only have Germans and Americans on the staff but Norwegians and a Sri Lankan. Students and church volunteers come from Africa, Russia, and Kazakhstan. Communication among people that grew up speaking English can have its own set of challenges. But when you have people from various parts of the world and English is not their mother tongue, it can get quite interesting at times.

At the end of my first month, I am even more convinced that RHEMA Germany can and will play a major role in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Europe and the nations.

Note: New Cell Phone Number:
+49-(0)160-598-6135.

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

Inside this issue:	
Rhema Germany / Lots of Work	1
My Little Red Car	1
Almelo, The Netherlands Worship Seminar	2
Children's Church Meeting in Utrecht, The Netherlands	3

Mein kleiner rotes Auto

After endless weeks of delay, I was finally able to get my "new" little car registered and drive to work for the first time a couple of weeks ago.

You have no idea how great it was to be able to only take twenty-minutes instead of the usual ninety-minutes on the train and bus. Of course with the flexibility the car now translates in to twelve hour work days at the office but it is still absolutely worth it.

Jim Rogan, a fellow missionary at Rhema and I spent four hours one Saturday just cleaning and "detailing" the car. It was a bit of a mess when I got it but it was all



This really is my car and not a "representation". As far as I am concerned it is like owning a Porsche.

(Continued on page 2)

Almelo Worship Seminar

The first weekend of September was spent at a weekend worship seminar at De Banier Church in Almelo, The Netherlands, a church of about 800 hundred.

The seminar was presented by the Fischer Family of Living Waters Church, Pasadena, California. The reason I wanted to attend was to learn more about various ways to praise and worship. Since Living Waters is involved in teaching various forms of worship and communications, I also wanted to see if pantomime could be used as a means to evangelize and communicate the Gospel effectively in Mongolia and other Third World countries. As it turned out, something else happened.

On Friday night I was invited to come along to the "sound check" for the weekend worship team at church. Since the

only people at sound check were the American and Dutch worship team members, one of them asked me if I just wanted to join in rather than just wait around. "Sitting in for practice" turned into becoming part of the weekend worship team.

It had been over two years since I had sung on a worship team and it was fun and a blessing to join them. Some of the songs were in English and some were in Dutch. By Sunday evening I was singing the Dutch Praise and Worship songs, or at best, attempting to.

Sunday evening two hundred participants were not only blessed but totally and actively involved in over two hours of non-stop worship. It was an incredible experience. The presence of

God was incredible.

When I woke up Monday morning, I found that I had sung my voice horse but it was worth it.

Also while there, I had a meeting with Pastors Henk and Jenny Nieuwenhuis, the Children's Pastors at De Banier Church. They currently have about 125 children in their Children's church program. We discussed the Kid's Prayer Power program. They expressed interest in utilizing it as part of their program. Pastors Henk and Jenny were also interested in collaborating with me on making the program relevant to Dutch and European children. They invited me back to share at children's church the next time I visit Almelo. Overall the weekend was wonderful and a blessing I will never forget.

(Continued from page 1)

**32 MPG IS
IMPORTANT
WHEN YOU ARE
PAYING \$5.30
PER U.S.
GALLON**

cosmetic. After a lot of cleaning, vacuuming, and polish it did not look like the original car. Amazing what a little work can do. Everyone at the ministry remarked about how much better it looked. The car

had sat around so long without being driven it ended up needing a new battery. After about two weeks of driving, it seems to run great. It could use a tune-up. But it gets great mileage at about 32 mpg in town, which of course is important when you are paying \$5.28 a gallon for gas. The great part is that after checking what I was spending on the train and bus, the car actually costs me only a little more per month and has made life much easier.

**A special blessing and thank you to those that have offered to help me with the car expenses. It is really appreciated.
Larry B.**



Larry singing on the praise team at De Banier Church, Almelo, The Netherlands

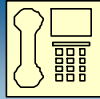
RHEMA Europe Alumni Meeting / Netherlands

During the middle weekend of September, the RHEMA Germany staff did a quick one day trip to Utrecht, The Netherlands. We met and had lunch with the RHEMA Alumni living in The Netherlands. After lunch we moved to a nearby home to continue with fellowship and update the alumni about upcoming RHEMA Europe activities. It is always interesting to meet new "brothers and sisters in Christ."



Rev. Lawrence E. Blakeslee

European Office:
First Step Ministries, Inc.
Bonnerstr. 62
53424 Remagen - Rolandseck
Germany
Phone: +49 (2228) 91.22.56
Email:
Larry@FirstStepMinistries.net



U.S.A. Office:
First Step Ministries, Inc.
POB 56603
Phoenix, AZ 85079-6603
Fax: 1-623-842-0408



Children's Pastors Meeting / The Netherlands

The last weekend in September, I met with Pastors Theo and Marij Leeuwenkamp, the Children's Pastors at Rafaël Evangelisch Centrum in Utrecht.

During the morning children's service, I visited various kid's classes. It was interesting to see how the church was using the children's version of Pastor Rick Warren's "Forty Days of Purpose". After church, Pastors Theo, Marij and I spent Sunday afternoon together talking about their children's program and my Kid's Prayer Power program.

Pastors Theo and Marij have an incredible heart for children. And as I met the other children's workers, it was clear that Theo and Marij's dedication to children had been instilled in them also.

We decided that as I move forward on the Kid's Prayer Program, I will get back in touch with them for their input and insights on the program.

Donation Information

First Step Ministries, Inc.

- Non-Profit Corporation registered in the State of Arizona.
- I.R.S. 501 (c) 3 Tax Deductible Organization

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

German Bank Transfer Information:

VR-BANK BONN E G
 BLZ: 38160220 ACCT#: 4503043012

INTERNATIONAL BANK TRANSFER INFORMATION:

BIC: GENODED1HBO
 IBAN: DE36 3816 0220 4503 0430 12



Left: The Greeters at Children's Church are children.

Right: The Church Teens lead Praise & Worship in Children's Church.



Left: Pastor Theo with a little girl sharing her testimony.

WWW.FIRSTSTEPMINISTRIES.NET

© Copy Right 2004 - All Rights Reserved
 Use of Text or Photos prohibited without the expressed consent of First Step Ministries, Inc.



If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, just send an email with your request to: Larry@FirstStepMinistries.net