



WINGS NEWSLETTER

December 2017

FROM DEFORMATION TO REFORMATION

Many years back I used to do some work at a potter's wheel. The most difficult task for me was the beginning. When a potter starts his work, the main challenge is to center the clay. Otherwise it will be impossible to form the clay into a beautiful vase or a useful bucket, it will end up deformed and unseemly. The potter's hands work strongly on the clay and so force it to be centered.

If we want to see a reformation in our times, we have to allow God to center us again and to work hard on us - as he always does - with His loving hands. Helpful formation begins with being centered. The loving hands of Jesus work on us daily and help us to focus on Him, the center of our faith. If He is not the center, the fugitive forces of life will leave us deformed and useless.

Re-formation begins with us re-focusing on the center of our faith. It is not something we can do or achieve by certain techniques. We must allow God to work on us and to put away with anything that is not willing to be centered and focused on Jesus. It does not always feel comfortable. But it is always helpful to let the potter do his work on us.

Let us not only celebrate 500 years of the Reformation that began with Dr. Martin Luther. Rather, let us center ourselves and our ministry again on Jesus himself and let God do his creative work in our lives. He will re-form us, and in that way we can become useful vessels.

LOOKING BACK

The year 2017 is coming to an end. So please allow me to look back in awe and thankfulness on what God has done in 2017 in and through my ministry with and for women worldwide. This will be a short review, not mentioning the small events.

JANUARY: Roland and I spent a few weeks in **Southern Egypt**. I was able to participate in a meeting of Evangelists (GEF, Raphael Anzenberger, www.globalevangelistsforum.org) from Egypt, hosted in Cairo at the Egyptian Bible Society, and to introduce a younger woman to the group, who effectively serves as an evangelist among unreached people groups in her home country. It is always my greatest joy to help women be recognized for what they do in the kingdom and to help them get connected to "the men's world".





FEBRUARY: Roland and I took four couples, who are in leadership positions in church, with us to **Israel**. A great time, a time of holiday as well as “holy days”. A week later we both spoke at a retreat of a German Christian tourist group in Hurghada on the **Red See in Egypt**.

MARCH: We visited “Jesus-House”, an evangelistic outreach to young people that was satellite linked from **Vienna in Austria** to many cities in Germany and Europe. Also in March, Gerda Schaller, who is part of my support team at WINGS, and myself flew to **Seattle and Spokane, USA** to speak at conferences for Slavic women. Anara Nessipbekova, my co-catalyst for women in Evangelism in the Lausanne network, had organized those wonderful meetings. A great time of getting to know great Slavic Christian women, who have emigrated to the States. www.lausanne.org.



APRIL: Church retreats in **Cuxhaven, Germany** and in **Sauerland, Germany**. The later one is a Germany-wide conference for church people from all over the country. Doing morning Bible sessions for smaller groups and workshops in the afternoons was much fun. At the end of the month I was in **Berlin** to meet with other mentors of younger people, who had been invited by members of our German Parliament to visit and discuss with them. These meetings usually take place once every year, but not during this election year. So it was just the mentors who met to discuss the future of these wonderful encounters between young people and Parliament members.

MAY: We celebrated 35th anniversary of the church we founded in **Marburg**, Christus-Treff. It was also the time of the official act when I handed over the leadership of the church to my successor, a good friend and the right person to take over. Some people asked me how I felt about it. I could say that I felt like a mother bringing her daughter to the altar to be married to the right man. It felt good! May was also filled with filming for proChrist in **Germany, Poland and Holland**. I will explain this in more detail below.

JUNE: During the summer, Roland was leading a Bible Exposition in **Wittenberg**, located on the main street that Martin Luther must have walked a thousand times, coming from the Schlosskirche (the University at that time) to the Stadtkirche (the church where he preached). Sponsored by “Museum of the Bible” this exhibition had over 25.000 visitors in the summer. www.museumofthebible.org. It was a great success. More than 120 volunteers came to help and work in it during those months in Wittenberg. I spent some time of the summer there too. In June we also hosted the annual gathering of the leadership of the Lausanne Movement in **Wittenberg**. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Reformation together as the Lausanne family and to center on our calling: To be living in Jesus and like Jesus and serving Him in this broken world.



JULY: Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi from India was our main speaker at a conference set up by our newly founded Zinzendorf-Institute in **Gussow near Berlin**. A week full of insight into the shaping power of the word of God and the consequences of the Reformation until our modern times. Go find it on our website in English and German: www.zinzendorf-institut.de/videos. After that Roland and I spent a week at a Christian Camp in **Eastern Germany**, speaking in their plenary meetings and giving workshops. www.die-zeltstadt.de.

AUGUST: Holidays in **Israel** for 10 days. More time in **Wittenberg**.

SEPTEMBER: I was leading a women's retreat for 8 days in **Jerusalem, Israel** with 16 participants from all over Germany, aged mid 30s to mid 70s. A wonderful group and a great time of praying and meeting Jesus at the holy sites in Israel and staying at our church guesthouse in Jerusalem. www.christus-treff-marburg.de.

OCTOBER: After that, more filming in **Jerusalem** for proChrist 2018 at the beginning of October. www.prochrist.org. In the summer of 2016 Lausanne Int. started a ten year mentoring program for younger leaders from around the world. www.lausanne.org. The younger leaders from Europe met again in October in **Budapest, Hungary**, for four days. I was there as a mentor and also a speaker at their leadership



development track. Wonderful and promising young leaders from over 20 European nations met. After that I flew to **Belgrade, Serbia**, where we hosted the 25th anniversary of the Hope For Europe Women's Track. www.womeninleadership.eu. Over 80 women leaders from over 20 European countries came to study together and to celebrate what God is doing in Europe. I gave workshops on mentoring and spoke at a prayer night. From there Roland and I flew to **Charlotte NC, USA**, to be part of the mentoring group of Dr. Leighton Ford. A wonderful reunion of friends! www.leightonfordministries.org.

NOVEMBER: speaking at an evangelistic outreach in **Borken**, a small town near Kassel, for five evenings. Many (new) beginnings with Christ! What a blessing to see people come to the Lord! Our Zinzendorf-Institute had a weekend on the "Faith and Science" with two renown speakers: Prof. Dr. Heino Falcke from Nijmegen, NL and Prof. Dr. Helmut Brückner from Cologne in **Marburg**. Falcke is a professor for astrophysics, Brückner is a Geography professor. Both shared their insights on Black Holes and the "Sintflut", the flood. All this can be found on our website: www.zinzendorf-institut.de.



DECEMBER: preparing for an open Christmas Celebration Thank you so much! May God bless you richly in this coming new year 2018! On Dec. 11 my mother will celebrate her 93rd birthday. I am so grateful for all the love she invested into my life. I am also preparing for a Christmas party in our church on Christmas Eve and for a New Year party on the 31st of December.

Looking back I cannot but praise God for his faithfulness. He provided all I needed, He protected all those traveling hours. I met so many wonderful and faithful servants of our Lord! I am so glad to serve Him!

THOUGHTS AND PLANS FOR THE BEGINNING OF 2018

JANUARY: Women's retreat at a Christian Spa-Hospice in **Germany** for a week. Practice for proChrist for three days as a rehearsal for the evenings. At the end of the month and in

FEBRUARY: more time in **Southern Egypt**.

MARCH: ProChrist in **Leipzig**. What is proChrist? proChrist started when Dr. Billy Graham came to Europe 1993 and did a first satellite linked mission. After that proChrist started and Ulrich Parzany was the main speaker for many years. In March next year, Steffen Kern and myself will be the speakers at this European mission. The event takes place in **Leipzig** and is transmitted on Christian TV, through the Internet and to over 150 places all over Germany and Europe. It is so exciting to work on the program of those evenings and to prepare for so many people to hear the Gospel. The apostolic creed is underlying the topics of the evenings. We want to explore and explain what we as Christians believe and invite people to trust in Jesus. Starting in January, before the proChrist meetings in March 2018, we will have seven TV-documentaries, in which Steffen Kern and myself interviewed fourteen people on the topics of the evenings. You can find an example here: www.prochrist.de/prochrist-live/un glaublich/tv-serie. Can I ask you to pray for proChrist? And for myself as I prepare the sermons for the evenings when I will give the invitation to follow Christ. Steffen Kern and myself will both be presenters during the program and one of us will preach at the end of the evening and invite people to give their lives to Jesus. What a challenge, what an opportunity! Please pray with me and for me as I step out of my comfort zone to be in such a public arena.

MAY: speaking at a conference in **Slovakia**.

JUNE: Conference for Slavic women in **Minnesota**, right after that the Lausanne Leadership gathering in the States. The annual meeting of the Lausanne board will be after that in **Chicago, USA**.





JULY: Speaker at an evangelistic outreach week in **Poland** with the Lutheran Church. Speaking at a women's conference in **Kazachstan**.

Thank you so much! May God bless you richly in this coming new year 2018!

With love and appreciation,

Elke Werner

SUPPORT

Thank you for your **prayers**. I am so thankful for all who cover my ministry in prayer.

If you wanted to support my ministry financially, I would be more than thankful. If you want to send a check, please make it payable to: WINGS, Germany, Steinweg 12, 35037 Marburg. If you want to send money to our account, please use this number:

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