



The crazy, hot Summer flew by, and we welcome the structure and coolness of fall. Virginia starts third grade and Thomas starts kindergarten the second week of September. We pray for little Thomas as he learns German like Virginia through exposure four hours a day, five days a week. Thomas and Mason (and Mama) will struggle at first with this separation. This is a new phase for the entire family.

FURLOUGH:

Todd and Thomas flew to the US July 6 and the rest of the family arrived July 28. We have visited churches in VA, MD, PA, NC, GA, and TN. It has been great seeing old faces and meeting several new ones. One of the greatest blessings on furlough is simply being greeted with, "We have been praying for y'all" (at least in the South, the Yankee version is similar, though). It means so much to us to know that faithful followers of Christ are continually asking God to bless and help us on the mission field.

We have also enjoyed time with family in between meetings. We spend a week in Georgia with Kim's family where our children were reunited with all their cousins. They even officially formed the "Cousins' Club." We then spent a week in Tennessee with Todd's family. After that, we visited Kim's twin sister and parents again in Indiana. Thankfully, the Lord helped us work out a schedule to visit churches in and around all these family reunions. Kim and the children fly to Germany September 5, and Todd flies September 26. Virginia's summer break is only six weeks long—no exceptions! Todd will complete the rest of our ministry update meetings alone.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October is our first "Missions Emphasis" month in Neutraubling. We believe it is our responsibility, as a local church, to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth by supporting missionaries. That concept will be new for most of our church members. We pray that God will lead our people in this step of faith to support missionaries financially.

November is "Thanksgiving Fest" at church again! Our church members invite friends and neighbors to a typical American celebration of Thanksgiving. As we enjoy our meal together church members share their testimonies publicly. We have found this to be a great way to share Christ with lost people who would not come to a church service.

Christmas at the Retirement Home:

December is our Christmas program at the local "Seniorenheim" (Retirement/ Assisted Living Home). Our first outreach here was Christmas 2017. They invited us back for Easter 2018 and again for Christmas 2018! This has become a great ministry to love and evangelize the elderly in our community.

In Christ,
Todd, Kim, Virginia, Thomas, & Mason Lapato