

# The Talley Family

Church Planting in  
Königs Wusterhausen, Germany



January 2021

Dear Prayer Partners,

In the spring, Germany took drastic measures to stop the spread of Covid-19. Among other things they prohibited churches from meeting for services of any type. Due to protest by the state churches, these restrictions were slowly reduced, first allowing special services, such as baptisms and funerals. By the end of May, services were allowed to resume provided strict counter measures were in place. Germany's numbers remained relatively low throughout the spring as these measures were viewed as largely successful. By the end of the year, the numbers of cases and deaths began to skyrocket meaning new restrictions for every area of life, including church services.

Among the new restrictions was a ban on singing in religious services. While reading Ephesians 5:19, it occurred to me that Paul used the verb "speaking" in relation to the "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" and the verb "singing" only in the context of "making melody in your heart to the Lord." In the underground churches that were here before the fall of the wall, special precautions had to be made, such as putting pillows around doors and windows, to prevent singing from giving away the location of services. Perhaps something similar was experienced in Paul's day. We began using his statement as our example and are using a mixture of reading Psalms and singing in our hearts while the piano plays. At least TWO CHURCHES WHO IGNORED THESE AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN RAIDED by the police and are facing large fines.

Although regulations have reduced our in person attendance, we have found other ways to spread the Gospel, including live streaming services and holding Bible studies using video conferencing. An additional Bible study as a podcast is also made available each week. We have also DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF TIMES THE TEENS ARE MEETING FOR BIBLE STUDIES to twice a week and are excited about the spiritual growth among this age group.

As Paul noted that we often do not know how we should pray in Romans 8:26-27, it is difficult for us to know how to ask you to pray for us in the difficult times in which we serve. We trust that God will honor your faithfulness and that His Spirit will guide you in your prayers for us.

Thank you all for your faithful prayers and support!

In Christ,

*The Talleys*

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