



THE HOPPY HERALD

TIM & BIANCA HOPCRAFT

STUDENT MINISTRY IN LEIPZIG, GERMANY: 21ST NOVEMBER 2011, No. 21

Dear Friends,

New arrivals in 2011

The title and the picture are obviously a bit misleading – if you were expecting something about Miranda then you'll have



Leipzig's youngest fresher??

to wait till the next page! But first we'd like to ask you something:

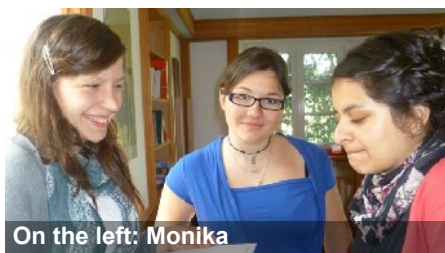
Why should we work with students? How does this ministry contribute to God's kingdom?

I must admit that the last few weeks have been quite intensive. The start of the new semester and trying to meet the needs of our family have meant that each day has been long and full.

When you have to raise up lots of energy each day it's understandable that there will be some days where you're lacking in motivation. At times like that it helps me to ask myself the above questions and remind myself why I do this ministry. I thought it would be a good idea to share my thoughts with you.

Strengthening students in their faith: Monika

A year-and-a-half ago Monika became a Christian after coming back from a stint in Honduras and soon after



On the left: Monika

(almost exactly a year ago) started studying in Leipzig. Although somewhat unsure in her new faith she came to the Agapé group. Through Startklar (a course for Christians new at the university) and the support of other Christian friends her faith grew stronger. Looking back over the last year she says: "Now I know that God is my Father" – something that for a while was hard for her to grasp.

This Semester she is helping to lead Startklar.

Developing potential: Nora

Nora has been involved in the Agapé group for the last five years. 3 years ago she organised our

fortnightly FireAbend meetings and was part of the leadership team. Since last semester she's been mentoring a younger student who is one of the group leaders. Despite her involvement in the group Nora makes it a priority to spend time with her non-Christian friends and talk to them about her faith. It's been very exciting to observe how she's developed during her time here!



In the middle: Nora

Preparing for the world of work: Ernst

I mentioned Ernst in our last prayer letter. In two months he'll start his first post-academic job. That's why we've been meeting up to think about specific ways that he can be a light for Jesus there.

Winning students for Christ: Tobias

Tobias had just started his PhD when he came to one of our Faith & Science talks (Kopfknistern) two years ago. He soon chose to accept Jesus into his life as he realised "he was my last hope." In the last two years Tobias was able to experience how God is working in him and giving him a new perspective for his life.

Reaching the decision-makers of tomorrow: Angela



It was thirty years ago that Angela studied Physics here at the University of Leipzig. Today she is Germany's Chancellor and has influence throughout the world. We never know who these people are when we meet them at

the university but when we talk to students then we are dealing with some of tomorrow's leaders.

That's why...

...this time of year is so important. Now is the time that thousands of students are beginning their degrees. This is the next generation of Monikas, Noras, Ernsts and Tobias' – possibly even Angelas.

Our task is firstly to encourage Christian students who are new at the university and show them how they can dedicate these few years for God and His kingdom. And secondly to bring young people, who don't know Jesus, in contact with him.

Partners in crime

1 + 1 > 2 (one plus one is greater than two)

Err, that sum's not right, you're probably thinking. Well it's the sum for **Synergy**, where the product is greater than the sum of the individual parts. By working with other partners in the gospel we (and our partners) been able to do more than we'd each have managed alone this semester:

Successful Study seminar: In a joint event with the Christian Union we offered a seminar 2 weeks ago on how to study better and more effectively. We covered topics such as revision, time management and taking notes, aiming to serve the campus and be a witness through our actions. I personally had hoped to see more participants but was nevertheless pleased by the good quality of the talks and from the feedback that the Seminar was helpful for the approx. 25 students who came. Furthermore, following the seminar, one participant is interested in finding out more about the Christian faith.

Food for thought: This semester a pastor from our church (Leipzig English Church) and I have started a bible study group during the lunch break: 45 minutes of intensive study of Colossians. It is aimed at both Christians and non-Christians and we've invited students from the other student groups (e.g. CU) along too. After a good start it has struggled in the last few weeks – so please pray for more people to come but also for wisdom for us as we lead it. [T]

M & M's Minutes

Miranda: Life outside of the womb is quite exciting but also scary. Everyone seems to like me. The food, the service and the entertainment is great – I think I'll stay here!



Matthew: To start with it was all very interesting. But I'm beginning to realise that this "Babee Miwanda" isn't going away. And Mummy and Daddy don't seem to have as much time for me as they did before, which isn't always easy for me. In return they've



started calling me a "big boy!" :-)

I'm also now going to Michi's during the week (Mummy and Daddy call her the 'childminder') where I get to play with my new friends Geo and Albrecht each day!



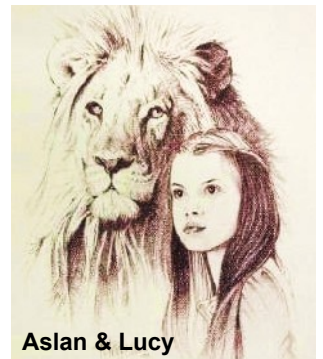
Why Miranda?

Many people have asked us about the name. One thing's for sure: It wasn't because it begins with M! Tim heard the name at a conference and liked the sound as well as the meaning ("admirable, beautiful").

For me it also reminds me of the actress Miranda Otto. She played Eowyn in Lord of the Rings, a courageous woman, who bravely fights against evil.

And why Lucy?

We also liked the way Lucy sounds and the meaning is "light." Furthermore there is also a character we associate with this name: Lucy Pevensie from the Chronicles of Narnia. Lucy is the one who has the most trust and the deepest relationship with Aslan, who is a metaphorical figure for Jesus in the books. So now you know! [B]



Things to be praying for

Thank you:

- For an uncomplicated birth and that God has strengthened us and provided for us as a family and in ministry in the last few weeks

Requests:

- For new students in the group who would develop a heart for mission on campus and live that out
- For more male students to get actively involved
- For continued strength, wisdom, love and patience (particularly in stressful times!)

Thank you for your love and support to us! You are a really big blessing to us! :-)

Yours,

Tim Hopcraft

(the Hoppys!)

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