



Keith and Debbie Gandy

Missionaries in Germany

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Dear Pastor and friends,

It was our goal in 2007 to baptize 12 people - one per month. We fell short of that goal by a couple, baptizing ten. We have always been very close to goals set - sometimes exceeding, sometimes needing to pick up momentum in a few areas to focus our impact.

2008 has started off very well for us in that overall attendance has increased by 18% over the past three months. In December we needed to go to double services. The reasoning behind this was the fact that we had somewhat plateaued in our growth. There were still seats available in overflow and a number on the front row - so where is the problem?

We began with an experiment in December by going to double services and indicating to the congregation that we would count votes not by opinion, but by feet. Attendance patterns would indicate what the real desire for services would be. Taxing our staff has been one of the problems, but somehow we have survived the experiment to this point.

Sixty people started attending the late service, but 70% remained in the early service. By freeing up 60 seats, we increased attendance in the early service to its original attendance levels. So, average attendance went from 220-230 up to 260-270, with one Sunday topping 320.

The goal of baptizing converts - one of the major things that drives our church - we have already baptized 10 by the end of February.

Some of those baptized included an adult mother and adult daughter. Additionally there was a young Aghani who told of his story: Coming illegally to Finland, being jailed, having a dream in jail about a person called Jesus from whom he had never heard, searching for answers, reading the bible and submitting to Jesus as Lord and Savior. What a moving service to baptize ten on one day - our church was moved and the need of this kind of ministry was once again reemphasized.

We say thanks for commitment on your part to make this happen. Take great joy in knowing the people are coming to Christ because of your involvement.

Yours, in His service,

Keith and Debbie Gandy