

Botho and Gisela Heinz

Dear Prayer Partners,

April 2009

Nature comes back to life in Germany at the time around Easter. Everything starts to bloom and the trees grow leaves again. It is a wonderful time! This is a limited time, though. In the fall, it will be over. But, the life man has been given since the resurrection will never end. What an overwhelming joy!

On his only mission trip this year, Botho went to Sibiu, Romania to teach once again at the Bible College there. It was good for him to have more time at home because he needed to prepare two new curricula.

One curriculum was on apologetics (defending one's beliefs). He already had some lessons on this topic from church seminars but it was not enough for what was expected at the Bible College. So, he took time to dig deeper into philosophy to explain to the students how thoughts about mankind, purpose and values different from the Christian approach could develop. He tried to open up to them the basics of atheism.

He prepared a brief outline of the History of Philosophy – and then went one step further. Today we live in a post modern area in Europe, an age that outgrew Christianity. He tried to sketch its way of thinking and values. For example, people state that there is 'no evidence of God'. But the students were astonished that it is much more difficult to prove there is 'no God'.

Botho also showed that in a post modern society not many people will be reached for the Gospel by reasoning (like in the '70s and '80s). He could show that we live in a society that pretends to be very tolerant, stating there are no absolute values, but is extremely intolerant to anyone who stands up for those values. Today we need different methods to open people up to Jesus and the Gospel.

The Romanian students mainly came from Christian backgrounds and had never thought about the way worldly people think. A totally new world of ideas opened up to them. The implementation was very challenging for the students when Botho adopted a critical attitude and had them try to win him over by the recently heard arguments.

The second topic Botho taught in Romania was "Principles of Christian Marriage" with Gisela as his 'helper'. (*We always enjoy serving together.*) This topic was very important, not only for the private lives of the students, but also for their later ministry. In the area of counseling, many questions need to be answered.

During our time in Romania, we met several former students. One told us that his time at the Bible College was formative for his life. His attitudes toward marriage and family, toward serving in his church and his job were mainly influenced by that time. He testified that he would not be the person he is today had he not attended the Bible College.

Those are wonderful credentials for the Bible College in Selimbar. Pray for those graduating this year; that they will find the place where God wants them to minister. Pray that many new students will enroll in the fall. It is hard to create interest in theological training in Romania because most of the young people have left the country (or want to leave) to find work in Italy, Spain, France, etc.

Now a word about another curriculum Botho has to prepare this spring. He was asked to teach Ezekiel when he goes back to Volgograd to conduct seminars at six different churches. This was a big challenge to prepare this exegesis.

In addition to the church seminars, he was asked to teach for two days at the Bolgograd Theological College. The idea was that since he had already prepared an exegesis on Ezekiel, it should be easy for him to teach the Major Prophets. Well . . . at least he already had some material which *only* needed to be adapted.

We ask you to pray for the following:

- The students who will graduate this summer from the Bible College at Selimbar near Sibiu, Romania. They need God's guidance to take their places in life.
- Young Christians in Romania who commit themselves to get theological training at the Bible College.
- A Church Retreat in May where Botho will teach the first Book of Peter.
- Meetings in different churches to inform them about and raise funds for the evangelistic children's camps in Ukraine, which will take place the end of July and the beginning of August.
- Eduard Roehrich, a volunteer missionary who will conduct the meetings for fundraising for the first time since he attended the children's camps in Ukraine last summer.
- The seminars on the Book of Ezekiel that Botho will teach in June at six different churches in Volgograd.
- The lessons Botho will teach at the Volgograd Theological College on the Major Prophets.

We really appreciate your faithfulness and thank you very much for your prayer and financial support.

Yours,

Botho & Gisela