A Wedding Atmosphere!

Conversions in Europe – impossible?!

On June 30th 2018, ten people professed their decision for Jesus Christ by being baptized in the neighbour's pond of TGM, a medical missionary school and sanitarium in Austria. For this reason, there wasn't only guests from Austria, but from Poland and Germany as well.

Among those baptized was a missionary student, Melinda, from an Austrian church. After experiencing several traumatic events in her life she decided to completely consecrate her life to Jesus Christ. Three others who were baptized had previously attended a Newstart program at TGM as lifestyle guests. Two of them, Wilfried and Dagmar, were acquainted with Jesus Christ during the Newstart program and within the ten days of this very program, surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ! Before coming to the Newstart session, Wilfried and Dagmar had been satisfied clients of the Adventist restaurant "Delicious," in the city of Klagenfurt. After this restaurant closed down, Wilfried and Dagmar continued attending cooking courses offered by the Klagenfurt SDA church. There, they were invited to visit a Newstart program at TGM where they finally met Jesus Christ. After this life-changing Newstart session, they both started to attend the churches of Klagenfurt and Feldkirchen, also supporting both in their ministry within the community. Meanwhile, Wilfried and Dagmar became pillars of the Feldkirchen church. Both consider it a privilege to belong to the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family.

The third, baptized, former Newstart guest, Heike, was accepted into the church of Graz. Heike met Adventists at her working place. She found her way to Jesus Christ and was invited to a Newstart program. At this Newstart session, she was deeply encouraged and stengthened to continue walking the narrow path Jesus walked. This was one of the factors in her decision to commit her life to God through baptism.

Three other people that were baptized are close relatives of a former TGM student and staff member, Nicola (Nikki) Bartkowiak. They live in Poland and belong to the churches of Kołobrzeg and Pozna. Actually, the father of Nikki was once an attendee of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses but came into contact with Adventists through his current wife in the last decade. Once acquainted with the truth, he started to pray for his daughter. In 2013, Nikki visited her stepsister (the daughter of this current wife) at TGM, who was a student at that time. This visit turned the life of Nikki upside down as she invited Jesus into her heart, began Bible studies and became a student of TGM; since then, she has served in different departments of this institution until August 2018. After her baptism in 2016, it was now her dad's, uncle's and stepmom's turn. Their deep desire to get baptized at the very same place where Nicola was baptized became reality.

Also, the church of Klagenfurt welcomed three new members: Two of them, Rebecca and Sulamith, are actually cousins of a TGM worker and decided, at their young ages, to totally consecrate their lives to Jesus Christ, their personal Savior and Friend. Last, but not least, Alice was baptized. In her touching life story, she described how the Lord lead her through friendships with Adventists, care groups, fellowship and personal experiences to a final decision for Jesus Christ and the Adventist church.

During this event, we all experienced an uplifting, inspiring atmosphere that could be compared to a wedding– an atmosphere full of wonderful life testimonies, heavenly music and delicious food. It was a beautiful day.

Eugene Prewitt: Under which conditions do conversions in Europe take place?

Again and again, over the course of the eight yearly Newstart programs, the TGM team witnesses how the Holy

Spirit leads people to a decision for Jesus Christ. A statement from the well-known Bible teacher Eugene Prewitt, as he, astonished, expresses his findings to an audience in Great Britain:

"I was in Austria just a short time ago. And I will tell you that what I saw in Austria made me quite excited. I was at TGM. … This is a little missionary training school, kind of like the school of the prophets. And that training program is in a reconditioned hotel. Someone just bought the hotel and turned it into a school. One week, every month, they turn their school into a wellness center. They have a doctor who comes for one week in each month and helps them. What really amazed me there was that when I was sitting with the students talking with them at the meals I found out that very often in the one week of medical missionary work they have conversions. That is: Here comes a patient, he or she is with them for six days and in that time he or she decides to become a Seventh Day Adventist. That's amazing! Because Austria is not the Philippines. Austria is not Ecuador or Jamaica. Austria is cold-blooded Europe just like the UK. Conversions here are a fight, a struggle. I mean, if you take the amount of money spent for conversions divided by the number of conversions that last for two years or longer, it would turn out for 12.000 pounds per cat. (I made this number up). … It's hard business converting people. But there in Austria, in one week, they're having conversions. So I began to ask questions to find out what they're doing, how they making this happen. You may think: 'It's a wellness center, of course.' No, no, no, I live at a wellness center. Our programs are 20 days long and we have a few conversions per year. ... So what was going on there in Austria is special. So I put on my radar and I began checking to find out what is happening. I've find out that the staff and students are praying every day to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. What's going on is help from Heaven. That is what is happening.

So I decided to try it. ... I began to pray for it and a few days later my wife and I took a train to Germany. Germany is not known to be an easier place than Austria in terms of conversions. And there I was speaking at something like a camp meeting. I should tell you that I've been preaching the Laodicean message in the way I understand it. I've been telling audiences of Adventists that they are not converted, that they are lost and that they are going to burn in hell if they don't repent. I've been telling that to people in more than probably 40 nations for 20 years. And just a few months ago I did it again in Germany. In Early Writings Ellen White writes that when the Laodicean message will be preached, the people are going to rise up against it. So there's going to be some tension and division where this message is preached. So, I'm looking for some opposition, I'm looking for some division after preaching this message, but the feedback is: 'What a beautiful sermon. Thank you so much for coming. We appreciate that.' Over and over – it's discouraging, it's not what I'm looking for. ... So now I'm in Germany, praying already each day to be baptized and filled by the Holy Spirit... Now something happened for what I just praise the Lord: Young people in the age of 14 or 15 were coming to the front and testifying that they were giving their life to the Lord Jesus. Also another lady came to me and asked: 'Do you think maybe I should postpone my baptism? I'm addicted to sugar.' She was scheduled to be baptized in two weeks. She was a nurse practitioner or something like that and in the evening she would just go home and binge on sweets. For years she knew that she shouldn't do it. But more recently, she was convicted that she shouldn't do it. She couldn't enjoy the sweets any more, she feels miserable. ... I told her: 'You don't need to postpone your baptism. What you need to do is to have victory tonight. You should be baptized with the Holy Spirit tonight.'"

Most likely, in Europe, conversions take place as we fully consecrate our self to Jesus Christ and are baptized with the Holy Spirit each and every morning.

Link to the commentary of Eugene Prewitt: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcQFT3POvFs&feature=youtu.be (starting at minute 28)

Sebastian Naumann, School leader of TGM