

SHIPMAN FAMILY

GERMANY



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Dear Pastor and praying friends:

As you can imagine, the virus has affected the way in which we minister here in Europe. The Germans are taking the “social distancing” very serious. We have been in “shut down” since March 21 and the *request* came before then. The original date to lift the restrictions was April 19th, but now it is expected to be extended well into May. The boys have been out of school since the 15th of March but the state has set up a good system for them to continue their schooling online. They have been able to stay in contact with the teachers, receive assignments and feedback and turn in homework through the online portals. The church services have also been quite different. We have been using Zoom for all services to include the Bible Institute classes (see photo). I have been pleased with how well the video conferencing program has been working for the preaching and for the fellowship afterward. Visitors, friends and extended family, of church members join us and some of them from far away. What a blessing to be able to preach to those who normally we cannot reach and to present the Gospel to those who are lost.



We have been praying for and asking you to pray with us, that the church would reach new levels of spiritual growth. Recently, we have seen steps of encouragement in that area. One of the young women in the church wanted to be a blessing to the other ladies and hosted a get together at her apartment complete with time of testimony and an activity (see photo). We have another young couple that has decided to submit to God’s standards of separation



from the world. This step of faith and maturity enabled them to be used in more mature ministries in this local assembly. These things must happen so we can, eventually, turn this work over to a national pastor and we can move on to begin the process of planting another New Testament church. Please continue to faithfully pray for our family and this group of believers as we labor together toward that goal.

Thank you for praying for our safety. We are all safe and very adequately prepared for the foreseeable future. We have been able to buy everything we need in our local stores, EVEN TOILET PAPER! When compared to stories from around the world, we feel we couldn’t be in a better location. We live in a village that has no store and unless we venture out, we generally do not come into contact with people. We have been keeping up with all of our church members, friends and fringe acquaintances through email, WhatsApp and making “door visits,” where we are strictly adhering to social distancing norms. We are reaching out to those who have need of help with grocery runs and are encouraging our members to do the same. Our collective efforts are making a difference and those helped are very appreciative of our help and the little human contact it gives them. All of this is to the glory of God who enables us.

Please pray for some elderly folks that we have had the opportunity recently to share the Gospel with through personal witnessing, tracts and preaching on cd. I was able to locate a thorough presentation of the Gospel on CD and have been distributing them to those who are elderly and all who are homebound. People are thinking about the uncertainty of the future, the brevity of life and eternity. We hope that the Gospel presentation will speak to hearts and convince them of God’s desire to save their soul so that they can know they have a home with Him in Heaven when they die. **Pray** that they will drop their pride, false hopes and traditions and listen to these CDs.

Clint Shipman
Missionary in Germany