



Greetings Test Salutation >> ,

The year is just two months old, and we already amazed with how God is bringing everything together in motion.

Visit to the old country

In early January we flew together as a family, including Daniel's parents and 7 (!) other Germans to the annual staff retreat of Mavuno, held again at the Indian Ocean near Mombasa. For all of us it was a highlight of the trip. Ferdinand was able to enjoy his grandparents for two weeks, and we both thoroughly relished reunion with friends and colleagues. We were particularly pleased that our intern Sven together with his wife was among the group, also Simone, director of our kid's church, and our Australian missionaries Beth and James. All of them were not only impressed by the vitality and consistent strategic approach at Mavuno, but were also inspired and motivated personally. Sven said afterwards: "That's exactly what we need in Germany." - We see this as well! :-)

Already prior to our trip to Kenya we've experienced, how God's Spirit has moved through Mavuno at various locations in Germany. In December, a couple from Southern Germany contacted us after reading about our story in a Bible reading journal. They planned to visit us in January - during our time in Kenya. We therefore invited them to come with us to Kenya for the staff retreat - and they were incredibly spontaneous and traveled alongside us. They were also very touched and inspired from the experience and now we are friends!

Changes in Berlin



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PrayerCorner

We are thankful for

- * Inspiring and encouraging time in Kenya
- * God's protection on the trip
- * 1st Vision Day
- * Start of the Life Groups
- * Beth, our Intern
- * Family Dinsmore, USA, joining Mavuno Berlin together with 4 students

Our Mavuno church in Berlin is going well. We are glad that Beth Roper joined the church as an intern. It became obvious that even for the Kids Church a full time minister is required, and that the programs director, Simone, though highly capable and committed, simply does not have enough time as a volunteer to transform the ministry vigorously.

Currently the biggest change in the church is the introduction of small groups, called 'Life Groups'. Vibrant small groups are the backbone of a church, so we will continue to fully focus on this area until Easter. Every week, the leaders are trained, and Daniel and Rainer visit all groups in order to gain an impression on the spot. Immediately after each meeting, the leaders fill out an online feedback questionnaire in which they assess the progress.

We introduced the concept of Life Groups on our first Vision Day at the end of January. It was the first time that Daniel preached about the vision of the church, that describes why we exist. It's the German version of Mavuno's "Turning ordinary people into fearless influencers of society." From this we initiated three ministry areas: Worship Experience, LifeGroups and Strategy Team, each group with a main leader. What is special about the Life Groups? To answer, the following things are important to us:

- Community
- Implementation of the Sunday sermon
- Mutual responsibility, whether or not we choose to and how we can let our faith be practical.

It is very important to us that we as Christians do not (only) accumulate Bible knowledge, but put it into practice. This is our real mission and why we don't call small groups 'Bible study groups', but 'LifeGroups'. We want more than mere conversations about God and ourselves. We want to share our lives with each other and support each other, as Christians, to live authentically. Although the groups are still developing, we are already in awe and are simply astounded with what God is doing.

Overseas news

Even overseas God continues to work for Mavuno Berlin.

* Ferdinand developing age-appropriately,

And need your support.

Please pray with us for

- * Good development of Lifegroups
- * Life Group leaders: lead with wisdom and motivation
- * Leaders of the new ministry teams
- * Coaching of leaders through Daniel & Rainer
- * Power, endurance and clear vision for the two of us



Team @ Kenia



@ Mavuno



Ferdinand @ Beach

Despite Rodrigo and Katie Dinsmore, along with their sons, are relocating to Berlin from North Carolina, United States in late May, this is only a part of how God is working. As Rodrigo told us, his entire church "caught fire" for Berlin, and continually helps them in practical ways and with support raising. What is more exciting, is that the Dinsmore's come along with four students from their church to help support Mavuno Berlin. We are continually amazed at what God is doing and what plans he has for our church in the year to come! God is great!

Family life

Last week, our almost 2 year old son Ferdinand passed his first "baptism of fire", and we therefore declared him to be one of the "big boys". He "survived" three days and two nights without Mum and Dad and was very brave. His grandparents cared for him while we were both attending a conference. We are always very glad and appreciative that our parents actively support us in this way.

In a few days Ferdinand will become two years old. The doctor confirmed during a routine examination, that Ferdinand is developing age-appropriately - and is stubborn :-) That sounds very normal, we didn't expect anything else, therefore we are very thankful to God that our son is healthy all around. His verbal abilities are above average, as we observe every day. He likes to give compliments frequently, e.g. "Daddy looks chic", or he hugs Mum and says "love you very much". These moments make it easy to forget the former tantrums.

We thank you that you are still behind us and our work. Keep it up, because without God's blessing and your prayers, many of these things would not have happened in such a short time.

Warm Greetings,
Daniel and Nancy with Ferdinand.

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Start LifeGroups



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