

# New Connections

Volume 1, Issue 1

June, 2008

*The newsletter of the English Language and Migrant Ministries  
of the  
Germany Central Conference of the United Methodist Church*

## Special points of interest:

- International and Language Ministries—an important part of the UMC work in Germany
- Training opportunities in 2008-2009
- Pastoral Changes
- Resources for Ministry
- Staying Connected

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## Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the New Connections—the newsletter of the English Language and Migrant Ministries of the Germany Central Conference. This publication will come out quarterly and will offer information and resources for the work among the Language and Migrant Ministries of the United Methodist Church in Germany.

Within the boundaries of the three German conferences there are a great diversity of congregations worshipping and gathering in languages other than German and, in some cases, alongside German. While we may learn new languages, it seems for many the language of our spirituality is our mother tongue. In these

ministries, strangers and foreigners find a welcome and a home in a new country.

All the members of the family of God do not speak the same language but they are



"The Drop Inn" Ministry in Berlin

still the same family—all are brothers and sisters in Christ. We rejoice in the many UM ministries in Germany. Working together we will become a reflection of the kingdom of God in this

time and place.

In my role as Coordinator of English Language and Migrant Ministries for the Germany Central Conference it is my hope that we work with one another in all our ministries—that we celebrate the whole, and ever-expanding, family of God among us. We are called to offer hospitality to all, to seek God's justice for all and to work for peace. We have a wonderful opportunity to do that here. Germany is the crossroads of many worlds. We have an opportunity to share God's love and transform the world—together by the grace of God.

Peace....Carol

## Transitions

### Farewell

We bid farewell to Bishop Albert Ofoe Wright. Pastor Wright and his wife will be returning to Ghana this summer where they will continue their ministry in the Methodist Church of Ghana. During their time here they have been serving the Ghanaian Church in Hamburg and have sup-

ported the new Ghanaian church start in Berlin.

*and*

### Welcome

Rev. Dr. Krista Givens was appointed to the Hamburg International Congregation last December after attending language school in Bochum in the Fall. She comes to us as a missionary

from the General Board of Global Ministries and is from the California Pacific Conference.

Rev. Conrad Roberts and his wife have just arrived from Ghana to serve the Ghanaian United Methodist congregations in Hamburg. He will also be assisting the new Berlin congregation.

## Training Events Coming Soon

### Lay Speaker's Training October 24-26, 2008



New Hope United  
Methodist Fellowship

Plans are under way for Lay Speaker's Training the weekend of October 24-26. The event will start on Friday evening and end Sunday after lunch. Lay Speaker's Training is not limited only to those who desire to develop their skills in speaking but also in leading groups. Tentative location: the Ruhrgebiet Region. Watch for more details.

### Workers with Children and Youth Training

February, 2008

(dates to be determined)

Ever wonder how to work with children and youth more effectively? Or how to work with small numbers of children and youth? This training will address these issues and more with time for sharing and skill-building. Some of the issues to be addressed will also include choosing curriculum, intergenerational classes, single-digit youth groups and second generation issues.

### Berlin Seminar on Church Growth for English-speaking and Migrant Churches in Europe

January 25-28, 2008

This annual event will focus on pastoral Care in Cross Cultural Settings. A pastor and lay person from every English-speaking and Migrant congregation or fellowship across Europe is invited to attend. Registration materials will be sent out in November.

For more information about any of these events, contact Carol Seckel, Coordinator, at +49 (0) 69.242521-112.

"Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation."  
(Hamburg International Church communication)

## New Ministries in the Making

Two New Ministries have developed this last year and there is consideration of more.

### Frankfurt

The second Sunday of Advent was the first Sunday for the New Hope English-speaking Fellowship in Frankfurt am Main. The fellowship is under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Kevin Seckel, GBGM missionary from the Oregon-Idaho Conference. The groups meets every Sunday at 11:30 at Christuskirche at Merianplatz.

Members come from all over with the majority students and persons living in the US Embassy Compound. A monthly Bible Study is held at a member's home.

### Berlin Ghanaian

A brand new church start is occurring in the Ghanaian community in Berlin. Each Sunday afternoon a group of United Methodists meet at Christuskirche. The Ghanaian United Methodists from Hamburg assisted in planting this

new church. Romesh Modayil, GBGM missionary, has been assisting with preaching.

### Other

Conversations are being held regarding other new starts—including student work. We are trying to strengthen the ties between the Germany UMC and the military base chaplains in order to support one another in the spiritual and other needs. If you know of a place where you think a group might form, let us know!

## The String Man Cometh



Bishop Albert Ofoe Wright  
Hamburg

Dave Titus, a retired librarian and United Methodist lay person from Lawton, Oklahoma in the USA has a unique ministry. He tells the gospel story with strings.

Dave has traveled all around the world collecting string figures and stories that help him share the good news with others. When he shares with others he not only shows the tricks but he also teaches the tricks to the audience—and he

has a lot of patience with persons who are "string-challenged" and have difficulty making the figures.

Dave most recently has traveled in the Gaza Strip sharing with students and children. His stories of being caught in the tear gassing of a group provides a different perspective on the issues there. Dave's travels have also taken him to Nepal, Mongolia, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia,

South Africa, Alaska, and Russia. He has spoken in churches, schools, orphanages, refugee centers, community centers, Bible Studies, youth groups, women's groups and even in bus stations.

You can check it out at [www.storyteller-wordsmith.com](http://www.storyteller-wordsmith.com).

If you would like to have Dave come and speak in your church or community, contact Carol at 069.242521-112.

## English-speaking and Migrant United Methodist Congregations and Fellowships

### Berlin

Charlottenburg: Worship Sundays at 5:15 PM  
Romesh Modayil, pastor

Berlin Ghanaian: Worship Sundays at 3:00 PM  
Christuskirche

### Cottbus

Worship Sundays at 11:15 AM  
Romesh Modayil, pastor

### Dortmund

Worship 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays at 12:00 noon  
Ben Kankam-Boadu, leader

### Düsseldorf

Düsseldorf International: Worship Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Rev. Van Jollie, pastor

Düsseldorf Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 2:00 PM  
Gatherweg 109  
Rev. Jane Odoom, pastor

### Essen

Ghanaian, Worship Sunday at 11:30 AM (Immanuel UMC)  
Rev. Jane Odoom, pastor

### Frankfurt /Main

New Hope Fellowship: Worship Sunday at 11:30 AM  
Christuskirche  
Rev. Kevin Seckel, pastor

Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 2:30 PM (Rufer UMC)  
Kwasi Owusu-Acheaw, pastor

Vietnamese: Worship Sunday at 3:00 PM (Christuskirche)  
Rev. Chi My Nguyen, pastor

### Hamburg

Hamburg International: Worship Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Rev. Dr. Krista Givens, pastor

Hamburg Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 11:30 AM  
Rev. Conrad Roberts, pastor

### Köln

Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 11:30 AM (Calvary UMC)  
Rev. Jane Odoom, pastor

### Lahr

Russian: Worship Sunday at 5:00 PM  
Alexander Gerzen, pastor

### Munich

Peace Church: Worship Sunday at 11:45 AM  
Rev. Christine Erb-Kanzleiter, pastor

### Stuttgart

Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 2:30 PM  
Bruckhardtstr. 77  
Kwasi Owusu-Acheaw, pastor

### Wiesloch

Worship 1st & 3rd Sundays at 10:00 AM  
Petra Siegers, English contact

### US Military Chaplain Contact

CH (CPT) Robert D. Crawford, Jr. (rob.crawford@us.army.mil)

## Resources for English-Speaking and Migrant Ministries

There is a resource library in the Coordinator's Office. Contact Carol Seckel for a copy of the catalogue.

Resources for Sunday School, Bible Studies, and other small groups may be found at: [www.Cokesbury.com](http://www.Cokesbury.com); [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org) (General Board of Discipleship); or [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) (Methodist Church in England and Ireland).

Resources for Social Justice Work: [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org) (General Board of Church and Society) or [www.gb-gm.org](http://www.gb-gm.org) (General Board of Global Ministries).

Leadership Resources: Lewis Center for Church Leadership, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC [www.churchleadership.com](http://www.churchleadership.com)

Information on giving through the Advance of the General Board of Global Ministries: [www.new.gb-gm-umc.org/Advance/](http://www.new.gb-gm-umc.org/Advance/).

Advance Number for supporting the work of English Language and Migrant Ministries in the Germany Central Conference: #00405A

*Let mutual love  
continue. Do not  
neglect to show  
hospitality to  
strangers, for by  
doing that some  
have entertained  
angels without  
knowing it.*

**Heb. 13:1-2**

## English Language and Migrant Ministries of the Germany Central Conference



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### Calendar of Coming Events

September 24, 2008: ICUMC meeting at Christuskirche in Frankfurt am Main

October 24-26: Lay Speaker's Training

November 18-22: Germany Central Conference

January 25-28, 2008: Berlin Seminar on Church Growth

January/February, 2008: String Ministries with Dave Titus

For more detailed information, visit us at:  
[www.emk.de](http://www.emk.de) under "International Congregations" or  
[www.unitedmethodist.de](http://www.unitedmethodist.de)

**To receive this newsletter regularly, send an e-mail to [carlseckel@aol.com](mailto:carlseckel@aol.com) or contact Carol Seckel at +49 (0) 69.242521-112.**

## Thoughts from Munich



Peace Church Munich  
Baptism

*It can be our faith that makes us well.*

*Jeremiah would possibly use exactly the same sentence and he would want to show us where we can find God in today's world:*

*A Bible for a prisoner, a visa after weeks of fear, a smile in a crowded U-Bahn, a child brought for baptism, a caring community, clothes for newborn babies, support when you look for an apart-*

*ment, welcome when you are new, translations when you don't yet know the language, explanation of a strange bureaucracy or school system, babysitters in a country where you don't have any family, god-parents of a different nationality for your child, strange food taster for the first time...a winter coat when the first snow falls, Christmas Eve in the home of a family that you have only known for a couple of weeks...God's signs are*

*small...and different...and sometimes a little crazy...But they are here. They happen here among us. They happen when people care.*

*Excerpted from a sermon by Rev. Christine Erb-Kanzleiter.*