

## **JOEL and JODI SANDAHL**

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### **Dear Partners in Prayer,**

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving. I still remember that first Thanksgiving here in Germany. Of course it is not a holiday, so I sent my children to school as I prepared my mini 6-pound turkey dinner. That turkey was basted in tears, as was the rest of my meal. But, I was able to pull myself together and find things to be thankful for before the children arrived home from school in time for our Thanksgiving celebration. I have a small chalkboard in my hallway on which I write various sayings I come across. Today it reads, "What if you woke up tomorrow and only had the things that you thanked God for today?" We are often unthankful (*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come, For men shall be . . . unthankful.* 2 Tim. 3:1) There are so many things to be thankful for, and it is often a matter of our focus. May you find many reasons to be thankful and to praise God today for those things.

### **Thankful for Answers to Prayer**

In our last prayer letter, we shared that Jodi found a man's wedding ring. We prayed that the owner would call and that we would have an opportunity to share Christ. The day we had decided to take our signs down, we got a call from the

owner of the ring. He came over to pick it up. He had a gift for us, but we told him that instead of that gift, he could do a favor for us in answering some spiritual questions. God gave us 90 minutes with this man to share Christ. Like most here, he is atheist. But he did say we gave him some things to think about. *Thank you, Lord, for answered prayer!*

### **Thankful for Salvation**

We asked you to be in prayer for a new Bible study. There were just two people attending this study led by Friedemann, a man in our church. Sindy had also started to come faithfully to Sunday services. One Sunday in August, Sindy called Friedemann in the afternoon to tell him she had trusted Christ as Saviour! *Thank you, Lord, for salvation!* Please continue to pray for a former neighbor, Conny, with whom Jodi has spent a lot of time, especially recently, explaining Christ. One day she came for tea, and Jodi asked her if she could ask some spiritual questions, much like the man who lost the ring. In answer to "Why did Jesus die?" she said, "Because he was so wicked and had to die for his wrong doing and be an example to others that they should not live like him." Shocking? Yes! But unfortunately this could be a typical answer. These people

have no knowledge of God. Please intensify your prayers for Conny. *Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to share your salvation with others!*

### **Thankful for God's Abundant Provision**

In 2010, when we were in the States to bring Josiah back to start college, the Lord gave us a great blessing. When we returned to Germany, we were able to give up our plane seats on our scheduled flight and take a later flight. For doing this, we were paid \$800 each! We had been praying that this would happen. Because of that, we were able to take a family trip to the States recently. Our oldest daughter gave birth to her 4<sup>th</sup> child, our 8<sup>th</sup> grandblessing, on October 12, just one day after arriving in the States! God's timing is always perfect! We were able to see all of our children and grandblessings during the month we were in the States. We were also privileged to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Baptist World Mission. One other highlight was for Joel and all three boys to be able to go deer hunting. Jeremiah was the only one who saw deer, and he was able to shoot two. Joel and Judson helped process the deer and were able to have a taste of their labors. *Thank you, Lord, for your provision!*

### **In Everything Give Thanks**

In August, the Clarks, who have been with us for five years, answered the call to take a ministry in the West part of Germany. Sometimes it isn't easy to be thankful, but God says we are to give thanks in everything. One blessing that has come from this is that the men in our church have had to step up to fill the gap. During our month in the States, we had no outside help to come in and minister; rather, the men in our church took over all preaching and teaching for those four weeks. Our church is growing, and we are thankful that God is equipping the Saints for the work of the ministry! *Thank you, Lord, for turning everything into good!*

### **Thankful for Patience**

Boy! Do we need more of this! The casino below us continues to be in business. However, we are trying to be patient and fervent in prayer. The landlord recently asked us if we were interested in renting more space. We mentioned to him that we were interested in eventually opening a Christian bookstore. The casino occupies the street sides of the building. The landlord offered us room in the building, but it wouldn't be a very good location. We told him that we were willing to wait until the casino goes out of business. The landlord is not very happy with the owner of the casino, so would like to have him out, but it could be a long process. Please pray that they would

soon need to close their doors, and pray that God would give us wisdom in regard to a Christian bookstore. We need to move at God's pace. *Thank you, Lord, for giving us patience!*

### **Thankful for Opportunities**

Our Advent's coffee is on December 4. We have again invited many and are in prayer daily for this outreach. Please be in prayer that we will have a good turn-out, the Gospel will be clear, hearts will be open, and souls will be saved.

We continue to pray for the opportunity to baptize several – Rosi, Medi, Hans-Georg, Martin, Jacline and Sindy. In the last prayer letter we asked also for David. We talked to him about baptism and found out that he had indeed taken this step before he came to our church. Please pray for others to be obedient in this matter. *Thank you, Lord, for the opportunities you give us to serve you!*

### **Kids Korner**

I am thankful that I was able to see my nieces and nephews (it sure was fun to finally see three new ones I wasn't able to see until now) as well as my brother, Josiah, who came up to Minnesota while we were there. I am also thankful that I could go hunting, even though I didn't get a deer. I did get to learn a lot though. I got to enjoy a lot of God's creation as well. I am also thankful that the flights went well when we traveled. I'm looking forward to our Thanksgiving dinner,

which we will have on Saturday – all except the sweet potatoes. I could live without those.

### **Thanks be to Thee**

One of our favorite songs is "Thanks be to Thee" by Handel. We want to thank the Lord for several things that are on our minds right now. Our first child was born on Thanksgiving Day. Happy Birthday, Jeremiah! Our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is just a few days away – November 27. God has been so good to us, and we thank Him for allowing us to serve Him together for these 30 years! Jodi turns (cough – clearing the throat!) 50 on December 6. God has been faithful, just as He promised! We also want to thank YOU for your gracious support and prayers over the years. May God richly bless you for your sacrifice.

Giving thanks to our loving and faithful God,

*Joel and Jodi Sandahl*

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