

## *Aaron and Annegret Bowes “And you shall be witnesses to Me...” in Germany*

Dear Praying Friends,

February 2023

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me", and someone expanded it to "Let the people of Halle-Neustadt come to Me" - the "have nots" and those who suffer "setbacks" in life, like the people in the Soup Kitchen. We had 5 people who came out for **baptism** on January 28. They definitely don't have very much materially and at least three have major health problems, but in the baptismal tank they all gave a pretty loud and convincing profession of faith in JESUS the Savior! There was lots of joy in the service with clapping and praises as each person came up out of the water. That was a miracle. Another miracle was that around 35 people from the Soup Kitchen Fellowship (most do not have a church background) wanted to come with us in vans to the Baptist Church on a Saturday afternoon. And God was working in the service and in the testimonies because afterwards several others asked, "Can I be baptized too when you have another service like this?" We rounded out our baptismal service with some good food and refreshments in their fellowship hall. **Praise the Lord** for this event, and **please pray** for those baptized, as they desire to live as Christians.

The Baptist Church family is very kind and gave us their building for this Saturday afternoon service. They also helped us with music and the refreshments. And they also challenged us to follow up and care for those who were baptized. Of course, we will continue to offer fellowship at our Sunday afternoon meeting in the Soup Kitchen (on their level), and we also want to continue on with our Wednesday meeting with those who went through the baptism classes.

Here are some pictures of our joyous baptismal service:



Departure from the Soup Kitchen



Arrival at the Baptist church



Juergen and Heike, Aaron, Petra, Marco, Helmut



Heike's baptism



Together helping Helmut



Auditorium



Fellowship time

We are thankful for all the blessings, but there are often **setbacks** too while serving in compassion ministries and we sometimes experience sad situations. In December Dennis, one of the regular guests at the Train Station Mission, passed. Unfortunately he had an addiction issue and then he caught Covid. He died in the Shelter in Halle. He liked to draw pictures and gave them to us, the volunteers serving at the Mission. On Christmas he sat beside me at a service in the Train Station Mission. We were so sorry to see this young man pass. Then a regular guest in the Soup Kitchen (Lutz) passed very suddenly in December. He occasionally came to some of our meetings, we are not really sure where he stood with God. We always **pray** that God will bring some good from these situations and make people more open. We are just thankful that we can be here in Halle and share the love of God and the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ so that people may have hope and be prepared to meet God in eternity.

**Furlough plans:** On March 11<sup>th</sup> we plan to fly to Philadelphia. We look forward to visiting Anne's sister who lives in the area. After that we travel to Florida to visit friends and a supporting church there. In April and May we will be based in Cedarville and are excited about visiting our Ohio churches and good friends there. On the final leg of our trip we travel to Toronto in June and then finish up with a visit to Espanola and Manitoulin Island where Aaron is originally from. **Please pray** that we may honor God as we report and speak, also for safety in travel. (If you would like more information about our schedule, please contact us by Email: bowes6@aol.com)

Thank you so much for standing with us in prayer and support. We serve a good God! Jesus is always completely true to his word, "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Mt. 28:20) Amen! This promise always encourages us as missionaries.

May God bless you!

Aaron and Anne Bowes

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