

City Chapel

STUTTGART

Story by Tom Price
Photos by Natalie Weber, unless otherwise noted

The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. ... And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. Exodus 24:17-18b

Spending Time with the Lord

The congregation rose to their feet, cheering, as Pastor Roland Krumm and his wife, Sarah, strode to the pulpit. Roland jokingly clasped his hands together over his head like a victorious prizefighter. He thanked the people for their prayers and understanding. This was their first time back before the congregation in two months; the couple had needed extended time to recover from weariness after 10 years of continuous ministry.

A decade earlier, a team from CC Chino Hills, CA, had assisted in planting this Calvary Chapel in the industrial German city of Stuttgart, known for its invention of the automobile and home to German automakers Mercedes-Benz and Porsche. Translators and evangelists also journeyed from Roland's home church at CC Siegen,

200 miles to the north, to help start the church. Now, ten years later, the fellowship had grown and solid ministries abounded. Church responsibilities, however, had begun to weigh heavily on the Krumm family.

Roland remembered, "For 10 years, Sarah and I, as well as our children, had been consumed with the ministry. It has been wonderful; new believers came to Christ and the church began many ministries. We would take a day off but there always seemed to be a situation that needed attention." Eventually the condition became a crisis as both began to suffer sleep deprivation.

"I realized we needed to distance ourselves from the ministry for a time as well as seek the Lord's direction for the future," said Roland. "The church was great; we have people devoted to ministry, a beautiful fellowship of believers, and no church crisis." Trusting in those that God had raised up in leadership, the Krumms took two months off—without phone calls, checking in, or even going to their church. "As a shepherd myself, I understood that I needed to spend more time with the Master Shepherd," Roland noted. He walked alone in the forest



Pastor's wife Sarah Krumm, left, greets a friend after two months away.



Roland Krumm teaches the Gospel during a Sunday service.



Gerd Grimm, left, an outreach team member, witnesses to two youth on the streets of Stuttgart. The teen in the center rejected the Gospel presentation while the lad on the right was open to listen. The church has two separate outreach teams that go to different locations on other evenings as city residents typically spend much time outside.



City Chapel Stuttgart worships in a rented movie theater and has dozens of visitors for its Sunday services. Many attendees meet in one of the 20 home groups during the week.



Photo by Tom Price

Hundreds of CC Stuttgart retreat attendees worship after traveling to Schloss Heroldeck Castle in Austria for a church retreat.

and spent hours in prayer. He studied Moses' relationship with God and observed the periods that Jesus would slip away to be alone with His Father.

The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

1 Kings 3:9-10

Roland concluded, "By the end of our time away, God truly confirmed to me our family's calling in the ministry at City Chapel Stuttgart. But this time, my time alone with the Lord takes on top priority."

First Fruits

After the initial outreach and the American team left, no one knew if anyone would attend the first Sunday service. It was a great encouragement when 23 people came and the church began to grow. CC Chino Hills continued their involvement and support through their pastor, Jack Hibbs. He visited

several times with teams through the early years and encouraged Roland to take a step of faith to sign a lease for a better facility. Attendance rose to nearly 50 and the offering provided enough to cover the rent.

One of the early attendees on that first Sunday was Hajo Bury and his wife, Bettina. Their friend had given them a flyer handed out by the Chino Hills team. Coming out of a charismatic background, the couple was relieved to find a movement that was focused on teaching the Word while recognizing the gifts of the Spirit in a balanced, orderly fashion. Through the years, Hajo has been an elder and ministry leader, and Bettina began the church's coffee ministry. Hajo commented on his pastor, "Roland is humble—never demanding as a leader. With

"During this interlude, we put everything on the altar—it's not our ministry," he continued. "We wanted to be sure that leading this church was still God's plan for us." Studying biblical kings, Roland observed the ease of going astray. He was impacted by King Solomon's request for wisdom.

"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"



The outreach team shares the love of Jesus in an elderly care facility.



The pastoral staff and their spouses worship during a Sunday service. Josiah Hart, center, from CC South Bay, CA, and his wife, Anja, right, came from CC Heidelberg.

our country's history of following tyrants, Germans are wary of anyone craving power."

Hajo continued, "Currently, every Sunday we have visitors coming out of either the state church, various other backgrounds, or those who were invited by the outreach team. Often having dozens of new visitors every Sunday, it is exciting to see people begin to flourish here in a relaxed atmosphere without pressure." New believers attend a CC Distinctives class and later are invited to participate in various ministries as well as to attend one of the 20 home groups situated throughout the area. Church attendance is currently around 400.

Bringing the Love of Christ

Josiah Hart knew at the age of 13 that he wanted to be a missionary in Europe. He met his future wife, Anja, at CC Bible College in Murrieta, CA. Soon married, the missionary from CC South Bay, CA, and his German bride moved to serve at CC Heidelberg. Several years later, Roland asked Josiah to become his assistant pastor in Stuttgart. One of his unexpected joys for Josiah is the accelerated pace at which new Christians in Germany mature in their walk with God.

"One man that I was discipling through a study of the Book of Hebrews is now leading the Thursday night outreach team," said Josiah. "And as a direct consequence of the outreach team's efforts this past month, there are three new believers growing in the Word." Thirty believers have gone through a ten-week evangelism course. The outreach team witnesses at least once a week at the many outdoor venues downtown—in rain, snow or sunshine.

Josiah added, "That was how this church began, with teams of Christians patiently sharing the Word of God. Stuttgart's city slogan, 'Das neue Herz Europas,' translated as 'The new heart of Europe,' should be altered to 'The new heart for Jesus.'"

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Psalm 32:8

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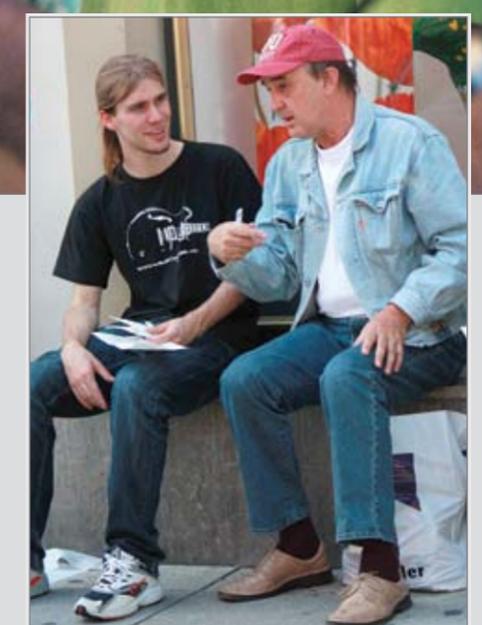


Roland shares with the congregation his renewed vision for the church.

Photo by Tom Price



Southern Germany has three CCs, and another is beginning in Munich.



A team member, left, witnesses of his faith to a man he met on the street.