

The Whites SINTI NEWS

Dear Faithful Friends,

We are so excited to share what God has done with our Sinti Gypsies. It is probably safe to say that every indigenous church planting missionary's dream is to plant and establish a church, train and raise up faithful workers and leaders, and then turn that work over to a qualified national and watch them continue growing in Christ independently. God very graciously allowed us to participate in that process and see that goal accomplished! Since 1998, Bro Jim and Bruce have been involved in establishing Maranatha Sinti Baptist Church of Fürth and have trained Monti and over forty men in the local church Bible Institute. On September 13, 2020 Bruce's dad, Jim White, officially turned the Maranatha Sinti Baptist church of Fürth over to Monti as the national head pastor. **What a joy to watch them begin this next phase of walking ahead in the work of the Gospel! Pray for them and the battles to come!**

During September and October, Things with the Covid-19 situation relaxed enough that we were able to have weekly in-home Bible studies as well as hold services in our church building for the last two months before we turned in the keys. We had a wonderful early Thanksgiving meal with our Sinti and reflected on all God has done for us and how He has shown His faithfulness and will continue to help us. Continue to pray for a building for our Würzburg church as well as the right timing. Restrictions have tightened up again, so we will wait until the new year to rent anything. Only two different households are allowed to meet privately and only up to 10 people. Church services are technically allowed, but we do not have access to a building/room that is large enough to allow for us to meet social distancing requirements. Please, pray for our sheep as online services are just not the same as gathering in person. **Pray for encouraged hearts that continue to seek the truth in God's word, and grow strong in their personal walk with Christ.**

Chirklo and Bruce continue to do pastoral training via Zoom and the Krefeld brothers and sisters have moved to the renovation phase for their building! **Praise the Lord for His provision! Pray for the work to be done quickly so they can meet together again soon!**

Family News: Jimmy began his first year of German school in September. He is doing great, even with the ever-changing mask requirements, new schedule, and everything in German he is adjusting well! Someone in one of Lily's classes at school tested positive for Covid so Lily had to quarantine and be tested. Thankfully, she tested negative and we have all been healthy.

We celebrated 16 years of marriage and ministry as a couple on September 24, and we praise God for allowing us to serve Him in Germany! Lily, Jimmy, and Joanna all celebrated birthdays in October and loved getting the birthday cards! Thank you for remembering us and making us feel loved on our special days!

For Sinti Souls,

Bruce, Joanna, Michelle, Lily, Chloe, Jimmy and Esther White

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Anniversary

▶ September 24, 2004

Birthdays

- ▶ Bruce: January 18
- ▶ Joanna: October 25
- ▶ Michelle Grace: July 21, 2006
- ▶ Lily Joy: October 16, 2008
- ▶ Chloe Faith: February 10, 2011
- ▶ Jimmy Bruce: October 26, 2013
- ▶ Esther Hope: May 8, 2017

Sending Church

Community Baptist Church
P O Box 367 Oliver Springs,
TN 37840-0367

Mission Agency:

Maranatha Baptist Mission
PO Box 160
Hilliard, FL 32046

It is simpler for us to send an e-mail, so if you would like to receive our updates that way please let us know:

wsharvest@aol.com

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Dear Faithful Friends, Supporters, and Prayer Partners,

As we come to the end of another year and come into the Christmas season, it can be hard to see so many constantly changing rules and restrictions and illness. Germany held elections in October and has now finalized and sworn in a Chancellor, who chose to leave "so help me God" out of his oath. Though we expect an increase in covid measures and more than likely a total lockdown and possibly mandatory vaccination, current increased restrictions for who can go where thankfully do not include grocery stores or churches, though we would ask you to pray for **BOLDNESS and FAITHFULNESS of our people as it is easy for them to get burdened down with fear.** We are so thankful to serve an unchanging God who has not lost control. Though things may be crazy, God still has a plan and Jesus said He WILL build His church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

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One huge answer to prayer is the church in Würzburg now has a building!!! It has lots of room and is right in the heart of the Sinti neighborhoods where we have been praying for years to find something. There is a little renovating that needs done, holes filled, painting, a few half walls put up for the nursery etc, but we have been able to meet in person in our own rooms! Several churches have sacrificially given to help with the deposit as well as renovations and heating oil for winter and we are SO thankful for God's provision through His people! **Please, pray for Maranatha Sinti Baptist Church of Würzburg to be a light for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a testimony of His power.** Bruce has been able to visit and witness to Gagi and Jasha's father, Uncle Yaynibock. He has been to church several times over the years and was recently diagnosed with very serious cancer. He kept putting off getting saved because he didn't want people to think he was getting saved just because he got sick. He said he would get saved after his treatments and operation, but before his operation he video called Bruce to tell him **he had just prayed with his daughter and made the decision to trust Jesus and get saved! Hallelujah! Please, continue to pray for Uncle Yaynibock's healing as well as the salvation of his wife, Handalee.**

Family News: The Lord has really blessed our children with being able to adjust not only to a new school for Chloe and Lily (they were able to advance to a new school) but also to deal with all the changing mask and testing regulations related to school. We don't know if travel restrictions will mean not getting to be with Joanna's family for the holidays, but Bruce's parents are still in the States until after the first of the year. We would appreciate your prayers for their safe and speedy return.

Thank you for remembering our Anniversary as well as each of our birthdays. You make us feel so loved!

For Sinti Souls,

Bruce, Joanna, Michelle, Lily, Chloe, Jimmy and Esther White

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Dear Faithful Friends, Supporters, and Prayer Partners,

Isaiah 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

While COVID has certainly caused upheaval and changes, we are thankful for a righteous God who brings peace, quietness, and assurance in the midst of chaos.

The church in Krefeld continues to grow. Chirklo and the group there have gotten the final approval for the rest of their renovations so they have been very busy fixing things up there. Keep Chirklo, Leila and their three boys, Mogene, Moses and Simon to have strength and wisdom as they carry the weight of the church there.

We have been able to start back up Bible studies in Würzburg. Corona visiting restrictions had been: only two households and only one adult visitor so we had not even been able to visit as a couple. Now we are able to meet as three households and up to ten adults. We have had some encouraging studies with Yasha and her sister Gagi and Gina and Christian's family as well as her mother and an elderly aunt.

Bruce's paternal grandmother passed into glory this month and his parents went back to the States to be with her before her passing. We are thankful Bruce's dad got to spend about two weeks with his mother fellowshiping with her and his siblings before her passing. Bruce is covering full time for Bro. Jim in Bayreuth on Sunday evenings and Friday night Bible Studies. In both Würzburg and Bayreuth Bruce is currently preaching on types of Christ from the Old Testament. How wonderful to see the Sinti's eyes light up as he opens God's Word and they see Jesus in a totally different way and get excited to "find Jesus" in the Old Testament!

Family News: Summer vacation from school starts the end of July so we are looking forward to that. (Yes, Bavarian schools go through the end of July!)

In May we celebrated Esther's 4th birthday in Romania with her cousins as Joanna went with her to visit her parents while her dad recovered from having a heart defibrillator put in. Michelle turned 15 in July and we are loving the diligent young lady she is becoming!

We cannot thank you enough for your prayers for our children, us as a couple, and the Gypsy people God has given us to minister to.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support!

For Sinti Souls,

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The Whites **SINTI NEWS**

Dear Faithful Friends, Supporters, and Prayer Partners,

What a faithful God we serve, even in 2021! Now, a year since the pandemic began, still in a countrywide lockdown, often times with a curfew in place, we have continued to see God work in our family and in our Sinti Gypsies' lives. The Nürnberg church and Pastor Monti continue to be faithful in teaching and preaching, though they have had to shut down a time or two due to positive Covid cases. Our church in Würzburg has moved to all online services as our building was too small to accommodate social distancing measures. Visiting was restricted to only one visitor from a different household and many of our people are also uncomfortable with introducing a whole new range of contacts that would need to be traced in the event that someone would be infected after we had visited; for testimony's sake we keep in touch via phone calls and chats rather than in person visits to Würzburg right now.

Although it is difficult for the shepherd to not be able to see his sheep in person on a regular basis, it has allowed us to minister in other areas. Because Bruce's parents' Gypsy church in Bayreuth has facilities large enough to still social distance and the families that attend have been in constant contact with each other, they are still holding regular services twice a week. A mask is required during the whole time, even while seated, and congregational singing isn't allowed. Those singing a special are allowed to sing up front without a mask as long as they maintain a 2 meter distance from one another. When the numbers of infected was very high, it was recommended that Bruce's parents not come in person since they are part of the high risk group. This allowed us the opportunity to serve in the Bayreuth church and spend some wonderful times of learning and fellowship. It has been wonderful preaching and serving in the church in person again, and as Bro Jim and Mrs Becky are now able to more safely be there too, it is wonderful to minister together. For the Gypsy culture this is also more effective as multiple generations are respected as they work together. We have been seeing several of the young people coming back faithfully and getting involved in the Bible study and serving. **Please, pray for Maus (Mouse) and her husband and Bedi (Betty) and her husband to grow in the Lord and have strong marriages. The Devil is on the prowl destroying young marriages especially!**

Family: One tremendous blessing has been having the children home a majority of the time all day long and being able to homeschool them via distance learning. As many of you know, homeschooling is illegal in Germany, but with school moving to distance learning due to the pandemic, we have been able to have our children do their school at home! Please PRAY that this opportunity continues as it has been a wonderful treasure to have them learning this way!

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support!

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Dear Faithful Friends,

1 Cor. 16:9 For a **great door and effectual is opened** unto me, and there are **many adversaries**.

Rev 3:8 Behold, I have set before thee an **open door**, and **no man can shut it**:

Big things are happening among the Sinti in Germany!

1. Bro Jim White, Bruce's dad, **will be turning over the main Sinti Gypsy church in Nürnberg to it's own Gypsy head pastor!** This is an indigenous church planter's goal and dream! Please, pray for Monti and the special service on September 13, 2020! Pray for a smooth transition for the Maranatha Sinti Baptist Church in Nürnberg and continued effectiveness in reaching Gypsies with the Gospel!

2. Bruce is training Chirklo with the goal of him becoming the pastor of the church group in Krefeld in spring of 2022!

Many will remember the battles we faced last summer. Through that difficult time, Bruce has gained a "Timothy" who has completely changed his attitude and humbled himself and is growing by leaps and bounds! Bruce worked with and trained Chirklo as a teenager in Würzburg. He got married and moved to Krefeld where many of his wife's family have gotten saved, baptized, and Chirklo has been holding Bible studies and church services for the last 5 years. We go up once a month to help him and earlier this year he expressed a desire to become a pastor. Bruce does a 2-3 hour Bible and Pastoral training with him every Wednesday night via Zoom. He has been humble, teachable and faithful and it is exciting to watch God mature him as he handles responsibility in a godly manner. Pray for Chirklo and his wife Leila and their three boys, Mojeen, Moses and Simon. Our goal is to ordain him in the spring of 2022.

There is a great spirit in our group in Würzburg as the Lord has pruned and purged us this past year. We are heartbroken to see Fogel and his wife as well as Mike and his family go, but how exciting to see Tante Hambi (Aunt Hom-bee) get saved, as well as Yasha and Gaki's Brother Dino and his wife Liz coming to the weekly Bible studies and soaking it up! Pray for our baptism August 30!

Since it is difficult to hold services in our building and meet social distancing requirements, we will be giving up our present rooms. Our people are looking for something closer to them as well. There is a building for rent that is just around the corner from several apartment blocks full of Sinti. We have contacted the agent but not heard back yet. Please pray that if the Lord wants us to have it, that He will open that door.

Family News: Please pray for our children as they start up school September 8. Michelle will be in 9th, Lily 6th, Chloe 4th and Jimmy will be going into 1st grade. School for the first time and corona craziness! Pray for him to adjust well.

As always we are honored to be partnered with you and are so thankful for your faithful prayers and support.

For Sinti Souls,

Bruce, Joanna, Michelle, Lily, Chloe, Jimmy and Esther White

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Dear Faithful Friends,

With all that's going on, we are focused and productive in the ministry God has blessed us with among the Gypsies in Germany. We are so thankful for:

1. Your continued prayers for us and our people.
2. For your faithfulness to support us financially and keep us on the field.
3. And that in the midst of a constantly changing world, we have a God who remains the same "yesterday, today, and forever!"

Though things have been turned topsy turvy and the church has been thrown into new situations, we are happy to report that God is still at work!

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Current situation:

No meetings or church services allowed.

No going to school (all work is done from home) until probably the end of May.

Only essential shopping may be done, maintaining safe distances and limiting number of people entering stores.

Non-essential smaller stores will begin opening the first week of May.

Weekly services, Bible study, Bible Institute and Ladies' Meetings via ZOOM.

We are all healthy and safe so far and stores in our area are well-stocked.

Our preacher boy leading the church in Krefeld has been doing Sunday and midweek services online live for his people!

The preacher boys going through the Bible Institute have been taking turns giving their testimonies and preaching via YouTube.

Because of their traumatic history and persecution during the Holocaust, these types of dangers easily trigger an overwhelming sense of fear and panic in our Sinti. **We are blessed with a front row seat, seeing God calm their fears and seeing them learn to respond in a Biblical fashion. Praise the Lord!**

Although it is not the same as being together in person, our people have embraced this time to learn navigating technology and fellowshiping online.

Family News: The biggest change for our family other than not driving to church services, has been being able, aka "forced", to keep up with the kids' schooling from home. It is going GREAT and we would love for the Lord to open the door to continued home schooling!

Please, pray for continued wisdom as we lead the churches in depending on the God in new ways!

For Sinti Souls,

Bruce, Joanna, Michelle, Lily, Chloe, Jimmy and Esther White

The Whites **SINTI NEWS**

Thank you SO much for your prayers for us in 2019! We have had an eventful, trying, and blessed year. From January through July we were on furlough in the States, reporting to our supporting churches as well as raising the remaining 30% of our needed support. We are absolutely thrilled with the churches and individuals the Lord has given us to stand behind us and through prayers and financial support allow us to continue on the field, reaching the Sinti Gypsies with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The girls have acclimated well to being back in school. **Please, pray for their continued education and that they will make good enough grades to stay in their respected grades and continue to advance. Starting in middle school children are not only required to take a second but a third language. Back translating a third language into a language that is not your mother-tongue is understandably difficult, so our girls would appreciate your prayers!**

We are presently in full winter-season mode: lots of teaching and training of believers while they are in their towns for the winter. We have Sunday afternoon services in Würzburg, with Bruce additionally taking the junior age children for a half hour before services. The Lord has blessed and we have several families including a mother, Gocky and her two boys coming faithfully, which puts our juniors group at @ 3 girls and 4 boys. They have been inviting friends and cousins so we are excited as they grow! Joanna and one of the other ladies take the little children during the preaching and we are praying for the Lord to raise up some workers to help in both children's ministries, training and teaching this next generation in the Truth. Pray for faithful children's workers!

Monday night Bruce alternates with his dad teaching the Gypsy men in the Bible Institute in the Nürnberg Sinti church.

Friday evening he has men's meeting and training in Würzburg, and Saturday afternoon Joanna has ladies' meeting and training.

We were able to spend Christmas Eve with Bruce's family and Christmas day headed to Romania to spend time with Joanna's family and help out there. How wonderful when you are submitted to God and He allows your place of service to include being close enough to family to visit!

We are SO grateful for the individuals and seven new churches that have committed and been faithful to start supporting us this year!

Gateway Baptist Church: Gatesville, TX
Heritage Baptist Church: Mehlingen, Germany
Open Door Baptist Church: Clermont, FL
Riverside Baptist Church: Indiatlantic, FL
Harriman Baptist Tabernacle: Harriman, TN
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church: Oliver Springs, TN
Old Paths Baptist Church, Parksburg, PA

That puts us around 80% support and we are so honored to partner with each of you! We look forward to God working in 2020!

For Sinti Souls,

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