

Partner Profiles from Western Europe

As a balmy Texas New Year came in, we celebrated with friends, relived our Christmas just passed with family and six additional guests from Panama (our daughter-in-love Stephanie's family), and inevitably our thoughts turned to the possibilities for 2012 in Western Europe.



Jerry, Bryson Byrd, Janice

We will attend the annual staff retreat for International Commission at the end of January, and Jerry will prepare for a trip in March, tentatively to Ireland and the Francophile world or France, Luxembourg, and Belgium (yes, the site of last year's robbery).

Several countries are poised to receive teams from the U.S. in 2013, but for 2012, all of our IC projects will probably be *Impact Missions*, Europeans going to Europeans. Slated for this year are: a team from Ireland going to St. Gallen, Switzerland (on the 1,400th anniversary of the town's founding by an Irish monk), a team from Italy going to Hungary for a "Roman Festival Week", and possibly a team hosted in Italy for a "Family Week" of evangelism.



St. Gallen, Switzerland



Sophia Terry, Lily Lane, Isabel Terry, Brianna Byrd

Last November Austrians Didi Fischer-Dörl and his daughter Pia visited us in McKinney. We are hopeful that an Austrian team may be able to come to McKinney, Texas, for a week of evangelism in the near future. *True partnership* becomes a reality only when the Believers of one country (including America) recognize the value of international partners coming to minister in the hosting culture, as well as sending teams elsewhere to serve.

The last time our home church, First Baptist McKinney, received an international team was in 1995. The results of that Brazilian partnership strengthened our missions commitment, awakened our membership to the possibilities of missional living, and added to our church both new believers and our first "missions pastor".

We look forward to our next annual Western European Workshop in June. This year we will convene in Elstal (Berlin), Germany, at the German Baptist Theological Seminary, originally built as part of the 1936 Olympics Village. (Here Hitler attempted to show the world Aryan superiority, but he was humiliated and refused to shake the hand of African-American, track gold medalist Jesse Owens.) Meeting in Berlin, as we do every two years, at this historic site is a reminder of why we serve with International Commission in their efforts to reach people for Jesus Christ in every nation of the world.

The 2012 Summer Olympics will be played in London. Many missions organizations are planning outreaches to the people attending, the athletes, and the British communities hosting the events. But, the churches of England struggle every year to effectively reach their portion of the most under-evangelized continent on the planet—Western Europe. We ask for your prayers and other support in our work through International Commission, facilitating and enabling European churches.



Pia and Didi Fischer-Dörl in McKinney



German Baptist Seminary

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Berlin Olympic Stadium

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