

*please pray for* Rüdiger & Sabine Hemmer

Missionaries in the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region

## **GERMANY**

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Dear Pastor and Church, dear praying friends!

As I write this letter, Germany is just one day away from its second lockdown – not a 'lockdown light' anymore, but a severe one, a 'lockdown heavy'. Much of public life comes to a stop, schools, gyms, retail businesses, barber shops etc. etc. will be closed, prohibition in public places, a curfew between 9 pm and 5 am and private meetings with other people limited to 5 people from 2 households. This time the lockdown is scheduled to last until January 10th, with a two-day break for Christmas. After that? – Who knows?!

I am quite happy to have invested as much time and effort as we could in reaching the lost during the last weeks. Public ministry is almost impossible since our town is a Corona hotspot and the City of Fürth has implemented more severe restrictions than other cities. Yet we were busy with distributing gospel literature, tracts, Church invitations, and Bible verse calendars for 2021 into mailboxes. We praise the Lord that we saw first time visitors at Church and them coming back again.

As of right now we are still able to meet for Church, as long as we follow all the safety rules and regulations. We are praying that the Lord will keep the doors to the Church open. There is just something special about the personal gathering of the saints to worship the Lord and to listen to the word of God preached. This special 'element' Zoom or any other device just can't transport.

All of our congregation seems to do well, at least we have no known infections with the virus in our midst. Spiritually, as in many other ministries, this present situation has caused a separation of the wheat from the chaff. I certainly understand when people are afraid of contracting the virus and therefore rather stay home instead of coming to Church. But at the same time going shopping in grocery stores and using crowded public transportation? Then, staying home from Church for safety reasons is, excuse me, nothing but a poor pretext. Much time and effort is going into ministering to these dear struggling saints via phone and e-mails. Again, this is not an adequate substitute for being present in person at Church, but that is what we have to work with right now.

My family and I are doing well. So many reasons to thank the Lord for. I had to be hospitalized for two days for a thorough testing of my eyes. There is a problem with my visual nerve, but as of now, and please excuse my amateurish expressions, my brain can compensate the problem. But there is the root for a future problem, and I need to be tested regularly.

Just a few more days till Christmas and the start of a New Year; if the Lord tarries. Let me thank each and every one of you for your faithful spiritual and monetary support. Your prayers and your giving make much of what we are doing possible! Thank you so very much!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, quiet and contemplative holidays and all the best for the New Year; again: if the Lord tarries! Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord bless you; all because of Calvary,

Rädiger and Sabine Hemmer Rüdiger & Sabine Hemmer