

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood.....

We are a flexible Church, we enjoy meeting in new venues and summer is a season to try new things out. So, last week's Sunday service was held at Dieter and Ursi's place - a camping site! Dieter and Ursi are our dear members who live in a camper and travel between their official residence of Lichtenstein (where they have a post box) and the Tirol (where they have a spiritual home). For many in our Gemeinde, they have been a breath of fresh air. Both of them exude a deep love for Jesus and His church; have a longing to reach the lost and a compulsion to talk to others about Christ. So it was that two weeks ago Dieter found himself witnessing to a fellow camper in the communal bathroom. Then we arrived at the campsite with a message of hope for the lost. We set up our seats next to the swimming pool and not far from the children's activities. As we worshiped and prayed, there were quite a few campers who stole glances in our direction, and hopefully had an ear out to what was being said. I would love to tell you that quite a few joined us and that some were touched or even saved following our service, but to do so would not be true! No one joined us, but a few listened and then Satan got mad. The next day, totally out of the blue, a camper started an argument with Dieter over something quite trivial - the parking arrangements! Dieter's car was parked, according to this camper, was not his spot and he should move (into the sun!). Dieter recognized this not as a personal attack, but as a spiritual one, since he had just a few days ago witnessed to this person. Wasn't this just like Satan to try to snatch and steal the seed that was sown through his conversation and our Gemeinde presence?

... but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (Eph 6:12)

There have been many attacks over the last year or so. Some have come from without and some from within the church, but the origin of all conflict is Satan. It is time that we, the Gemeinde, take back the authority that Satan has for so long exerted over the people of this land. It is a time when we are actively engaged in spiritual warfare on behalf of the church and the unsaved to break the influence and hold he has on so many. The battle is so real and it is to our shame that often too late we recognize the real enemy. Is it the lady who wanted "her" parking place? No! The enemy is the one who wants the conflict to prevail in order that the Gospel will fail. The enemy is Satan who wants us to be distracted with what he or she did or said, so as to hinder us from proclaiming the Gospel to the world that is desperately lost.

Whether we are proclaiming in the campsite, the refugee asylum, to the immigrant population or to our friends and family members; wherever the gospel is being proclaimed the enemy wants to silence it and he will use whatever conflicts he can to do so. So it is that our Gemeinde learns to be flexible in order to reach the lost wherever we may find ourselves. Please pray for us as we seek to do this and pray with us that we stand against the powers of darkness in God's strength. Pray with us at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication, with all perseverance, making supplication for us and all the saints, and pray for us that words and boldness would be given to us in proclaiming the gospel (Eph 6:18-19).

We leave you with an encouragement: Gabi, our fellow laborer, shared with us how she was reading a book about witnessing to the Muslim women and was impressed with the testimonies of missionaries in Islamic countries. Gabi works as a sales assistant in a clothing store and shared that while on the sales floor a couple of Muslim women entered the store. One of them approached her and struck up a conversation. Things very rapidly turned to religious matters with the Muslim woman sharing about Ramadan and Gabi sharing her faith. Gabi was blown away that a total stranger, who is Muslim, would

strike up a God conversation with the only Christian woman in the shopping mall, and that after Gabi had been reading a “How to Witness to Muslim Women” book. This just had to be a God thing!

Satan would like to hinder, but we know God is sovereign and in control of all things. For that we are thankful because without Him, our efforts would be fruitless.

For His Fame Among the Nations!

Daniel, Kathleen & Ava