

January 2009

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I called it, “the big push”-and while it was a very tiring time, it was one of the most rewarding times in ministry in many years. I left home on October 22nd, and didn’t return until December 7th. During the trip I was able to visit many countries and Teen Challenge ministries. Arriving in Portugal, I then traveled to Germany where I preached to the TC Deutschland conference. From there I traveled to Haselbrock, Germany which is some 200 yards from the Dutch border. I spent a week in the TC program there leading staff and student training. It was a blessed time where new friendships began.

From Haselbrock, I traveled to TC in Wales, United Kingdom. I have visited this program many times and am always amazed at the quality of leadership in TC UK. In Wales, I taught in the classes made up of young people-former drug addicts-who feel a call to the ministry. They commit themselves to a year of training, and then begin ministry by participating in an internship somewhere in the UK or Europe. Aside from a great week with the students, I was able to spend three days with our daughter, Erika, who was taking a semester of college in London. In short, we had a blast!

Next, I traveled to Israel and team taught a follow-up seminar on rehabilitation together with Petr Ministr from TC Czech Republic. We worked in a symposium format with about 8 Christian rehabilitation programs that are already running in Israel. The Holy Land has a drug problem too! Many of the addicted are Russian immigrants with Jewish ancestry.

From Israel I traveled back to Germany where I preached and lead a baptism service in Rhein-Main Christian Fellowship (RMCF). I did this service for my good friend and colleague of many years, Al Perna. He and his wife, Emanuela, had to return to the USA where she is undergoing treatment for lymphoma.

Immediately following the weekend at RMCF, I joined 50+ other TC leaders from Europe in the country of Turkey. We visited Ephesus, and had several times of sharing and praying together. It was a superb time of fellowship. Immediately following that, I returned to Portugal so that the folks there in our Europe office could remember what I looked like :-).

The trip concluded with a weekend in Luxembourg for coffee-house training together with Fransico Chavez from TC Portugal, and week of counselor training in Bavaria, Germany. Heinz and Dirk and their wives are dear friends of many years, so it is always a joy to be with the people there.

After such times as these, I am so deeply encouraged. God has given us great people to complete a great task-may we always have the vision and strength to fulfill His plans!

Thanks so much for your prayers and faithful giving throughout 2008. May God richly bless all of you in 2009!

Tom Bremer
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