

# The Heinz Gisela - Botho

Dear Prayer Partners,

September 2009

The summer is almost over and, for most of you, also the time for vacations. But we are still looking forward to taking off and enjoying some days at the beach on the Atlantic Ocean in France before the fall activities start.

Recently, Botho attended a seminar that teaches the English language. He had planned to do this for quite a while because his English is not as good as he would like it to be. A friend (born in the States and married to a German) conducts these seminars at a college. So, he got a special treat – one semester in 4 days!!

During his last ministry visit to Volgograd, Botho had some difficulty with his interpreter which finally encouraged him to improve his English. For years, he has worked with the help of interpreters. At places where he has ministered for years, he worked most of the time with the same interpreters and very seldom had any problems. This last visit, the interpreter was from a very orthodox background and had a problem accepting statements in the Bible that are different from the orthodox teaching. For the most part, the problem was concerning the difficulty of understanding the content.

This interpreter was a young man who had just finished college in a small town and was convinced he knew English very well. Although he might have been a good *student*, the reality was (unfortunately) different. The problems were that he was not experienced in interpreting, that any kind of accent irritated him and that his vocabulary missed a lot of modern English terms and idioms.

Well, what should Botho do? Of course, he could have gotten upset and blamed the interpreter for being incompetent. But why do that? Botho prefers to stress the common goal - to teach the laymen over a long period of time. Therefore, it is necessary to work together smoothly and get all things out of the way that could interfere. It is also important to be well prepared, which means the interpreter needs to know the material ahead of time. During these hours of preparation, it became obvious that the young man had a very legalistic approach towards Christianity.

It shook the self-esteem of the interpreter to realize that his English was not as good as he thought. We had come many miles to do this job as a ministry for the Lord and then he had to realize that he failed, which deeply depressed him. It was very hard for him to confess that his command of the English language was not good enough and he accused Botho - saying it was because of his accent and phrasing. Despite this, Botho tried to encourage him because it gets even more difficult when your interpreter is discouraged or even stops translating when he thinks he cannot go on. Therefore, because all of this happened, we have realized that we need God's help in all aspects of the ministry, including the interpretation.

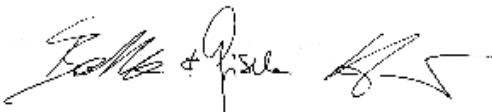
During the summer, Botho conducted a retreat again in East Germany. The participants came from many different churches. They enjoyed the Bible studies and were very happy when they began to discover new things in the Bible and respectively gained a new viewpoint towards it. Some even wanted to share the new knowledge of their Bible study in their homes. Botho was invited again for the next year and arranged the dates.

When we are back home from our vacation, we will host Jerry Clark, pastor of a church in Jackson, Mississippi. He will come to stay with us after he teaches at the Yalta Bible College. While he is in Germany, he will teach a Marriage Seminar at a church nearby. During the last ten years, he has already taught this seminar twice at that church and they are eager to hear him again.

At the end of October, Botho will travel to Romania to again teach at the Bible College in Sibiu.

We want to thank you for all your prayers and great interest in our ministry. We send you kind regards.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Botho & Gisela Heinz', followed by a stylized flourish.

Botho & Gisela Heinz