

Early Open Brethren in the German-Speaking Countries

Excerpts from
The Missionary Echo
and *Echoes of Service*
(1872–1918)

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GERMANY.

THE person of whose labours the following letter speaks, the son of a Prussian officer, had to flee his country in the revolution of 1848, and came to London. Being destitute and miserable there, he went out one morning ten miles to a secluded place to destroy himself. While in the act, the Lord revealed to him his sin, and the danger of hell fire; that the Bible was true; that He had sent His Son as a *Saviour*; and that the blood of Christ cleansed from all sin. He returned to London, sought the Lord's help, and supported himself for two or three years by selling penny articles in markets. Having come to Devonshire, he was owned as a Christian, baptized, and received into communion, and still visited the markets. He received many answers to prayer for the sick, and married a young woman whom the Lord had raised up in answer to prayer. Having been requested by some poor saints at Brixham to become their teacher, he lived and walked with Christ among them for some time. Subsequently he was invited to go to Paris as an evangelist, and then to Hamburg, where he has laboured over two years, chiefly among sailors.

LEONARD STRONG.

Hamburg. – Since our coming here I have prayed much and fervently for the conversion of souls, through the Word spoken, and tracts and Scriptures given by me; but it is impossible for me to see the fruit of my labours, as to-day I may speak to a man, and the next day he is gone. There have been a great many vessels of various nations in this port, so that the work has required all my energies and physical powers. To reach the vessels here and at Altona I have to go more than three miles, and very often have to row my little boat against wind and tide.

Several Germans with whom I have spoken on vital godliness have lately, on their return, sought me out, and thanked me for my exhortations, which the Lord had blessed to them. But daily I meet many who tell me they are too enlightened to believe either in God, devil, heaven, or hell. A short time ago, when giving away tracts on board a coal vessel, the mate said to me, "I don't take any of them; I am a freethinker." I told him I was very sorry to hear that; for, except he believed in Jesus, hell must assuredly be his portion for ever. I spoke to him of the love and work of Christ, and he listened attentively. "The time is coming," said I, "when you will believe in Jesus and the Scripture; for in hell there are no infidels: all believe there, though not, as now you may, for *salvation*. They believe, and cry, Lost! lost!" I then repeated, in a loud voice, John iii. 36, and said I hoped I should see him in heaven. He remained speechless, his eyes fixed on the deck as if in deep thought. I {5} have not seen him since. A few days after a German saluted me, as we passed in the rapid stream between two vessels, "Sir, I would do anything for you! You do not know me; but I shall never forget you;" and on he passed, giving no time for reply. Lately, at Sandthorquay, a man said he was an infidel, and would not read my tracts. Upon which I warned him in strong terms. Last week he came up and asked me for tracts, adding, "I would like to buy a Bible, if you have one here." When I spoke to him of Jesus Christ, he assented to all I said. Oh that the seed sown may germinate, and bring forth fruit to the glory of God!

A few days ago I went on board a small Irish vessel. Three rough-looking men and a boy composed her crew. They would not have my tracts, and one said I ought to be ashamed to come on board to delude people, and commenced preaching to me *his* Church, the Pope, and Peter, whom he represented as the rock upon which Christ had founded their church. I pointed out his mistake – that Christ was the Rock, and poor Peter only a rolling-stone, and warned them all not to hang their hopes for eternity upon anything short of Christ Himself – that no man upon earth had power to forgive sins, but Christ alone – that no forms and ceremonies could save a soul from hell, but faith in Jesus alone. At last they admitted that they were all sinners, and that Jesus was the only name given among men whereby we must be saved. Upon leaving they all shook my hand, saying, "Well, you did

tell us of nothing but Jesus.” On visiting an Italian vessel, the captain returned his warmest thanks for the word of God. In another, while the crew were desiring tracts, the captain was in a great rage; but the men did not heed him, but asked for gospels; for which they were deeply grateful. On board a large French vessel, after having given tracts to all, the captain invited me to tea, and showed me some he had received in other parts of the world. The Portuguese, and also the Spaniards, are anxious to receive the Scriptures.

The Norwegians and Swedes receive tracts, and listen with the deepest reverence to the gospel. There are many believers amongst them, more than among any nation I meet with. I hope to speak Danish and Norwegian soon, by the help of God. The Welsh people who come here are dissatisfied with me because I have no tracts in their tongue. There are always from a dozen to twenty Welsh vessels in this port. Many seamen from Finland come here, but I have not been able to procure gospels or tracts for them. They also have much love for the things of God. A brother in the Lord, who serves on board a Scottish steamer trading here, said, “I am always glad when you come on board to speak the gospel; for the Lord always gives a blessing with the Word.”

KARL ANDREAS.

The Missionary Echo 2 (February 1872)

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GERMANY.

Hamburgh. – We felt truly thankful to our dear Lord and yourself for your letter. Letters from English brethren are truly refreshing to our fainting spirits, and stir up to faith and watchfulness while on our lonely beat in this land of infidelity. We have experienced trials, nevertheless we are sure the Lord sent us here, and He has preserved us through deep waters, so that we are a marvel to ourselves of the Lord’s goodness. The sickness, death, and funeral of our little Jemima, my dear wife’s confinement, and another burial, with all our household expenses, drew upon our little cruse of oil, yet it seemed not to decrease, so that my dear wife asked me, “Do you think it possible that the Lord should actually put money into our box?” Our life is still a constant feast of joy in the Lord, and our abode seems to be His abode. We have been kept by the grace and power of God alone.

We are truly thankful to the dear brethren at Torquay, for remembering us at their monthly missionary prayer meeting. Brethren, pray on; we have much need to be upheld, lest we should bring reproach upon the name of Christ our Lord. Oh, may we be faithful servants, that the Lord may use us in His own way for the glory of His name and the good of saints and sinners.

My sphere of labour is a large one, both on land and water. Since the frost has set in, the work on the water is dangerous; the ice is so thick on the Elbe now that even steamers cannot come up.

On the 1st of December, the census was taken in Germany. I wrote under the head of *religion*, “A Christian.” The young official who called for my papers objected to this as insufficient, and asked, “What are you, a Lutheran or Catholic?” “I am neither, I am a Christian.” “But what doctrine do you follow, of Luther or of some other man?” “The doctrine of the Lord {21} Jesus Christ and His apostles, and of no other man.” He asked and received the same reply as to my wife. But when he came to my children, and saw a blank under this column, he said “What religion are your children?” “None; they are too young to make a true intelligent confession.” “But they must have been christened somewhere?” “No; when they are old enough, and confess their faith in the Lord Jesus, they will be Christians, and

be baptized. May I set the gospel before you, sir?” “No, thank you; I want nothing of the kind.” And he went his way. Well, God may use this little testimony, if not now, perhaps some day, to that young man’s salvation.

I find many opportunities for testifying the gospel of the grace of God, in season and out of season; the Lord of the harvest may cause it to bring forth fruit to the glory and praise of God.

December 21st, 1871.

KARL ANDREAS.

The Missionary Echo 3 (March 1872)

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SWITZERLAND.

[Extracts from letters to Christians at Barnstaple.]

{...}

{31} You and I are ever meeting each other in spirit, for we have access through the Lord Jesus, by one Spirit, to the Father, and we are thus from day to day helpers of each other’s faith.

The demands here on me are manifold, but I have determined to leave this on the 14th, if God permit, going to England by way of Germany. I and my companion, brother Christian Pundsack, purpose to go to Bremen and Hamburg. You know our brother Karl Andreas is labouring at Hamburg. From the latter place we shall cross the sea, if God permit, for Hull, and stay a day or two at Stamford; also a few days at Bristol. ... Let us open the mouth wide, and ask that nothing be lacking to the Church of God, which is the owner of all the riches of Christ: it is only unbelief that makes us poor.

R. C. C.

February 2nd.

The Missionary Echo 4 (April 1872)

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GERMANY.

WE are able to give a few interesting observations made by our brother, Mr. R. C. Chapman, in passing through Germany, on his homeward journey from Spain. They are taken from letters addressed to Christians at Barnstaple. It is a cause for thanksgiving that this aged and honoured servant of the Lord has been enabled to labour abundantly in His service, especially in Spain, during his ten months’ absence from this country, and that he has been brought back in safety. He arrived at the end of February.

Elberfeld. – We arrived here on Thursday (February 14th) after a journey, prospered by the Lord, of two days and a night. We found out some lovers of the Lord by speaking to fellow-passengers. At Basle we staid a few hours, and were refreshed in spirit and body by a sister in Christ whose father (not long since departed to be with Christ,) was for some years a nursing {43} father to dear brother Schelling; these two are now together with the Lord.

I hear another from your midst is taken, our aged sister —, her sufferings and infirmities of age are ended. Truly blessed are they who die in the Lord, and also blessed are we who remain. I must needs say so; I prize my remnant of days very highly, while I should be glad to go to be with the Lord Jesus. But the night is far spent; the day is at hand.

In this place and neighbourhood believers abound, blessed be God, and much is done for sending forth the gospel of Christ both in Germany and abroad. Schisms and divisions are lamented, yet the evil is spoken of as a thing of necessity, and not as a chastisement from God our Father, because of our grieving the Spirit. God give His children all a deep and true conscience in this matter.

Brother Pundsack and I have been visiting and speaking to many. We took part last evening in a meeting for reading the Scriptures. This morning we heard a preacher of the gospel; this evening we hope to speak to a number of travelling apprentices. The boarding house we are in has a Christian man at the head, and is very simple and good. It has been established by Christians, and has rooms for meetings. The premises are large, and one class of guests are the apprentices above mentioned.

February 17th, 1872.

R. C. CHAPMAN.

After a short stay at Bremen, where much kindness was shown to him for Christ's sake, and where he was gladdened by the godliness of some of the relatives of his young companion, C. Pundsack, he embarked with him for Hull. He had reason to believe that two brethren whom he had purposed to see at Hamburg – Andreas and Oncken – were absent.

The Missionary Echo 8 (August 1872)

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GERMANY.

I SEND you part of a letter from Charles Andrews [the English name of KARL ANDREAS], which is interesting in many ways, showing the state of mind among the people everywhere – the upheaving, uprooting principle at work – and also the Scriptural way in which our brother meets it all.

Brampton, Torquay.

LEONARD STRONG.

Hamburg. – *June 12th, 1872.* – As usual, I try to help the souls of the sick and dying from the word of God, going also from vessel to vessel, preaching the gospel of the grace of God on board ship or at home, holding prayer and reading meetings at my house or otherwise, as opportunity offers. I feel much encouraged and blessed in my own soul, assured that this is the kind of work the Master would have me to labour in. I will now give you a few incidents, from which you will learn with what kind of men I come in contact, and how, in some few instances, the good Lord does help my testimony, though in most cases it is a continuous sowing of the seed without knowing whether this or that groweth up, or whether it is lost. Many times I am proclaiming the gospel to those who repel it with cursing and blasphemy; and some within hearing are receiving the word, and believing on Him I preach, though never addressed personally by me. One day in May last, going on board some English steamers, I fell in with two German engineers, to whom I spoke the gospel, and also informed them how I was myself a professed infidel; how, through the goodness of God, I was converted to receive the truth, and was thus ushered immediately out of the grossest darkness into the blazing light of life in Jesus Christ, &c. The men were eating, as it were, my every word; they felt the power of the truth as I spoke, and declared their faith in Jesus, that I, who had been in such dark unbelief, was truly capable of witnessing to the blessing and power of the truth.

{95} A goodly number of French vessels have been here lately, and all on board receive me gladly. On board one of them (a small craft) the men told me, though they were all Roman Catholics by name, none were in heart; and then, all standing around me, two be-

gan telling of Popish abuses – how every week the priest came to them, asking money for the support of the church, and begging, and charging for baptisms and burials, which without money he would not perform. They then asked me of Protestantism, and the dues required. This gave me opportunity of speaking of the wine and milk to be had in Christ, “without money and without price;” of our great High Priest who has put away our sins, bearing the penalty for them in His own body on the tree, in whom believing, according to the Scripture, we have redemption through His blood, the remission of sins. They listened with attention, and seemed to prize the tracts and gospels, and brought me a jug of red wine, which I refused. They then shook hands heartily with me. A fortnight after a young Frenchman from the same vessel saw me, and running to me, took hold of both my hands, begging me for some more tracts, which I gave him and his comrades, they receiving them with much joy.

I hope soon to be able, in answer to prayer, to open a Bethel here, and a reading room, in which I may place good, profitable books in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Dutch, Norwegian, and Swedish. I look to the Lord for this. The rent would not be less than £25 per annum. The running expenses I expect the seamen would pay by their contributions; but money will be required for the first furnishing. I am continually asked by sailors, “When shall you be able to open such a place?”

One day going on board a Dutch vessel, the master accepted tracts most gladly. It being very hot, he asked me down into his cabin to take a cup of coffee, where the captain, his wife, and three grown-up sons, and myself, sat down. All began to partake of refreshment without returning thanks to the Giver. I therefore asked their permission so to do, when I also prayed for the salvation of their souls. The poor old woman wept; the others bowed their heads in obeisance. After prayer I set forth a free and a full salvation for us in a crucified and risen Jesus. Meanwhile the coffee was forgotten, and all listened in silence, after which the captain, deeply moved, declared to his sons that what I had said was Scripture truth, and except we closed with {96} Christ we cannot be saved, but shall surely be lost. Then the old lady gave similar testimony to her sons, who lingered to hear all that was said, and I do believe the Lord was working in their hearts. The old captain said they were little at home, and in other places hardly ever found a place where the gospel was preached in their own language. One day last month, when calling on board a German river barge, I met a man who said he was too great a sinner to be helped by tracts; he was past all hope of amendment. I said, “I am glad you know yourself to be a sinner; for not the righteous, but sinners Jesus came to save.” “But,” said he, “I am the *greatest* sinner you ever met; I am lost!” “Bless God for that; for Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost.” “But, dear sir, you do not know what a sinner *I* am; I am one of the vilest. I had godly parents, who trained me in the fear of the Lord; but when they died I forgot all they taught me. I never prayed to God or read my Bible for many years, and I visited dancing rooms and bad places, and lived as though I had never heard of God.” [After further conversation, in which this brother quoted the “faithful saying” as to the saving of the *chief* of sinners (1 Tim. i. 15), telling of his own desperate case, and adding precious gospel invitations, such as Isaiah i. 18, he read 2 Cor. v. 19–21, and Rom. x. 6–13.] Suddenly he said, “I see it all! I believe it!” and added, “I just wanted such an one as yourself to make it all clear to me. The more I listened to our preachers, the more I was depressed, thinking I was too great a sinner to be saved.” On parting he returned thanksgivings to God, and many to myself, saying if he came to Hamburg again he would come and see me.

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GERMANY.

Hamburg. – We are sorry not to have room for an interesting account of the Sailors’ Institute, which has been opened by Mr. Andreas, through the Lord’s goodness, and by the help of Christian friends, who have supplied money, books and tracts in various languages, &c. His work on the water and in the city is also encouraging. His address is 14, Sandthorquai.

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GERMANY.

Hamburg. – Hitherto the dear Lord has, in His great loving-kindness, supplied me with all the needful means for the Sailors’ Institute; and myself, as well as others, have indeed realized the Lord’s presence in a great measure. My especial aim hitherto has been to draw seamen to the Institute, to keep them away from the chambers of death which abound here everywhere, and to bring them under the sound of the gospel, {147} knowing “that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” This is effected by placing good books in their hands, or by way of conversation, or by holding meetings for reading the word of God and prayer, or by means of the preached Word. Those who have laboured in the gospel amongst seamen know well that without much visiting on board of ship few, if any, will come to a place where the gospel is proclaimed, and many have to be fetched, or else they would not come. If there is any success, much secret and importunate prayer to Him who alone can incline and make willing the hearts of men is at the bottom of it. It is prayer and work mixed together which is needful. It is true, at times I meet with disappointment and perplexities by the way, just like other labourers in the Lord’s vineyard do; at other times my expectations are fully realized. Nevertheless, whether rough or smooth, hitherto I have been upheld by the mighty hand of God, not to faint, but to press on, looking unto Jesus, who endured unfaintingly all the contradictions of sinners. I will give you now a specimen of my labours in the gospel among seamen.

Yesterday, being Lord’s-day, I went as usual at 9 a.m. to Sandthorquai and Kaiserquai, where I can reach the steamboats without boating, and where the dear Lord blessed me with three opportunities of proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation to small numbers of sailors in their own cabin, besides several very interesting conversations, in which the adversary was battled with, and the banner of faith erected. At 1.30 I went home to partake of a humble dinner, and afterwards went out again for one hour on board of ship, where I met with another opportunity of speaking concerning the things of Christ. At 5.30 p.m. seamen began to come to the Institute, and a little before seven o’clock, the time when our gospel-meeting begins, the rooms were filled with men, and every available seat occupied, though afterwards still more came, and the rooms became so suffocating that I had to open a window and the door. At the meeting three different seamen prayed, and I addressed them from Luke xiv. 16–24, when all present paid the greatest attention, and some were moved to tears as I spoke largely of the love of God to sinners as seen in Calvary’s cross. The meeting being ended, one-third of the assembly left to go on board of ship, the rest of the men

remained till ten o'clock, passing their {148} time in conversation one with another, or reading. Pray for me that my faith fail not.

14, *Sandthorquai*, Nov. 4th, 1872.

CHAS. ANDREWS.

The Missionary Echo 17 (May 1873)

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GERMANY.

Hamburg. – I beg with thanksgivings to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with enclosed cheque, which I have taken towards the support of the Sailors' Institute, in which work I have so far been greatly upheld and prospered, while my own soul has been richly watered, and by His grace given I have been enabled, not altogether without success, to proclaim boldly a crucified and risen Redeemer amongst those with whom I have come in contact. Since the ushering in of this year, I have been privileged to hold six meetings per week in the Institute and on board of ship. At times I have had large numbers of seamen to speak to, at other times they have been but small; nevertheless the pure gospel has been set forth as often as opportunity was afforded. Besides going from vessel to vessel, I have distributed many tracts in various languages, and also some Gospels and Testaments, all free of charge. In connection with the Sailors' Institute I keep also a library, the books and periodicals of which I lend out on board of ship, and which they take with them if returning to this port again, which is greatly valued by many; but on account of the funds being rather small, and books getting lost, the library is not in so prosperous a state as I could wish, and if it was not for some of the seafaring men who bring me from time to time books for circulation on board of ship, I should soon be compelled to give it up altogether. As the stay of seamen is often very short, it is generally difficult to trace the effects of the proclamation of the soul-saving gospel; oftentimes I see them weep, but before I am able to speak to them personally they are gone, perhaps never to be seen again; nevertheless I meet with some encouragements in the way of clear conversion. One day a seaman, who had just before almost miraculously escaped shipwreck, and no doubt loss of life, came to me in deep trouble about his soul, saying that if he had perished hell must have been his portion. I led him to the written word of God, showing him how God in Christ reconciled the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; for He made Him to be sin for us, &c. The dear man received the testimony, and before he left me knew most assuredly that he was saved. Another seaman, who told me that he had been trained in the fear of the Lord, but for the past two {65} years had led a life of open reprobation, found there and then salvation through the blood of the Lamb, having the witness within him that he was born of God. Another time a captain, who for many years had been very religious and zealous, but not according to knowledge, was brought to the saving knowledge of the Lord, and ever since has been going on his way rejoicing. Two seamen, both mates on board of ship, first one and afterwards the other, were sometime towards the end of last year saved through my instrumentality. They carried the same gospel which they received to a brother at home, who was in the last stage of consumption, who received the record, and a week after fell asleep in Jesus in full assurance of faith. This man, who had been also a mate on board of ship, had been an awful open reprobate; himself and those around him never thought that such a great sinner could be saved, yet God had mercy on him, and through his evident conversion, and words of admonition and prayer that the rest of the family might be saved, wrought such convictions in their hearts, that they anxiously sought, and, praise God,

found salvation without works by believing the gospel. First the dying man's wife became saved, then another brother (who professed infidelity) and his wife, then a sister, and last of all the aged father and mother. A few days ago one of the brothers, who was first saved, said to me, "Mr. A., you did not know that you were preaching the gospel at G., but I used to carry the very words home as I heard them from you; it was your preaching that brought them all to the knowledge of the Lord."

I am standing here quite alone, without any helpers or co-workers. My trust is in the Lord, who will no doubt prove the truth of His own word. (Rom. viii. 31; Psalm xxxvii. 4, 5.)

3, *Etage* – 14, *Sandthorquai*, Hamburg, April 15th, 1873.

CHARLES ANDREWS.

The Missionary Echo 24 (December 1873)

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GERMANY.

THE following letter is rather about Germans than Germany itself. It is from a German brother who was for many years in this country, and who for the last three years has been labouring among sailors of different nations at Hamburg. The opening of another Sailors' Institute there, within a few doors of the one he had established, and other reasons, led him to think of leaving Hamburg, and receiving a remarkable and unexpected call to labour among his countrymen in London, he has come, trusting he has been guided of the Lord. We are sorry to think of a labourer being lost to Germany, but as this brother says his work will even be more among Germans than when in Hamburg, we may hope that, with the Lord's prospering, his labours may benefit those of his nation here, and indirectly those in Germany also.

Having received a call from the dear Lord to leave Hamburg to go to London for the purpose of labouring amongst Germans in the gospel, without gainsaying I have obeyed the heavenly command; and through the Lord's gracious interposition I had a first-class passage for myself and dear family provided, and likewise had our furniture brought carriage free. Arrived, I was joyfully received by a German brother in Christ, who awaited us and took us all to his house, where great kindness and hospitality was shown to us for Christ's sake; and afterwards a public tea was provided to welcome me as a God-sent labourer in the gospel amongst them, to feed the flock of Christ and proclaim the glad tidings of salvation to the unsaved. I devote my whole time and all my powers to the German mission-work here alone, and fill up all spare time by visiting in the German quarters from house to house, by which means I am able to carry the glad tidings of salvation to the very homes of the careless and prayerless. So far the dear Lord has blessed my testimony already to two precious souls. You see then, dear brother, though returned to England, I still labour exclusively, *i.e.* more than ever, amongst foreigners, there being above 60,000 Germans here resident, amongst whom but a comparatively small number visit their homes for the purpose of proclaiming a full, free, and present salvation to them through faith in a crucified and risen Redeemer. At present there are standing by me about a dozen of German believers, who own no name except that of "Christian," who own no head except "Christ," in all things desire to be guided by rules laid down in the Scriptures, and who on the first day of the week, in all simplicity {164} show forth the Lord's death till He come. All these true followers of Christ are very poor as respecting temporal things, but, thank God, rich in faith, and according to mutual agreement our eyes of faith are expectingly up to the Lord, to whom we cry unceasingly, in humble prayer, to send us the needed pecuniary means to be enabled to rent a suitable, plain, but respectable hall right in the midst of the German quarters, which will not hold less than 200 people, and which probably may not cost less than

£50 rent per annum (including rates), and besides for the needed means to furnish such a place, which may not require less than from £25 to £30. The need for the true gospel to be proclaimed in such a locality is great, is pressing; thousands of souls are perishing for want of hearing the gospel, though dwelling in a professed Christian country, and though surrounded by many earnest and zealous Christians, who, I feel convinced, would gladly lend a helping hand, if they knew how, and through what channel those perishing Germans might be reached, so that, with the help of the Mighty, some might be rescued and eternally saved. I would ask Christian friends everywhere, earnestly to pray for blessing and success upon "C. A.'s German mission-work in London," that many precious souls may be saved.

CHAS. ANDREW,

Formerly of 14, Sandthorquai, Hamburg.

45, Cotton Street, Burdett Road, London, E.,
Nov. 14th, 1873.

The Missionary Echo 65 (May 1877)

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GERMANY.

WHEN we think of the deep spiritual need of even *Protestant* Germany, owing to rationalism on the one hand and tradition on the other, it is a cause for much thanksgiving that our brother Mr. George Müller is being permitted after many years to preach Christ very widely in his native land. Our letter from New Zealand tells of missionary zeal among the Lutherans of Germany, but at the same time shows what a very imperfect gospel they carry, and how much they require the simple teaching of the word of God.

Barmen. – This is the fiftieth place we have been in since leaving England, and my dear husband has preached habitually, with rare exceptions, eight times every week. Since we were at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, we have been to Darmstadt, Bonn, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Wesel-on-the-Rhine, Mülheim, Gladbach, Rheÿdt, Viersen, Ciéfeld, Duisburg, Essen, Elberfeld, and Barmen. Almost all these places are considerable towns, and some of them very large and important ones. The openings for work are everywhere most abundant. In these various places the *churches* have been given to him, besides the Vereins Häuser (or large evangelical halls) and other capacious buildings suitable for public ministry. The churches are generally immense places, which contain 3,000 people and upwards; and in some of the towns, such as Cologne, Düsseldorf, Mülheim, &c., he has had *vast audiences* to hear him.

Our invitations are so numerous, that the only difficulty is to know which place to take first. The chief cities in Holland sent a deputation of brethren on purpose to put in their claim to be visited; and the opportunities for branching off into smaller places connected with the different towns we stay in are so abundant, that there is simply *no end* to the work before us.

Mr. Müller is exceedingly happy, and greatly helped in preaching. He is listened to with the deepest interest. The people flock out in all weathers; many come by rail from a considerable distance, and others walk many miles to hear him.

His special aim is to lead them to the Scriptures, to awaken the unconverted, and to strengthen and build up those who are weak and feeble in the faith. Elberfeld and Barmen, where we now are, contain a population together not far short of 200,000. They are very important places, and are looked upon as two great centres of spiritual life on the continent. My husband has already had very large congregations here, and he has the {72} prospect of other crowded meetings before we leave. He occasionally has opportunities of addressing

pastors, and of holding private meetings specially for them, in order to relate particulars connected with his own experience, and to give counsel and advice. He considers that getting hold of the pastors is a deeply important work. He also seeks opportunities of addressing the university students at all the university towns we visit. Mr. Müller is going to preach in the *prison* in Elberfeld on Thursday. We purpose to leave Barmen next Saturday for Cassel, where we shall remain three days, and where he has the prospect of preaching four times. After that we go to Halle for three days; and on Saturday, 31st March, we hope to reach *Berlin*, where my husband has the prospect of beginning work on Easter Sunday. The Lord's rich abundant blessing is so marked and manifest wherever we go, that he is more than ever confirmed in the belief that it is His mind he should devote the evening of his life to this most blessed work.

Hôtel Vogeler, Barmen, Germany, 20th March, 1877.

SUSAN G. MÜLLER.

The Missionary Echo 74 (February 1878)

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RUSSIA.

OUR brother Dr. Baedeker, who went in the Lord's service to Berlin last October, has now gone on into Russia. He had many interesting meetings in Berlin with neglected classes of the large population; but there are many hindrances in that city, and there is very much to discourage. Many signs are apparent of an inevitable disruption in the Lutheran State Church, and it is possible that the result may be favourable to the freedom of the gospel; but at present there is much to deplore in the spiritual condition of the multitudes who call themselves Christians, and in the spirit and influence of the colleges and the clergy. Our brother has quietly laboured on as the Lord has made the way plain, and his labour has not been in vain; but now he writes to friends in Weston-super-Mare from a city in Russia, telling of an enlarged and widening sphere of service in that country, with tokens of much blessing. {...}

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SWITZERLAND.

AFTER a lengthened stay in Russia, with much encouragement, Dr. BAEDEKER is now labouring in Switzerland, where also Mr. and Mrs. G. MÜLLER are at present. From several parts of the continent grievous accounts reach us of the general state of ungodliness, which calls for especial prayer for blessing on the visits of these servants of Christ.

Carlsruhe. – Our visit at Zurich was rather disappointing in some respects, although the people whom we know still gathered round us. The place in which I preached on former occasions is not to be had, a new landlord having come into possession. So it seemed as if the Lord had shut the door. {160} However, after we had had much prayer a friend came and told us there were two rooms to be had in different parts of the city, and this seemed to us an answer from the Lord that we were to return to Zurich; and unless we are shown our mistake, we shall (D.V.) do so, at least for a month or two, about the middle of October. The infidels are very bold and outspoken. The schools and schoolmasters speak of everything that is divine as of fables, and even go so far as openly to declare that *all* religion, including the Christian religion, is hurtful to the development of man. They deny man's responsibility, and declare the human being to be descended from the lower animal creation, and life and talents to be the result of the action of heat, magnetism, &c., upon the human frame.

Education, they say, has for its object to control and cultivate these talents, and to make them useful for society in general. They consider selfishness the highest motive and impulse. This is simply the result of rejecting the Bible from the schools. It is frightful to think that man can dare to give utterance to such devilish thoughts. Zurich seems to be at the fountain-head of the filthy stream; but the same current takes its course through civilized Europe, England not excepted. Pray, pray for Zurich, and pray for us that we may be witnesses, and that our testimony may be of a certain sound. We were rather doubtful whether Austria had not greater claims on us; but “whatsoever thy hand findeth to do” seemed to decide us for Zurich first. Unless the Lord hinders us decidedly, we hope to begin gospel work there. There are great needs in other parts of Switzerland, which one may occasionally visit.

Carlsruhe, September 25th, 1878.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

The Missionary Echo 106 (October 1880)

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AUSTRIA.

DR. BAEDEKER writes to a friend at Weston-super-Mare as follows:

Vienna. – I have once more gone beyond the borders of Germany; and after attending a conference of brethren in Leitmeritz, Bohemia, I spent a few days at Prague, and saw some good work, especially amongst the Bohemian Roman Catholics. I was able to speak to them only through an interpreter; but it was refreshing to see their close attention, and the eagerness with which they drank in the Word.

A citizen of Austria may hold public meetings by applying to the police, and under the guarantee of a citizen many such meetings are held by foreigners, a police officer being present to see that everything is done within the prescribed limits, and, above all things, that no children are present. But private meetings are held without permission, and without police control. Those who attend them do so by invitation; and these private meetings seem to be used and owned of God for blessing to souls. At one of these there were about one hundred people present.

The Bohemians remind me of the Russian peasants; they are a good-natured people, religiously inclined, and easily impressed, but in the grossest ignorance, and living in sin, without knowing what they do. Those who have been converted are really like “new-born babes,” desiring “the sincere milk of the Word,” that they may grow thereby.

Some missionaries appointed by the American Board are doing good service at Prague. They warmly welcome any visitor, and thankfully accept any help and encouragement. The conference at Leitmeritz was a time of refreshing for them; some came from great distances, and many more would gladly have come if they had had the money for travelling expenses. Some of the workers and pastors are really very poor. The only fault we could find in the conference was that the time was too short. For next year they have fixed two days, instead of one; and it {146} might be well if some little fund could be got for defraying the travelling expenses for the poorer brethren.

This place (Vienna) is very different ground from Bohemia, and yet the Lord is gathering to Himself some from amongst the great mass of ungodly, pleasure-seeking people. At Prague I heard a sermon in a Roman Catholic Church about the Virgin Mary. The preacher had the audacity, before a large congregation, to say that she was the only mediator be-

tween God and man, meaning by “God” the Lord Jesus. The exhortation was to pray to the Virgin, especially to repeat frequently the “Ave Maria,” and use the rosary. This was represented as an act specially well-pleasing to the Virgin. It is indeed sad to see a nation held in bondage by such superstition; but the great mass of the people don’t believe anything, and are just like sheep without a shepherd. May God have mercy on these countries! The word of God is not allowed to be given, nor are tracts; but people can be spoken to, and they are generally very accessible.

Vienna, September 17th, 1880.

F. W. BACDEKER {sic}.

The Missionary Echo 109 (January 1881)

{4}

GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND.

THE cheering tidings of the power of the Word mentioned by Dr. Baedeker in the following letter call for thanksgiving.

Huckleswagen. – We arrived here last evening, and had a crowded meeting in a public-house. The people flocked together after their hard day’s work; some had come from distances of two hours’ walk. On Saturday a meeting was proposed in the ordinary meeting-room; but there were so many that again a {5} public-house room had to be taken. Sunday morning we had a happy fellowship meeting with believers. Sunday afternoon the large hall could not hold the people; so it was in the evening. Yesterday (Monday) I went to two places in the neighbourhood (Düna and Scheideweg) – a meeting at the former in the afternoon, and at the latter in the evening; both packed full of men and women. My wife last evening had a meeting for women here, and will have another to-day whilst I go to Wermelskirchen for a meeting. To-morrow (D.V.) we shall have another in this place.

There are many souls coming to the Lord, many stout-hearted men breaking down, and there is much weeping for sin and much rejoicing for forgiveness. The whole neighbourhood seems stirred. Going into some houses, and speaking plainly to the men, one and another fall on their knees, confessing their sins, and coming to the Lord. It is a wonderful sight to see the marked attention to the Word preached. Every night we have been praying with souls in the after-meetings till about midnight. It is a solemn work, humbling and searching to one’s own soul.

Praise the Lord for His goodness. He has mercy even for poor hard Germany. We hope to go to Zurich on Friday for some meetings; it will be like going from Jerusalem to Gaza (Acts viii. 26), but perhaps the Lord has a message for some poor eunuch in the desert place.

It is very remarkable that the Lord has stirred up the dry bones in this neighbourhood. The clergy keep aloof from it all, and no one seems to miss them. Surely their house will be left to them desolate. It is what I have long expected, and often said, that if life springs up in Germany it will not come through the churches, but from the very need which is felt by the people. God has His own way; souls are drawn to the Lord Himself, and then they meet together round Him at His table. We are well, thank God. “He giveth strength to the weary, and to them that have *no* might He increaseth (exchanges) strength.”

Huckleswagen, November 30th, 1880.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

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GERMANY.

Schleswig. – Our time at Berlin was a very happy one. We had meetings all but every night, and they were well attended. The spirit of hearing is certainly very different from {66} what it was three years ago, when we were last there. We also had Bible readings, and twice we had a coffee party for about three hundred poor people, when countesses and other titled ladies had the opportunity to serve the poor. We observed at Berlin what we find more or less everywhere, that the people have a dislike to the very name of a church and to the clergy; but they want the gospel, and are ready to come to meetings on neutral ground; yet it is sad, with all this, that the churches do not go outside their walls.

We went from Berlin to Lübeck, where meetings in a circus and in a large hall were arranged; but the attendance was not what we expected. Lübeck is an ancient city, and very conservative as to its habits; and the clergy still have great influence over the people, which on this occasion they made use of in warning them against us. We had a meeting of English girls, who are at school there. Last Wednesday we returned to Hamburg, and yesterday arrived at Schleswig. The meeting last night was not very large; and I have for the first time this winter caught a cold, which, however, is not very bad, and I trust will soon leave me. Our plan is to return to Hamburg on Tuesday, and to Düsseldorf on Thursday. We feel more and more drawn to the north of Germany, and especially to the large cities; and I think we shall soon give up our abode at Düsseldorf, since there are many brethren gifted for work in that place and neighbourhood.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

Schleswig, April 9th, 1881.

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BOHEMIA.

AFTER a very brief sojourn in England, Dr. and Mrs. BAEDEKER have returned to the Continent. In common with all labourers there they need much remembrance in prayer. Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE MÜLLER spent eight days at Berne, where there were many opportunities for gospel preaching, and then went on to Mannedorf.

Prague. – Our good Lord has wonderfully helped us in our journeyings. Leaving London Monday evening, September 5th, at 8.25, we reached Dusseldorf next day at 2 p.m., and leaving at 8 p.m., *viâ* Dresden, arrived at Leitmeritz at 5.30 p.m., just in time to attend the first day's meeting, and to speak a word of cheer and encouragement to the Bohemian brethren, who had assembled in much larger numbers than last year, owing to dear Mr. —'s generous gift. The 8th was a full day, the attendance was very good (for Bohemia), and the attention remarkable for any place. The subjects for discussion were the certainties of faith – 2 Tim. i. 12; 2 Cor. v. 1; 1 John iii. 14; Rom. viii. 23; and 1 John iii. 2. Also time was allotted for giving reports about the Lord's work, and for prayer and private conversation. We had a happy time, and we fully realized the fellowship of saints; but {139} we also knew that the prayers of God's children in England had something to do with the blessing given at Leitmeritz. If only some of the over-fed Christians in England could look at the lean kine in this land, they would gladly give of their accumulated substance. May God Himself send out labourers after His own heart into the harvest. The dear brethren, about eighty to ninety in number, consisting of pastors, evangelists, colporteurs, and others, went away

again rejoicing and refreshed for work. Many of them had never been to any conference, and much needed to be helped and cheered. The difficulties in Bohemia, and under the Austrian rule generally, have not in the least been diminished. Every policeman seems to act on his own responsibility, and may hinder the work at any time; and in case of complaint, the usual reply is, that an appeal to higher authorities may be made. But such appeals lie by and are not attended to for a long time, sometimes for years, and all this time the workers are forbidden to act against the rule of the policeman. Poor Austria is really eaten up by petty officials, and you may form an idea of the multitude of them when you think that one of them can be spared to follow for a whole week in the track of a Bible colporteur, until he has found some flaw in his mode of action, and a cause for arresting him and taking away his license. All this is very trying and irritating, nevertheless the Lord is working amongst the people, and some of the facts that were related of blessing through a single copy of the New Testament or Bible were very striking and cheering.

The Bohemians are much like the Russians, very warm-hearted, very open and ready for religious impressions, and it is sad that the truth is withheld from them so systematically by the mistaken judgment of the authorities.

We purpose remaining here till Sept. 15th, then I shall (D.V.) go to Hauptweil for ten or twelve days' meetings in Switzerland. On October 1st we hope to return to Dusseldorf, and to be engaged in that neighbourhood during October.

Prague, Bohemia, Sept. 10th, 1881.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

The Missionary Echo 142 (October 1883)

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MISCELLANEOUS.

BOHEMIA. – Dr. and Mrs. BAEDEKER expected to leave England and reach Leitmeritz so as to be present at a conference of Christians from Bohemia and Austria, which was to take place September 27th and 28th. “If we are living in the day of small things,” our brother writes, “the countries to which we are going have the smallest portion of the small things.” While asking prayer for these benighted parts, where great restrictions are placed in the way of making known the gospel, he suggests that others may find it good to adopt an arrangement he has proved to be useful; viz., remembering *each day* the work of the Lord in *different* lands. In this way, without desiring to limit the leading of the Spirit of God, he is enabled to remember definitely in prayer many who might {139} otherwise be forgotten. He also recommends the combination of *giving* with prayer, and communication by private letters with any workers in whom we may be specially interested. Sometimes, as in the case of those who labour in Russia or Austria, it is not prudent to publish accounts of work.

The Missionary Echo 143 (November 1883)

{153} BOHEMIA. – We travelled safely to Berlin, and also thence to Leitmeritz, Bohemia. The conference there, September 27th and 28th, was good, and the attendance numerous. The work of the Lord has begun to prosper in this dark priest-ridden country, in spite of all restrictions. We have meetings every day this week, not publicly announced, but by invita-

tion cards. As many as twenty meetings are held each week in private houses, and souls are being saved and delivered from the thralldom of Roman Catholicism. We are now in Prague, and after staying about a week in Vienna, expect to go down the Danube by steamer towards Odessa (address there, Hotel de l'Europe). Praise for prayer answered, and ask for much and continued prayer for these dark lands. F. W. BAEDEKER.

The Missionary Echo 148 (April 1884)

{53}

RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg. – {...} Hitherto the Lord has been with us and helped us. We had a good time at Berlin. Mr. J. Rohrbach has much of the Master's reproach outside the camp, and Miss von Blücher is also a faithful worker there. {...}

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20th, 1884.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

The Missionary Echo 151 (July 1884)

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PRUSSIA.

THE writer of the following letter, Herr JULIUS ROHRBACH, was made known to us by Dr. Baedeker. Having had a theological training in Berlin, he came to England, received the grace of God in truth, and was for some time tutor in the East London Institute. As we learn from him the lamentable condition of the people of Berlin, we may ask God to fulfil in himself and his wife the prayer of the apostle in Col. i. 9–12.

Berlin. – Since you kindly forwarded to me the *Missionary Echo*, and the pamphlet, *The Lord's Work in the Faröe Islands*, I felt led to write about the religious condition of the German capital, and the progress of the Lord's work here, in order to call forth much thankfulness for what has been done already, and to stir up the prayerful interest and sympathy of the Lord's people in England for the vast needs of Berlin.

In 1880 the Lord opened our way to Berlin, and even now we cannot praise Him enough for the gracious and gentle way He has led us on. As we are not connected with any society, we have looked to the Lord for guidance and for supplies, and He has hitherto helped us.

The capital of the German Empire, the seat of learning, in- {107} dustry, and commerce, has now a population of over 1,250,000, but scarcely one hundred professed ministers of the gospel, some of whom, and not a few of the Lutheran Church, are spiritually dead. There are only about fifty churches and chapels, and it has been calculated that the average attendance at public worship on Sundays is not more than 25,000 out of a population of 1,250,000. On some bright Sundays one may find *more people* assembled in the Zoological Gardens alone – a place for public amusement, where admission costs 6*d.* or 1*s.* – than in all the Protestant churches together! No wonder that many of the so-called educated persons look upon faith in the Lord Jesus, and the atonement through His blood, as a myth fully cleared away by the light of modern science, and reject the counsel of God against themselves; no wonder that the great masses of the people live in entire forgetfulness of God and His word. Many of the professors in the universities teach atheism, materialism, and anti-Christian principles; whilst the working classes manifest the natural consequences in social democracy, anarchism, yea, nihilism. To gain as quickly as possible, and to enjoy as fully as

possible what they have gained, seems to be the chief thought with thousands and tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens. The consequences of an anti-Christian press poisoning the minds of the people, of a general desecration of the Lord's-day, which is here *the* day given to pleasure, are only too palpable. The increasing number of suicides – almost daily we read of two or three cases of such – reveals a weariness and despair of life which is as appalling as painful. During the past five years the Lutheran Church has been roused to more activity; but their chief aim seems to me to be to bring people back to *their Church* instead of to a *living Saviour*. There is a city mission here with twenty-seven agents; but they distribute among other things tracts with the titles, “Dear Christian parents, *do have your children christened.*” The need of *conversion* is forgotten alike by preachers and people; there are few who mention it in their sermons. I do not think that I am overdrawing the sad picture. Beside the Lutheran churches there is a Methodist chapel, with a membership of about 200, and a very active ministry. The Baptists, who have been labouring here for nearly fifty years, have a membership of about 700, and are very zealous. We did not feel led to join them, as {108} our object and aim is to bring souls to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit; nor do we think it right to call ourselves by any denominational name; but we assemble in the name of the Lord our Master, and labour for Him in the bringing of others to the knowledge of His love and truth.

In Moabit, the north-west suburb of Berlin, we are surrounded by a population of about 45,000, for whom there is only *one* church of the Lutheran establishment. We still carry on our meetings in the large *parterre rooms* of our house – rooms which can be thrown into one, and where the Lord has already very graciously blessed the testimony of His word. Dr. Baedeker visited us about the end of last January; and only last Sunday we welcomed at the Lord's table a young man who was then impressed, afterwards convinced and converted. Thus we labour on, quietly, earnestly, looking to the Lord to give us souls for our hire, and means to live and carry on His work. My dear wife has conducted throughout the past nine months four meetings with women every week. She greatly needs rest and change, and would be thankful for an opportunity of fellowship with Christians in England. We commend the work in Berlin to your prayerful sympathy.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Bremer Str. 8, Moabit, Berlin, June 7th, 1884.

The Missionary Echo 154 (October 1884)

{159} BERLIN. – Through the Lord's goodness I have safely arrived home, and have already entered again upon the work here; and after the abundance of spiritual blessings which I received in England I feel anxious to glorify my Saviour by communicating them to others. During my absence the work has been sustained very satisfactorily, and our brethren have done their best to carry on the different branches of our gospel work. Two or three, I hear, have caused anxiety, but we trust the Lord will graciously restore them. There is a happy spirit of united labour for the Lord among us. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

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PRUSSIA.

Berlin. – You will rejoice with us in the spiritual blessings which the Lord graciously gives us here. A few weeks ago we received to fellowship a husband, wife, and son, who had professed the name of the Lord Jesus and given very encouraging evidence of a new life in daily walk and conversation. On Sunday last we received an elder son of the same family, who also in the midst of ungodly workmen takes a decided stand for the Lord, and seems to drink in the word of God, and get nourished thereby. A young German lady who had been converted in England, whilst staying at Brighton when Mr. George Brealey was preaching there, has been the means of leading her sister to Christ, and we were happy to receive her into fellowship here about two months ago; and now the dear mother has surrendered herself to the Lord, and is rejoicing with her two daughters in the Saviour whom they have {11} found. We have had several other very interesting cases of conversion of late.

I read the Report of the Leominster Conference of last August, and received much blessing by the very remembrance of those seasons of hallowed fellowship we enjoyed with the Lord and one another. It has renewed strength for service, increased faith in the Lord, and the fruit is manifest in the increased blessing on our services here. We are now preparing to give to each of our 180 Sunday scholars a small token of our loving interest in them – as much as the Lord will enable us. We are often tried as to means necessary to carry on the work, but the trial of our faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, worketh patience, and gives us new revelations of the Lord's power, wisdom, and lovingkindness. Thus it is unto the praise and honour of our Lord.

We thank God that He has set us free from the bondage of an outward Church, like the Lutheran Established Church here, and we deem it an honour to bear the reproach of Christ, if we can advance the glory of His name in the salvation of souls.

Bremer Strasse 8, Moabit, Berlin, Dec. 10th, 1884.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Berlin. – The work of the Lord has been going on steadily. The believers are united in seeking a fuller acquaintance with the truth of God, and in realising a deeper fellowship with our crucified and risen Lord, and with one another. The Bible classes and prayer-meetings give most satisfactory evidence of this. There is much active life in our midst, an earnest zeal to point and to lead others to Christ, to help in teaching the children of our large Sunday-school, and to assist at the public meetings. “On Easter Monday” addresses were given by myself and two brethren who had come to encourage us in the work; some of our men afterwards bore faithful and powerful testimony to what the Lord had done for them, and our hearts were filled with joy.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 163 (July 1885)

{101} **Poland.** – I left England on Monday last, June 8th, arrived at Berlin on Tuesday, and on the next three days had fellowship in the gospel with our brother Rohrbach and others. Besides the work in Moabit, Rohrbach has now erected a substantial tent at Charlottenburg, a needy suburb of Berlin, which was well filled with an attentive audience. Our brother and his beloved wife are true and zealous workers; they have just claims on our sympathy and support. In a country where the state church lays claim to the whole population for church membership it requires courage and perseverance to uphold the landmark of the “blood” versus that of infant baptism. Leaving Berlin on Friday I arrived at Lodz in Poland on Saturday {...}.

Lodz, Poland, June 15th, 1885.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

Echoes of Service 166 (October 1885)

{146} GERMANY. – On his way back to England, Dr. BAEDEKER, having called at Berlin, sent us a cheering account of the work in the hands of our brother ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 167 (November 1885)

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PRUSSIA.

Berlin. – We have again abundant reason to praise the Lord, for He has done great things among us whereof we are glad. Throughout the summer we have carried on gospel services in our tent in Charlottenburg, which have been very well attended, and fruitful in leading souls to the knowledge of Christ. Last week, Dr. Baedeker being among us, we conducted a series of special services which resulted in the conversion of several young men and women. Our Sunday School in Charlottenburg has now a regular attendance of over 150 children. Dr. Baedeker also spoke several times in Moabit, and joined us in the breaking of bread; his very presence and the power of his words, through fellowship with the Master, did us much good. We only wish that such visits of experienced Christian brethren and workers were more frequent, to the strengthening of those who, like us, stand much alone and are almost overburdened with work. We should also be glad to know that we have a real interest in the prayers and sympathies of brethren in Christ in England who are far more privileged with Christian fellowship than ourselves. I know it is wrong to be pressed down with anxious cares, as we sometimes are; still, He giveth grace to roll the burden upon Him, and often helps in the way we least expect, to His own glory.

Bremer Strasse 8, Moabit, Berlin, 16th September, 1885.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

{5}

PRUSSIA.

Berlin. – It is interesting and encouraging to hear of the progress of the Lord’s work everywhere, and though we grieve to see millions of our fellow-men still fettered by the bonds of the adversary, either in heathendom abroad or in heathenish Christianity at home – that formal Christianity with much outward show and high-sounding phrases, but with no life and power – yet we must acknowledge that the Lord Jesus is conquering His foes and gathering His own unto Himself. It is a glorious thing through grace to be permitted to work with the Lord in the accomplishing of His purposes. We have indeed much encouragement. For five years we have laboured in Berlin; we arrived as strangers, confident that the Lord had called us to the work, trusting in His promises for guidance and support; and truly He has dealt bountifully with us. Though our faith has often been sorely tried, yet we have been kept from running to man for help, and we have found the Lord always to arise on our behalf. From the beginning He has kept us aside; though ignored by those who are influential in the eyes of the world-church (and right glad we are of it), we are well known to the believing people here, and, I may humbly admit, much beloved of those who through the preaching of the Word have been led to the Lord. Our souls delight in His work. We have much blessing in Moabit, also in Charlottenburg, where we have hired a large hall for the gospel services, and we are glad to see it filled, and souls seeking and finding the Saviour. We do indeed praise the Lord, and thank the dear friends in the Lord who help us on by their intercession and practical sympathy.

Bremer Strasse 8, Moabit, Berlin, 24th Nov.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

{9} *Germany.* – Our only correspondent is Br. J. Rohrbach, who labours diligently in Berlin (see cross above E in Europe).

{40}

GERMANY.

Berlin. – Dear Dr. Baedeker is again with us. He preached in our hall at Charlottenburg on Sunday last to a large and very attentive audience; the word was with power. In the evening he spoke in Moabit, where our mission rooms are usually so crowded that it becomes almost unbearable. Dr. Baedeker’s word to the believers was most appropriate, from Malachi iii. 10. He showed the need of a full surrender of ourselves and all we have to the Lord and His work, and he closed by showing, from *v.* 18, what a difference there is between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. On Monday I took several hours’ counsel with Dr. Baedeker about the present needs of the work – *a larger hall*, etc., – and we handed the matter over to the Lord, whose it is, and who does supply every need.

You will be glad to learn that we have translated the tract “The Church, its Worship and Ministry”* into German; we shall have it printed this week, that Dr. Baedeker, when leaving Berlin, may take some German copies with him, to have the tract translated into Lettish and Esthonian. Last night we again had a blessed gospel service in Charlottenburg, where several men and women decided for the Lord. You see how graciously the Lord blesses, and we only want to walk more with Him in steady fellowship, that His life may flow through

us to others. "Seeing Him who is invisible," but whose glory will soon be made manifest, we toil on, resting in His love; often weary, yet upheld.

Bremer Strasse 8, Moabit, Berlin, January 29th, 1886.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

* Issued by the Publishing Office, 40, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.

Echoes of Service 173 (May 1886)

{66} TRACTS. – We were glad to receive copies of two tracts in other languages, the fruit of Dr. Baedeker's suggestion. One was in Lettish, a translation of Mr. Moody's discourse on "*The Blood*," the plain truths of which are much needed in the Baltic provinces; the other, in German, "*The Church; its Worship and Ministry*," consisted chiefly of Scriptures carefully put together. Our friends who have helped on this work, and others also, will doubtless seek a rich blessing from God on these tracts.

Echoes of Service 177 (September 1886)

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GERMANY.

Homburg vor der Höhe. – I am very thankful to say that the Lord has answered prayer in a marked manner. After much discouragement and many difficulties I had the joy of being present last Lord's-day morning at the breaking of bread in remembrance of the Lord, when six of us met for the first time. It was a simple but happy meeting; my heart was filled with thankfulness. There will be some more next Lord's-day, please God, and I would ask you to remember me in your prayers, that the work may be established, to the honour of the Lord's name. Mr. Aschkenasi on his way back to England called here for a few days, and last night he gave an account of his work to some twenty English people, I think nearly all Christians, who took great interest in what was said. I trust some were helped to look at the ancient people of God with an eye of love and pity. Last Sunday evening we had a meeting for Germans, and during the long evenings coming, I hope many may be gathered in to hear the gospel-preaching and to come to a saving knowledge of Christ. I have been looking to the Lord for help in regard to preaching the gospel, visiting, and other work, and I do not doubt that there is a harvest field for any diligent labourers. May God incline the hearts of some to come out and to have a heart for this spiritually poor people. I should be thankful if you would help me to lay the need of this country before the Christians in England, that they may remember it in prayer, that God would save many and lead them to obedience to His will.

Homburg vor der Höhe, July 28th, 1886.

JEAN E. LEONHARDT.

{5}

GERMANY.

Berlin. – When we remember the dealings of the Lord with us, we have indeed abundant reason to be thankful and take courage. When, some five and a half years ago, we commenced to labour here, I stood alone with my dear wife; now we are surrounded by a goodly number of believers, an earnest staff of Christian workers, whose delight it is to labour with us for the Lord. We commenced in two small rooms; now we have a hall to accommodate several hundreds; with good attendances at our public services on Sundays and week-nights, and a Sunday-school of over 200 children in Moabit alone. It is also marvellous how the Lord has supplied our every need, sometimes not what we thought to be needful, but what was *really* needed. The trial of our faith has brought us valuable experience, and we can confidently say: “It is a good thing to trust in the Lord; our help cometh from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth.” The indifference of the thousands and tens of thousands around us is appalling, and so very many seem altogether beyond the reach of the influence of the gospel, because so very few really know it, and a great deal of the preaching here is anything but the preaching of the gospel. What we sadly want here is a revival of gospel preaching, not in the words of man’s wisdom, aiming to win man’s favour, but the good old-fashioned truth, such as Luther believed and declared to his generation. It is grievous to see and hear what offence church people take at our enlarged mission work and our new hall; they even waste time in writing in the church paper against {6} us. But the Lord’s work will go on, and we are only anxious day by day to know His will and to do it, and all the rest we leave with Him who has called us to His service.

20, *Bremer Strasse, Moabit, Berlin, November 12th, 1886.*

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

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GERMANY.

Berlin. – Our public services are well attended, and almost every month we have the joy of receiving into fellowship some who profess to have passed from death unto life. We have a nice staff of earnest young men, who are zealous in labouring for the Lord. But the masses around us go on in godlessness and indifference most appalling. The Lord’s-day is little observed here, many having to work for the whole or a part of the Sunday in the factories, and theatres and pleasure-resorts and restaurants are better frequented than on any other day of the week.

The “Church” has lost its power over the people, and social democracy is increasing fearfully; at the recent elections the Social Democrat leader in Berlin had 93,000 votes. Berlin increases now at a rate of 50,000 a year, but churches are not being built. Moabit, the N.W. suburb of Berlin, has now over 50,000 souls, with only *one* small church, built over fifty years ago, to accommodate 500. Add to this the bitter feeling of the pastors of the churches against Dissenters, as if we were sheep-stealers and interlopers, and their warning people against us, and you will understand the sad condition of things.

Bremer Strasse, 58, Moabit, Berlin, March 8th, 1887.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 188 (August 1887)

{114} BERLIN. – Our brother ROHRBACH writes: – “Our Tent services in Charlottenburg are well attended and much blessed. Last Lord’s-day we gathered the believers in Charlottenburg for the first time around the table of the Lord, and formed a church; there were twelve present; the Lord will give the increase. We desire to keep looking to Him, and He will give us the victory over every difficulty.”

Echoes of Service 194 (February 1888)

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GERMANY.

Berlin, Dec. 9th, 1887. – I am thankful to be able to report very satisfactory progress of the Lord’s work in our hands. The believers on the whole are spiritually quickened, earnest in prayer, expecting still more blessing. Especially our younger brethren are active and full of zeal, seeking to invite strangers to the services and {38} anxious to win them for Christ. As there is deepening of spiritual life, there is deepening of fellowship among believers, which manifests itself not only at the meeting for the breaking of bread, but also in that mutual bearing and forbearing with one another in matters of daily life. We have had several meetings of late with the believers only for our mutual help in carrying forward the work of the Lord; little hindrances have been put out of the way, and the result is, increased joy and blessing. After almost every service we have the joy to deal with anxious ones who seek genuine peace. Considering the many difficulties which are raised, not only on the part of a godless and careless world around us, but by a professing yet lifeless Church, Protestant as well as Roman, we are much encouraged to see the Lord’s work in our hands steadily prosper. As a new feature we have commenced special services with children, on a week-day afternoon, when some 150 to 160 meet in our hall. We give them a hearty, loving invitation to Jesus, have an after-meeting with those who are in earnest and anxious; we know of several of our elder girls in Sunday school who have given their hearts to Christ. The services in Charlottenburg continue also to be much blest. You know we have now more helpers, more work, and we quite expect more souls to be saved. Next week dear Brother Baedeker is expected here on his return journey from Russia, and I look forward to his visit as to a feast. Mr. Broadbent, from Manchester, has of late been in fellowship with us, and we greatly enjoy his coming among us.

Jan. 7th, 1888. – This week we have meetings for prayer every night, and they are seasons of much spiritual blessing and increased joy and readiness to serve the Lord. Last Sunday we had the great joy to receive five into Christian fellowship. One had been several years prayed for; two young men had been children in our Sunday school; one woman, after years of toil and sorrow, sought and found the Lord whilst listening to the gospel testimony in our hall; and the fifth was a young woman who through the Bible-class for girls has been brought to a saving knowledge of Christ. This is most encouraging, and we expect still greater blessing.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Homburg. – There seems to be a general desire through this country to hear the gospel. Here we have full meetings every Lord’s-day evening, and more come than our (private) room can hold. Many men bring their wives, and whole families take an interest. I could

commence a school with a hundred children, but have no place to take them into. I have long prayed for a room, {39} and one is now offering which will hold front 200 to 250 persons, with a small additional room, in one of the best parts of the town for preaching and school work. Some £30 would be required for rent and fitting up. I would ask your earnest and continued prayers for this country. We have not yet full summer or harvest time, but many have doubtless sown in hope and expect to reap in God's own time and way, when the fruit is ripe. I have been greatly helped in speaking lately, and have been asked to take up the work of an evangelist, but consider it better to work with my own hands, and to do what God enables me besides. Mention Homburg to people who wish to pass their holiday time on the Continent. In summer we had many meetings for English-speaking people. Pray for me that wisdom from above may be given to me, and strength to continue.

Homburg v. d. Höhe, January 12th, 1888.

JEAN E. LEONHARDT.

Echoes of Service 196 (April 1888)

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GERMANY.

This letter was written before the events occurred which have so moved Germany – the death of the late Emperor and his son's succeeding him – events still calling for much prayer.

Moabit, Berlin. – We continue to have much blessing in the work, and the Lord causes us greatly to rejoice in seeing real prosperity. Last week we had a special service, when two friends from Berlin addressed the congregation, and some twenty stayed behind for the after-meeting, and at least twelve – if not fifteen – of them have given themselves to the Lord. Several of these were men for whose conversion we had been praying for some time. About one we were specially cheered, as we had followed him for nearly seven years, and at last he has surrendered to the Lord; and though nearly sixty years of age, wept like a child when he received free and full forgiveness by faith in the Lord. Several of the children in our Sunday school have also given evidence of change of heart. All this is most encouraging. Last Sunday I spoke to the children in the hall at Charlottenburg, where some 130 were assembled, and I found several of the elder boys and girls in real earnest about their souls. My dear wife has similar blessing in her meetings with the mothers.

We heard that Dr. Baedeker was coming to Germany again.* We hope he will give some time to Berlin, where many fields are ripe. Among our congregations there are still some who, like ripe fruit, would fall at any powerful shaking of the tree. The Spirit works mightily, and we expect still greater blessing and more fruit.

I was surprised to hear of Mr. Smith going to Japan, and trust he is following the Lord's leading and will be richly blessed. His letters have often cheered me.

Bremer Strasse 58, Berlin, N.W. Feb. 21st, 1888.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

* He has set out on another Continental tour and earnestly asks for prayer. – ED.

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GERMANY.

{...} I am greatly and graciously helped from day to day, and from place to place, praise the Lord! The work in Belleville, in Paris, is very cheering, especially that in connection with the medical mission. At Bâle and Zurich and Constance the Lord gave open doors and many 'ears to hear'; also here in Karlsruhe the public meetings are well attended. On Saturday, April 7th, I am expected at Wiesbaden; and on the 12th I hope once more to go to Berne, where I have been invited to hold some special meetings. I shall be thankful for every remembrance in prayer. It is cheering, and yet humbling, to see how God owns the little things done for Him in great weakness, and to find fruit after many days where we expected nothing. Oh, that we were more faithful in season and out of season to 'preach the Word!'

F. W. BAEDEKER.

Karlsruhe, April 3rd, 1888.

{134} **Berlin.** – Tuesday, April 3rd, was the seventh anniversary of our mission work, and after the severe winter we have had it was quite a favour to have refreshing sunshine on that day. The Lord has been very gracious to us. When we remember the small beginning of the work and how we have been helped forward from year to year, we can only praise Him, and take courage and go on the more faithfully and earnestly. Many friends from different parts of Berlin and Charlottenburg were present, and we had altogether a good time. Though of late, through the departure of our greatly-beloved German Emperor and the illness of our present Emperor, the attention of millions has been directed to the German capital, yet the claims of Him who died for us and rose again and liveth now at the right-hand of His Father have not been considered any more than before. Times of national and political changes are not specially favourable for spiritual changes and victories for the honour of Him who is the King of kings. Still we pray earnestly that the blessings of peace and religious liberty may be continued to us for a long time to come, in order that precious souls may be won from the power of the enemy.

Miss Von Blucher's mission work, which has been carried on on similar lines to ours, will be removed to larger premises in Bülow Strasse 5, which we hope to open next Tuesday, April 17th. She was brought to the Lord through dear Dr. Baedeker about ten or twelve years ago, and has laboured earnestly and successfully for the last five years in the west of Berlin. We expected Dr. Baedeker here for the opening services, but he is still detained in Switzerland and Southern Germany. If the Lord opens the way, Mrs. Rohrbach and I purpose coming to England for a month of rest. On Whit-monday (D.V.) we hope to open a tent again in Charlottenburg.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Bremer Strasse 58, Berlin, W., April 11th, 1888.

Homburg. – Your kind letter only reached me this morning, as I am now in England for a little time. I am very thankful for help in the Lord's work at Homburg, and you will be pleased to hear that numbers and blessing continue in spite of many difficulties. Owing to the severe frost until recently, our meeting-room could not be got ready; now all is in order, and on my return next week we shall move into it, so that the first meeting will be held on the 29th of this month. Our rooms at home have proved too small, although we managed to get in about a hundred people. {135} We need your constant prayers, and I hope to tell you of the answers to them. During my absence Count Korf, of Wiesbaden, has taken part in the meeting, and also some other young men, who are earnest and true-hearted. I was so

sorry not to meet Dr. Baedeker, as he offered to come and have a week-night meeting, which, however, could not be arranged for in my absence. I hope to see him the next time he is anywhere near us.

Bradford, 14th April.

JEAN E. LEONHARDT.

Echoes of Service 199 (July 1888)

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GERMANY.

We are thankful to learn from Dr. BAEDEKER that when he was lately in Berlin the death of the first Emperor of Germany and the precarious state of the Emperor Frederick (shortly before his departure) had evidently produced a solemn impression on people generally, and he had never known such attention given to the preaching of the gospel.

Homburg vor der Höhe. – The new room was opened here last month, when a good number were present at the gospel meeting. The numbers have increased since, so that although summer is always worse for attendance, yet last Sunday night the room was nearly filled. During the Whitsuntide holidays I arranged for a little tea-meeting in the woods, and about a hundred came together. We occupied the time partly with singing and speaking, and then had our tea, so that I think it was both a useful and pleasant afternoon. A meeting in the beautiful forest had its own charm and impression. The greatest difficulty here is the want of a person able to teach more fully, and to help in establishing a meeting for nearer fellowship. My business of course takes my attention, and the time and care of a man devoted to the work is needed – and a married man would be much better than a single one. Will you pray that God will send us help in this manner? Even now I often feel tied to the place when my business would require me to be absent. But in God's own time I have no doubt all will come right, and help will be sent. The people who attend are mostly working people, but all are sober and steady. We have a carpenter, a painter, a greengrocer, a printer, a currier, and other trades-people, some of whom attend with their whole families. It seems as if a great work could be done if the right helper were sent. As I consider the work to be the Lord's, I put these matters before you and the Lord's people, asking your prayers and sympathy in the solemn work of God, with warm thanks for sympathy in the past.

JEAN E. LEONHARDT.

31st May, 1888.

Echoes of Service 200 (August 1888)

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NORWAY AND GERMANY.

{230} {...} From Copenhagen I crossed on Friday last by the new short route to Berlin and am now the guest of brother and sister Rohrbach, who providentially arrived from a visit to England (of which I knew nothing) only the evening before. The attendance of adults at the gospel services, and children at the Sunday school, as well as the number of believers in fellowship, are certainly encouraging, when one considers the difficult nature of the work

in such a city as Berlin, where Lutheranism, Roman Catholicism, and Socialism may almost be said to reign supreme.

Berlin, June 24th, 1888.

G. STEDMAN.

Berlin. – You will be glad to hear that Mrs. Rohrbach and I have safely arrived home again and found our children well, and beloved fellow-workers in good spirits, greatly encouraged by spiritual blessings which the Lord has given during our absence in England. It calls forth so much praise to again prove the faithfulness of our God, who has blessed our sojournings in England to the strengthening of our hearts; the fellowship with believers has much invigorated us, and in the name of the Lord we desire to go on in His work. The masses around us are utterly indifferent, and the Lutheran Church only oppose us, as they dread us more than the ever-increasing influence of Catholicism. Our meetings last Lord's-day were well attended, and we had the joy of having fellowship with our brother Stedman, who stayed with us a few days on his return from Norway to England. He spoke to the people on Sunday evening whilst I interpreted. The fellowship in the breaking of bread was especially sweet and precious. Next Lord's-day afternoon and evening we hope to open tent work again in Charlottenburg, and look forward to much blessed service. {231} Several precious souls have found peace of late, and our young men and women are full of zeal to spread the knowledge of the Saviour whom they have found. Last Lord's-day afternoon I gave an address to our Sunday scholars, about 180 in number, and told them something of what I had seen during my stay in England, speaking especially about the large orphan-houses at Bristol, the wide, wide sea and the big ship, seeking thus to win their hearts to Jesus. Many of our scholars have given their hearts to Christ, and there is a good work going on among them. With renewed zeal and courage we hope to go on in His work, looking unto Jesus, who has so graciously upheld and blessed us during the past seven and a half years of labour for Him here.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Bremer Strasse 58, Berlin, N. June 28th, 1888.

Echoes of Service 201 (September 1888)

{287} BERLIN. – As our funds were quite exhausted we pleaded the promise of our faithful God, and had just come from prayer when your letter containing such a rich supply [from New Zealand] was handed to me. We praised the Lord and took courage. Precious experiences as these confirm us that the work is according to His will, and urge us to greater energy and faithfulness to His service. During the past month several have professed the name of the Lord and desired fellowship with us; and our young men meet one evening in the week to consider how best to forward various branches of the work. Of course difficulties always arise, but in the name of the Lord they are to be overcome. Our tent services in Charlottenberg {sic} are well attended and much blessed, though not without great opposition from the enemy, but souls are being won for Christ. We are sorry to lose our beloved fellow-helper Mr. Howard, who has laboured with us for fifteen months. The brethren are so much taken up with their daily occupations that they can give only a little of their spare evenings to the Lord's work; and we need a brother who could give his whole time heartily to the work. About a week ago we had the great joy of seeing Colonel Pashkoff and his wife, and had much fellowship with him. We are always refreshed by seeing brethren from other lands.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

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GERMANY.

Hattingen. – I go a fishing, says Peter, soon after the Lord’s resurrection. I also have cast out the net on my way through Westphalia. The meetings are well attended with eager listeners, but it is very difficult to bring any fish to land. The prevailing notion in Germany is, that all have already been caught in the “great net” by infant-baptism, and that they have only to believe in their baptism to be quite safe. This is a great barrier to the gospel throughout the land. The Lutheran clergy preach it and they generally address the people as “Christians” on the ground of their baptism, although there is no evidence whatever of their having passed from death to life. Some pastors stoutly maintain that infant-baptism *is* regeneration, and by this they maintain their priestly office in the church; and amongst the people there are scarcely any who are able, or who take the trouble, to search for themselves whether these things are so. Gospel preaching is very disheartening under such circumstances, as you may suppose, and lately the pastors of the Lutheran church are more than ever determined to hold their own against what they freely condemn as Sectarianism. They allow no quarter to any dissent from their views on “sacraments.”

Hitherto I have only preached Christ crucified and risen, without touching on any disputable ground, yet it sometimes looks as if one were sailing under false colours. Much of the precious seed is sown, but it is stifled in the germ by such doctrines. If one were to speak out freely, the doors would be effectually shut, and the people would not come under the sound of the gospel. In private converse even with pastors I have had opportunities for stating my position on Scriptural ground. I hope to return to {296} Witten once more tomorrow. On the 15th I have promised to be with Mr. Leonhardt at Homburg v. d. Höhe; the 19th and 20th at Wiesbaden, c/o Count Korff, 5 Echo Strasse; on the 21st I go to Prague, Bohemia; this will be on the way to South Russia. I have decided to go first to Odessa and Transcaucasia, and from there to visit Constantinople and Athens. By September 28th I hope to be in Odessa. Hitherto the Lord has helped and strengthened me. The Conference at Blankenburg was very helpful to many; but the subject of baptism was forced in there by a good Lutheran, and we had some trouble to keep on higher ground.

Hattingen, Sept. 11th, 1888.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

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AUSTRIA AND ROUMANIA.

Buda-Pesth, Oct. 4th. – It is one of the greatest hardships to turn one’s back on an open door in order to go to regions beyond, which are yet more needy. This has been my experience during the last few weeks. I am still *en route* for Russia, and hope to reach Odessa in about a week’s time. After the few days with our brother J. E. Leonhardt, at Homburg v. d. Höhe, I passed on to Prague in Bohemia, where I had the great joy of seeing how many of the dear warm-hearted Czechs were turned from darkness to light by the preaching of the gospel. In connection with the American Board of Missions, Mr. A. W. Clark is carrying on a most valuable work in Bohemia, and very many have been delivered from dark Romanism and brought into the liberty of the gospel. From Prague I passed on to Tabor, one of the places where Protestantism was stamped out by the brutal force of armed sol-

diery. A small assembly of believers are gathered again in that place, and they maintain their rights in the face of much opposition and persecution. Then I passed to Vienna, the beautiful city which, by many allurements, is a ruin to thousands, who are tempted to enter on the *easy* path that leadeth to destruction. It was my privilege there also to cull a bunch of the grapes of Eshcol, and now I am here for a few days, and am thankful that these days are filled up with solemn and happy purposes.

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Hotel d'Europe, Odessa.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

PRUSSIA.

Berlin. – It is more than two months since I wrote to you, and as usual we have been very full with work for the Lord. Until the first days of October we carried on our tent-meetings in Charlottenburg, and have now hired three suitable rooms in a private house which we opened last week. They are situated in a very dense neighbourhood, where few care for the things of God, yea, where outspoken hostility to the gospel prevails. Still, in the name of the Lord, we set up our banners, and in His name we shall conquer. When we gathered around the table of the Lord, some twenty believers, I sought to interpret the mind of the Lord to them, by showing that whilst He is in our midst we need not fear, but be like a city set on a hill, letting our light shine, that many may be won for the Lord. On the first morning there were some ninety children in our Sunday school, and we expect their number to rise shortly to at least two hundred. We had the great joy of receiving one young man into fellowship who had been much blessed in our tent during the summer. Likewise we have much cause to praise the Lord for the encouraging progress in Moabit. The Lord has given grace to speak His word with power, and our people are much refreshed. In the front part of our house, where we occupied already several rooms for Bible-readings, prayer-meetings, etc., we have taken {328} three additional rooms, one of which we desire to furnish as a Bible and book depôt, and reading room for our young people in the long winter evenings. There is no such place in the whole of Moabit with its 50,000 inhabitants.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Bremer Strasse 58, Berlin, N.W., Oct. 15th, 1888.

{350} **HOMBURG.** – The gospel meetings are well attended, and last Lord's-day evening it was pleasing to see one side of the room filled with *men*, many of whom bring wives and children; I hope, please God, this new room may soon be too small. On Thursday night we have a Bible reading, and this also promises to continue well. Conversions result from the preaching, and although it seems sometimes slow progress, it is, I trust, sure and steady. I press again the need of a helper, more particularly fitted for visiting and dealing personally with souls. German people do not lack a general knowledge of the Scripture, but they understand it in the light of the Lutheran church, and, as a rule, are very suspicious of "new religions," as they would say, so that it needs patience and godly wisdom to lead them on in the truth. Considering the great difficulties in a German fashionable watering place, there is every cause for thankfulness that God has permitted a door to be opened so far. I can well remember when not a man would come near us, and now they are almost as {351} numerous as the women. I enclose a statement of expenses and money received, and am glad there is a balance in hand. My efforts have so far been mostly gospel efforts; with an efficient worker Homburg might become a centre for other undertakings in the country

round about. Remember this great country with its many millions in your prayers, that God may abundantly bless those who labour here. – JEAN E. LEONHARDT.

Echoes of Service 205 (January 1889)

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GERMANY.

As we are plodding on day by day to win souls for Christ by testifying to His atoning sacrifice, His living presence and His coming glory, we realise the joy of the Lord as our strength, and receive much encouragement in the conversion of sinners and the quickening of believers. We seek to know the mind of the Lord by searching His Word and following the guidance of His blessed Spirit, and enjoy much peace and calm in the midst of a large and ever-increasing sphere of activity. During this year scarcely a week passed in which we did not hear of some soul to whom the word of truth had become a word of life and power. On Sunday week, besides receiving five into fellowship, two of whom had been scholars in our Sunday-school, we had the joy of baptising publicly three young men on their profession of faith in the Lord Jesus. With such tokens of the Lord's presence among us, we can be indifferent to all the outspoken ill-will of church-people, who really think that we are doing serious mischief, and fear us more than the rapidly increasing influence of Romanism and Materialism around us. We are thankful that of all who have joined fellowship with us, *not one* had been a church-goer, but all have been taken right out of the world by the power of God; several men direct from the public-house and the card-table, or out of a condition of utter indifference to the things of God; and I am glad of it, for such have not so much to unlearn, nor are they fettered by dead religious surroundings. But we are overwhelmed when we think of the tens of thousands who are still in utter darkness and indifference. Oh! for more power from on high, that more may be reached. Moabit, our suburb of Berlin, has now nearly 60,000 inhabitants. New, barrack-like buildings, each to hold from 20 to 30 families, are being erected all round us. On Sunday evenings our hall is packed full. My dear wife has much blessing in her weekly mothers' meetings both at Moabit and Charlottenburg; our lady-helpers take up regular classes with young women and children, and our brother Schmidt meets with much encouragement on his regular rounds of visiting. We are busy preparing for Christmas, when we hope to present some 150 children in Moabit and about the same {8} number in Charlottenburg with small prizes for regular attendance. We realise that the time of service is short, therefore we want to make the best of it in the best of service. The Lord is at hand. Pray for us!

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Bremer Strasse 58, Berlin, N.W. December 10th, 1888.

Echoes of Service 207 (March 1889)

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GERMANY.

Berlin. – Last year closed with remarkable blessing, and the new year has commenced well. Our meetings have been attended better than ever, and several have come forward decidedly on the Lord's side. A great stir has been caused by the baptism of a Lutheran clergyman, a man well-known in Berlin, who for years had been a believer in the Lord Je-

sus, and sometimes visited us, and we always enjoyed much spiritual fellowship with one another. On New Year's-day he quite unexpectedly came to me, and told me that for some time he had quite seen the truth as to believers' baptism, and wished me to baptise him. He had fully counted the cost, but was ready to follow the Lord fully. In the presence of a company of Christian friends I baptised him on January 4th. It was a most solemn occasion, a time of much spiritual power; but ever since, the church papers and public papers have been full of it. The man had to give up his charge, but he is following the Lord with remarkable joy and power. This case has brought me more before the public than was pleasant, but as we have only carried out the Lord's command we do not mind. Infant sprinkling is the national custom and order of the church, and believers' baptism is therefore so little, or not at all, understood by the majority, though so clearly shown in the New Testament. We have had a week of special services and prayer, and much blessing has come from it. Our young men's classes and young women's meetings are well-conducted and owned to the conversion of the young.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Bremer Strasse 58, Berlin, N.W January 30th, 1889.

Echoes of Service 210 (June 1889)

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GERMANY.

Our brother Leonhardt confirms our brother Rohrbach's statement as to the present State-church opposition in Germany. The very general strikes throughout the country seem to turn men's thoughts to money and to blind them to the true riches.

Berlin. – The visit of dear Dr. Baedeker, on his return from Russia, greatly refreshed us. He spoke several times in Moabit, and once in Charlottenburg; and I am very grateful for the sympathy he has shown in the struggles we are passing through. The ill-will of most of the Lutheran clergy against all work done outside the "Established Church" has been manifested often before, but quite recently the leading "Church" paper published several bitter and hostile articles against free mission-work, as {170} carried on by our sister Miss von Blücher and ourselves. In order to hinder her work, the clergyman has influenced the magistrate to close her flourishing Sunday-school; and on our appealing to the magistrate, he even threatened to close the public services also, if children under fourteen years of age were found present. We have now appealed to the "Minister of Public Worship," and do not yet know what the result will be.

Last week a public religious meeting was held in a large restaurant in Moabit, convened by the chief clergyman of Moabit and one of the Inspectors of the City Mission. Two addresses were given on the subject "The Church in her warfare against unbelief and sectarianism." Both the speakers, while lamenting the unbelief of the present day even inside the Church, directed their *especial attention* to the injury done to the "Church" by Methodists, Baptists, Darbyites and Irvingites; and exhorted the people to be warned against these "foes." For years they considered us not worth their notice, but now they begin to agitate against us. Ours is not a fight against any system or "church," but against worldliness, godlessness, and infidelity, by means of the preaching of the truth of a crucified, risen, and coming Lord. But there is at present a strong State-church current throughout Germany, and felt especially in the capital, ecclesiastical powers even gaining the help of secular powers against work done simply in the name of the Lord. It is true the case of Pastor Weber – the well-known ex-clergyman whom I baptized in January last – has caused more stir

among the “Church” people than we ever could have anticipated; but we did it in simple obedience to the Lord’s command, and therefore we do not fear, for the Lord whom alone we desire to serve, will take care of His own – His work and His people; and we will work on quietly and steadily as long as we may. But it is sad to make such a stir about a few who want to follow the Lord fully, while tens of thousands around us are living in entire forgetfulness of God and His claims, and of the Saviour and His atoning sacrifice.

May I commend the Lord’s work in our hands, and that of Miss v. Blücher, to your continued prayerful sympathy?

Bremer Strasse 58, Berlin, April 18th.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 212 (August 1889)

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GERMANY.

Berlin. – We were glad to be home again and to find our children well and the Lord’s work prosperous during our absence. Fellowship with so many of the Lord’s people in different places has greatly refreshed and strengthened us for further service, and we delight in being permitted to witness for the Lord here. More than ever before we are almost overwhelmed by the appalling indifference of tens of thousands around us, of men and women who live as if Christ had never died, as if there was no hereafter, no eternal life to be obtained, or a hell to flee from. Oh! if God would open the eyes of the blind and give life to the dead. I am indeed thankful for the encouraging number of believers around us who have passed from death unto life, and am encouraged to find many of them active and willing to serve the Lord fully, but we are so few and feeble in comparison with the mighty host of infidelity and godlessness around us; *of course we know that He is with us, mighty to save,* and through Him who has loved us we are more {231} than conquerors, and we shall go from victory unto victory. We desire to be filled daily with His Spirit and thus to go among the people and communicate spiritual blessings to them. Yesterday we opened again our tent in Charlottenburg, and the power of the Lord was present with us. The tent was filled to its utmost capacity, holding about 250 people, and many stood outside under the shade of some lovely lime-trees in front of the tent, and listened attentively to the testimonies given. Two of our brethren were greatly helped in testifying to what the Lord had done for them. This week we have special meetings every evening, and we pray that many may be won for the Lord. We desire to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and want to be nothing but vessels fit for the Master’s use, that through us the streams of His grace and power may flow unto others. Seeking to please Him who has called us to His service, we do not covet any titles or prefixes from men, but want to be simple preachers of a glorious gospel, and to feed the flock of Christ according to the example in Ezekiel xxxiv. which was so powerfully brought before us during the last Leominster Conference. Walking in fellowship with the Lord, we learn to know His mind concerning His work and His purposes, and ask for wisdom and power to carry them out, that His name may be glorified.

Bremer Strasse 58, Moabit, Berlin, July 15th, 1889.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

{285} HOMBURG. – We have lately been for about three weeks in Homburg, near Frankfurt-on-the-Main, and you will be glad to hear something of the work of God in that place. Our brother Leonhardt has been working there for some four years as business allowed. Early last year he opened a good room, holding about 120 persons comfortably, though at present seated for only about 80. In this room gospel meetings have always been held regularly on Lord's-days and Thursdays, and the Lord has blessed the work. The meetings in winter are large; in summer the people being all very busy they are much smaller, though a good many attend even {286} then. On coming to Homburg this year I was delighted to find that Br. Leonhardt had been enabled to open a little meeting at 10 o'clock on Lord's-day morning in German for breaking bread, and there are now eight in fellowship. It is, indeed, the day of small things, yet it is a cause of much thankfulness to find a little assembly of God's children meeting regularly to remember the Lord's death each first day of the week in that dark and worldly place. The gospel room is behind No 70, Louisin Strasse. I am sorry to say that Lucerne, from which I write, seems very dead; it is almost entirely Roman Catholic. An evangelist, agent of the Basle Bible Society, and his wife are nice Christians; they do not, however, speak English. – R. H. MACGREGOR.

{37}

GERMANY.

Berlin. – We are thankful to report steady progress both in Moabit and Charlottenburg. Besides baptizing four sisters, who for some time had been in fellowship, we received seven young men and young women, who preferred to walk and worship with our much despised and rejected company of believers. It is wonderful what an amount of prejudice and opposition young believers have to overcome before they will join in fellowship with us. But where the word of God in the power of His Spirit has taken hold of a man, he will be enabled to overcome and be richly blessed in doing so. We are honoured in being much spoken against, marked and watched by many, and, therefore, we constantly put before young believers, and older ones too, the great importance of consistent daily walk and conversation, that others around us may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven. Our brethren feel more and more the joy and privilege as well as responsibility of being actively engaged in some part of the work. In Charlottenburg our meetings are fully attended and owned of the Lord to many souls. For over five years we have laboured there, often under great difficulties, owing chiefly to the want of suitable premises; but after months of prayer we have decided to build a suitable mission hall, one of our brethren, himself a builder, being willing to undertake the work. Miss Fooks, who was with us for nearly two years, succeeded in gaining the sympathy of a few Christian friends, so that we were enabled to purchase a small piece of land for £250. The building is going on, and we {38} hope by the middle of 1890, God willing, it will be completed. The hall is reckoned to cost about £1000, and we pray and trust the Lord to supply all needed wisdom, strength and means. Dear Dr. Baedeker visited us last week and spoke most powerfully both at Moabit and Charlottenburg; his ripe experience and deep sympathy have done us much good. One of our brethren, who with his wife has moved to Potsdam, gathers around him

a number of children, and has a meeting every Lord's-day with their parents. The work entrusted to our dear sister Fraulein von Blücher, in the west of Berlin, also grows steadily.

Bremer Strasse 58, Berlin, Dec. 14th, 1889.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 222 (June 1890)

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GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, April 30th. – I had good times at Dusseldorf, Wiesbaden and Berlin. Mr. Rohrbach's work seems solid and is quietly progressing. We had a good time on Lord's-day morning for the breaking of bread at Moabit. In the afternoon and evening I found happy service in the Bible-classes, children's meeting and the gospel meeting at Miss von Blücher's, who is a faithful labourer and who through evil and good report bears up the banner of the cross. At Wiesbaden I had the privilege of serving the Lord in baptizing two believers, and also in ministering the Word. Mr. Leonhardt came over for a day from Homburg; he is cheered by the blessing which the Lord gives to his testimony. The true place and importance of baptism is beginning to be seen by a few in Germany, and there are hopeful signs of a breach in the dead wall of the tradition of infant sprinkling. A gathering of believers in Dusseldorf is greatly increased in numbers, and there is growth in their inner life. Here in St. Petersburg is great liberty for children of God just now. Germany and Russia have great claims on the sympathy and prayers of God's people. May there be very many with Moses on the mount, as well as many with Joshua in the battlefield.

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F. W. BAEDEKER.

Echoes of Service 224 (August 1890)

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GERMANY.

Berlin. – Day by day we are plodding on, visiting among the people or receiving visits from enquirers or anxious and needy ones. Every evening in the week with the exception of Monday we have some public meeting, either a Bible-class or gospel service or prayer meeting, with most encouraging attendance. In our Saturday evening prayer meeting from 8 to 9.30 about thirty or forty meet regularly, all of whom had been strangers to the privileges of Christian fellowship until they were brought to the Lord in our meetings. Truly that is something to be thankful for. Once a month we have a missionary meeting, when the claims of the heathen are brought before our people; a missionary box has lately been added to receive freewill offerings for the spread of the gospel. East Africa and Stanley's journeyings, also Fred Arnot's work are being brought before them and remembered in prayer. There is, therefore, a bond of union with believers and workers all over the world. On Lord's-day morning we meet at 10 a.m. for worship, the exposition of the Word and breaking of bread, in which all brethren feel free to take part. On Sunday afternoon one of our brethren conducts Sunday-school, which has now 120 to 130 children and fifteen to eighteen helpers. There is a gospel service in the tent at Charlottenburg from 4 to 5 p.m. every Lord's {231} day; our young men and young women meet for special Bible-classes

from 5 to 6 p.m., and generally all assemble for the gospel in the evening at the hall from 7 to 8.30 p.m. Some remain for an after or prayer-meeting. Thus the Lord's-day is well filled up with happy service. Some of the believers go out visiting, or distribute gospel tracts in the houses of the people or in the public parks. In Charlottenburg we have now a Sunday-school of over 100 children, and regular preparation classes with the teachers. Last Lord's-day some six brethren in Moabit went to Potsdam to help our brethren in the gospel service, which is conducted there every Lord's-day evening and sometimes during the week, and is owned of God to the conversion of people. We also continue to help our sister Fraulein von Blücher in her work for the Lord in the west of Berlin, where, amidst great difficulties, worship, breaking of bread and gospel work are conducted on Scriptural lines.

The building of our commodious Gospel Hall in Charlottenburg is near completion; we see the guiding and helping hand of the Lord all through, and though the struggle for means is very hard, as we shall require shortly about £250 to settle with the builder (who himself is a believer in fellowship at Moabit), we keep looking up unto Him from Whom our help cometh and for Whom we are working.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Bremer Strasse 58. Berlin, N.W., July 9th, 1890.

[We are glad to hear of encouraging work also at Homburg. – ED.]

Echoes of Service 226 (October 1890)

{299} BERLIN. – You will be glad to hear the Gospel Hall in Charlottenburg is finished. We dedicated it to the service of the Lord on Lord's-day, August 24th, and it was an occasion of praise and thanksgiving, of personal surrender to Him who had given Himself for us. About 600 people assembled, to whom, after prayer and praise, I gave a brief account of the Lord's gracious dealings with us during the past ten years in Berlin, saying that our desire was not to start any new sect or preach any new doctrine, but to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His love, His righteousness and salvation, and that according to the Scriptures we desired merely to gather to the name of Jesus, according to the inscription on the hall, "*In Jesu Namen.*" I pointed out the various texts on the walls: "I am the way and the truth and the life," "Come unto Me," "Behold I come quickly," etc. The builder and other brethren from Moabit and our brother from Potsdam then gave appropriate addresses. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

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BUILDINGS.

{...}

{320} We were glad to pass on recently to our brother Rohrbach a gift of £50 for his Gospel Hall at *Charlottenburg*, Berlin.

{...}

Echoes of Service 227 (November 1890)

{350} BERLIN. – We have moved to Charlottenburg, and in future our address will be *Krumme Str. 28, Charlottenburg, Germany*. A larger sphere of labour offers i{t}self to us here, and most of the believers are young in the faith, whilst there are more experienced brethren in Moabit who have a heart and mind to carry on the work there, but of course a good deal of the gospel preaching and conducting of Bible classes will rest on me in the future as in the past. Charlottenburg is within easy reach of Berlin, and we are about 35 minutes distant from our former house, and about the same from Bulow Strasse 5, where our sister Miss von Blucher has her mission work. As we have an afternoon gospel service every Lord's-day, believers from Potsdam can also come here conveniently. The larger the work becomes the more we realise our utter insufficiency and inability to do all we would. Especially are we anxious to visit more among the people, as so many will not come to our meetings, partly on account of deep-rooted indifference to the things of God and to *His* claims on us, partly also on account of the prejudice and opposition which is raised against our simple gospel work. But our help cometh from the Lord, and in Him we have put our Confidence. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 232 (February 1891, Part II)

{55} BERLIN. – It is encouraging to see how the Lord has led us these ten years of service for Him here. The past year brought a greater amount of work and responsibility, but we trust also of fruit unto life eternal, to the praise of the Lord. Both at Moabit and Charlottenburg a good number of precious souls have come to the knowledge of the truth, though it is still the day of small things in comparison with the masses around us who live in utter indifference and worldliness, and care not for the simplicity of spiritual worship. Some have departed to be with Christ, others have removed to other parts of Berlin and Germany, but a goodly number are with us, endeavouring to spread the knowledge of Christ. We regret that a few walk no more with us. Several of the brethren in Moabit help in the gospel, but have little time for visiting, and we have been in earnest prayer for the Lord {56} to send us a suitable helper. This need has been supplied and we praise Him. Our brother, Mr. Howard, who was with us two years ago came on a visit, and was led to remain with us instead of returning to Chrischona, near Basle, where he had been studying since he left us. During the past week I have had a course of Bible study every afternoon for Christian workers. From fifteen to twenty assembled regularly, some of whom afterwards went forth to invite for the gospel meetings, which were held every night last week. My dear wife and I have been led to receive two boys, 11 and 12 years of age, into our house. They are two brothers, whose mother, a sister in fellowship, died last year; the father is feeble and unable to care for them, and they were on the way to ruin, so we felt it a duty to the Lord and to the departed mother to care for her boys, although it has again increased our responsibility {sic}. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg. – We desire to be led into the line of God’s thoughts and workings, knowing that He can work in us and through us of His good pleasure, and His purposes will be carried out. We are thankful to see how, both at Moabit and Charlottenburg, one after another yields loving obedience unto Him. At Charlottenburg last Lord’s-day five men expressed the desire fully to follow the Lord. The wives of two of them were brought to the Lord a short time ago.

On Monday evening we had the privilege of baptizing two sisters who have been for some time in fellowship at Charlottenburg, and next week I hope to baptize into the death of our Lord two brethren and three sisters at Moabit. These acts of obedience to the command of the Lord (though we do not give them that undue prominence which some do), the conversion of men and women unto the Lord, and the regular meeting on the Lord’s-day morning for the breaking of bread, manifest that the Lord is in our midst, and that out of His fulness we receive grace upon grace. The Lord is at work, and we rejoice; but Satan is not idle. The terrible worldliness and open godlessness around us are appalling. Also the deadness in many Lutheran churches, and the importance, social and spiritual, they attach to infant sprinkling and confirmation, with a great deal of sectarianism amongst others, greatly hinder the free spreading of the gospel of Christ.

Mr. Booth has been in Berlin and propounded his social scheme, and his followers are coming forward as if they were to solve the problem of sin and misery; but I believe that nothing but the preaching of Christ crucified, risen and coming again, and the practising of a Christ-like self-sacrificing life will be any power for the raising of the sunken around us. Though we would gladly do more, we seek to do day by day *all* we can in witnessing to the power of a living Lord, and in helping the poor and lost ones to come unto Him. Our brother Mr. Howard is a “true yokefellow,” and we feel we are both helped of God in the blessed work of sounding forth His word. My dear wife is also much encouraged in her work among the women and girls.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Krumme Str. 28, Charlottenburg, Feb. 24th, 1891.

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GERMANY.

Berlin. – “*Do the work of an evangelist,*” is the apostle’s injunction to Timothy. Happy work it is to carry the light of the gospel into the dark and neglected places of the earth. I am spending a little time in Berlin labouring in fellowship with some of God’s faithful servants in this city and neighbourhood. Our brother Rohrbach, assisted by a young brother named Howard, is labouring in Moabit and Charlottenburg with marked success; also Miss von Blücher, in Bülow Strasse, Berlin, chiefly amongst women and children. A goodly number have been gathered for fellowship, and it is a joy to join with them at the Lord’s table, remembering *His death* as the source of *our life*, till He come.

The simple scriptural way of acting is so novel to those who for ages have been brought up under the powerful influence of clerical tradition, in connection with a state-church, that it costs them much to take the place of separation, and to bear the reproach with the

Lord “outside the camp.” Spiritual intelligence and scriptural discernment are developing very slowly, and those who labour here have to instruct with much diligence and patience, giving line upon line and precept upon precept. The spirit of opposition seems now to be less virulent, and more liberty is enjoyed by free labourers. But they meet with scarcely any sympathy or support from those who would be {99} able to minister of their substance. Whilst all institutions which are in connection with the Lutheran church are freely and abundantly supplied with means, those who seek to simply follow the Lord’s command, and who carry the gospel in its glorious simplicity to the poor and unenlightened, have to endure want and hardness. It would be well if brethren living in affluence and enjoying the fellowship of saints at the Lord’s table would remember in prayer and in practical sympathy those who are less favourably situated in other lands. Although Germany is rich and may have no need of England’s support, our brethren labouring here are chiefly amongst the poor, who, though they give of their penury, cannot support the gospel work, halls, schools, etc., carried on in their behalf. I would, therefore, suggest a more frequent remembrance, by prayer and gifts, of our brethren and sisters in Germany.

I hope to return to England by the end of this month, and in the beginning of April to visit with Mrs. Baedeker Constantinople, Athens, and other places, with the view of assisting some solitary labourers in the gospel. {...}

F. W. BAEDEKER.

Berlin, March 24th, 1891.

Echoes of Service 239 (June 1891, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, April 15th. – I am glad to see believers realising their individual position, relationship and privilege, as well as responsibility to the Head, from whom the whole body, harmoniously framed together and strengthened by the ministration of each joint, maketh increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love. But it takes time and requires much patience and spiritual discernment to teach these important truths in connection with Christian fellowship where often so much of the natural man and of deep-rooted habit and custom intrudes and has to be overcome by the Spirit of the Lord. I am therefore the more thankful to see believers in Moabit and also those in Charlottenburg begin to love and appreciate the simplicity of spiritual worship, and how most of the brethren take their share in the work. But it is the more difficult, as many of them are surrounded by sectarian influences.

Our main object has always been, and is, to win sinners to the Saviour and to instruct those who believe in the ways of the Lord. Our number has not been increased by receiving believers from any other Christian community, but through converts right out of the world; we feel therefore the more grieved when others seek to draw aside some of the younger and feebler ones. Still the Lord’s work goes forward.

May 12th. – I had hoped to be in England for a short season of much needed rest and recreation in fellowship with believers there; but as the way was not made quite clear and many pressing duties kept me at my post here, I willingly resigned my wish, believing this to be the Lord’s will for me now. We have had many encouraging signs of blessing in conversions both at Moabit and Charlottenburg. But we have been especially cheered by the agreement of many believers to have fellowship in prayer every morning from 8 to 8.30 wherever they may be, to remember one another and the Lord’s work, and also any special

cases mentioned in our prayer meetings. This will strengthen our hands in many difficulties and keep us separate from the influences around.

The indifference and open godlessness around are quite appalling. The Lord's-day is the day of pleasure when all the public beer-gardens are filled by tens of thousands, whilst only a few know and appreciate spiritual privileges. But it is our increasing joy to serve the Lord our God and preach the gospel of His salvation. Several of our brethren help us now regularly, and both our chief meetings are centres of much spiritual blessing to many around.

In addition to our ordinary evangelistic work my dear wife has commenced two work rooms for young girls, one in Moabit with ten, and one in Charlottenburg with twenty girls. They are doing needle work for a Berlin house of business, and though there has been an outlay of some £30 for machines, this will, we hope, after a few weeks be cleared. The girls work under the superintendence of an experienced Christian woman, have the privilege of Christian influence and are protected from the many temptations to which they would be exposed. It is a delight to see them assembled for morning Bible-reading, a privilege which scarcely any of them knew before, and to hear them sing at their work some of those Christian hymns which we use at our meetings. The Lord has already given us spiritual fruit from this new branch. We had the rooms at liberty, so we think we have turned them to the best use possible.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 241 (July 1891, Part I)

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GERMANY.

It is a hopeful sign that servants of Christ in different lands who have been brought up in traditional Christianity are turning to God's word for guidance with the desire to obey. Few indeed are there of such in other lands or in this land; that is, men with courage to follow at all costs the teaching of Scripture. The difficulties to be met are like mountains, and there is little of that faith in God which can rise above them. Truly the 11th and 12th chapters of Hebrews need far more to be pondered by us all, that we may learn to tread the old path of faith in God. Those whose hearts can feel for any freshly setting out on this path will, we doubt not, pray for the servant of the Lord mentioned in the following letter.

East Prussia. – In my last I mentioned that a Lutheran clergyman invited me to come to him, in order to baptize him and several brethren. As I clearly saw the Lord's will in the matter I went to Alt Pillau; it is a distance of over 400 miles from Berlin, near Königsberg in East Prussia. In this small town of about 4,000 inhabitants the clergyman, a young man of about thirty-two years, has been the instrument in the hand of the Lord of a mighty revival. At first, quite a stranger to the power and life of the gospel, he agitated vehemently against all who worshipped God outside the Lutheran Church; but some three years ago he was truly converted, and, preaching with quite a new power, a mighty quickening commenced among the very indifferent and ungodly people around, with a crying for mercy and then a rejoicing in the Lord. The work spread to the neighbouring villages, so that in the course of a little over two years some 500 were brought to the knowledge of Christ. The pastor himself, giving all glory to the Lord, yielded himself fully, desiring to follow the Lord only.

As he found he could no longer remain a member of the State-church, being hindered in many ways, and seeing their unscriptural mode of teaching and practice regarding infant sprinkling, the Lord's Supper, and the Church, he was led to leave the Established Church last autumn, and about 200 of the people followed him. Since then he has been correspond-

ing with me from time to time. The truth of scriptural baptism, the breaking of bread, the church of Christ, and the fellowship of believers, became clearer and clearer to him, until he wrote asking me to come and to baptize him. So I went. On Saturday evening I found some 200 men and women gathered for prayer, and earnestness and joyfulness were manifest such as I had seldom realised. I spoke a little from Eph. i. 3, and a flood of prayer and praise was poured forth. On the Lord's-day morning, from 10 to 11, I spoke to believers about the true signs of genuine discipleship according to John viii. 28–32 – believing in Jesus, abiding in His word, knowing the truth and liberty through the truth. In the afternoon, in the presence of a large multitude, I baptized our brother and nine other men in the name of the Triune God.

It was a most solemn time, when these ten brethren were buried with Christ by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father they should walk in newness of life. After baptism we broke bread together, a company of about 150 believers, to whom I was asked and had the privilege to speak more fully of the scriptural way of simple worship, gathering to the name of our adorable Lord, holding Him as the Head, and being members of one another. Thenceforth they would meet every Lord's-day around the Lord's table showing forth His death until He come. On the {159} Lord's-day evening our brother preached the gospel with unusual joy and power. On Monday and Tuesday we had similar gospel meetings and fuller explanation of the word of God as to the fellowship of believers. On Wednesday afternoon I was obliged to leave, returning to Berlin on Thursday. Most gratefully we confess what the Lord has wrought, and I am thankful to be used of Him as a servant to help on His work. In Moabit and Charlottenburg the work continues steadily to prosper and to spread. May I commend all to the prayerful sympathy of fellow-believers all over the world?

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Charlottenburg, Krumme Str. 28, June 5th, 1891.

Echoes of Service 243 (August 1891, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg. – I have thanked — for their expression of sympathy with us in the work of the Lord. The acquisition and sustenance of a suitable building, plain, yet sufficient to accommodate a few hundred people, especially in large towns on the Continent, and in such a flourishing city as Berlin or Charlottenburg, where building operations are so very expensive, is always a very heavy burden, and we are in earnest daily prayer to the Lord to incline whomsoever He will to fully relieve us. We have had most encouraging gospel services at Moabit, Charlottenburg, and Bülow Strasse. An earnest Christian, a friend of mine during the past thirteen years, visited us, and spoke every night. I interpreted his words, but so much of divine power was realized, that believers were greatly strengthened, and a good number professed to decide for the Lord. What a glorious gospel we have, and how mighty the Divine Spirit shows Himself, that language is no hindrance to His reaching the souls of men.

Three brethren and one sister were added to the fellowship of believers in Moabit; and last week I had the privilege of baptizing two sisters at Charlottenburg. Day by day we are filled with work for the Lord, and though often we are weary, yet He restoreth our strength and giveth grace upon grace. The work at Alt Pillau I hear is continuing to prosper. Difficulties abound, but the Master is above all, and He is our Lord whom we desire to serve.

{179} The home-going of dear Mr. Groves called forth thanks for the valuable spiritual help I with thousands of others have received from him.* “Whose faith follow.”

Charlottenburg, Krumme Str. 28, July 7th, 1891.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

* Already we have received very many similar testimonies – too numerous to insert in these pages.

Echoes of Service 244 (August 1891, Part II)

{195} CHARLOTTENBURG. – Last Lord’s-day morning (July 26th) we had the great privilege of having Mr. and Mrs. George Müller of Bristol with us. Mr. Müller preached with unusual vigour and power for two weeks, every other evening, at the beautiful hall of the Y.M.C.A. in Berlin. Very many attended, and we are confident that the word of the Lord from the lips of his servant has proved a blessing to many in Berlin. In large centres of public life, where everything tends to make people forget God, His claims, His love, His righteousness, and to live for self in higher or lower forms, it is of the greatest importance that the testimony in reference to God and His grace, to Christ and His salvation, and to the Holy Spirit and His working, should be clear and decided, such as we were privileged to hear from the lips of George Müller. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 245 (September 1891, Part I)

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THE JEWS.

{...}

A VISIT TO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

Though it is only sixteen days since I left London I am thankful to say I have been able, by the help of God, to give away a great many portions of the Hebrew German New Testament and to speak to many, for the poor Russian Jewish refugees are to be found in numbers in every town and railway station. They all look the picture of misery. If I were to give you details of my journey it would occupy many pages, so I will only give you a few outlines.

I spent eight days in Germany, but was greatly hindered by the Russian Jewish committee; still I had a good opportunity to testify for Jesus. I met the first batch of refugees at Wesel, where I had to wait several hours for the train to Bremen. On my asking them a few questions they thought me to be an agent of Baron Hirsch and surrounded me on all sides, eagerly inquiring my mission, and telling me most piteous tales of the great sufferings they had to undergo in Russia. I did not allow them to remain long in ignorance, and told them I was not an agent of Baron Hirsch, but an agent from the Lord Jesus, that I was a Jew, like themselves, and by the grace of God I came to the knowledge of Him whom to know is life eternal. I offered them books, and when they asked me what they were I told them the New Covenant Scriptures. One of them said, “We Jews have got our old laws for ever”; but when I pointed to the New Covenant promised by Jeremiah (chaps. xxxi., xxxiii.) he became silent. I spent a little time with them, urging them to pay attention to the books I distributed among them. I spent thirty-six hours at Bremen, where several hundred Jews were waiting for the boats for America, but was soon stopped by an agent from the Jewish com-

mittee, who told me he had orders from the police to prevent interference with the refugees. However, I met many in different parts of the city, especially at the docks. Amongst them were several Poles, Roman Catholics. One asked me what I was distributing. I said, the New Testament, and if anybody reads it and believes in Jesus Christ he finds life eternal. On hearing this he made the sign of the cross, and requested me to give him a few copies to distribute amongst the Jews, which I gladly did. I asked him whether he had read the Gospel, and he replied, "No, but I should like to do so." Of course I had not a Polish Testament, but to my surprise a young Jew said he would translate for him from the Jewish Testament.

At Hamburg I spent twelve hours, just arriving before the boat started, and I had a good opportunity to speak and give books to many, not without opposition from fanatical Jews. I passed two days at Berlin and Charlottenburg. In the latter place most of the poor Jews were kept as prisoners in special barracks, and tents were also erected close to the railway station guarded by railway servants, but I spoke to many and distributed a goodly number of books. Mr. and Mrs. Rohrbach showed me great kindness and hospitality. I saw and heard a good deal of their work in "darkest" Berlin. Besides the above places I visited several stations where the Jews mostly congregate.

It is more than a week since I arrived in Poland. {...}

{204} *Chernowitz, Bukowina, Austria, July 23rd, 1891.*

ISRAEL I. ASCHKENASI.

Echoes of Service 247 (October 1891, Part I)

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GERMANY.

We are thankful that Mr. Churchill, whose recent visit to Spain was very cheering to labourers there, has been enabled to spend a short time in Berlin, and we trust that his remarks on the two countries as expressed in the following letter will help to more intelligent prayer for both. Our brother Rohrbach has been in England during the month of September, and has had opportunities of fellowship with the Lord's people in several places.

GERMANY AND SPAIN.

My mind has been led very much into two lines of thought, one a sequence of the other. In April I was in Spain; in August, in Germany. The contrast is great, yet how great the similarity! In the former we see a people degraded by Romanism, in the latter a nation puffed up by Protestantism. It is a question which is the worse condition. Both classes are represented in the Holy Scriptures – the Jew and the Greek, the Pharisee and the Sadducee. In the one case, superstition enslaves; in the other, intellectual enlightenment. In both Spain and Germany there is the same hollow sham; there is no kernel of truth, though the shell may differ. As in Paul's day, so in ours; to some the gospel is a stumbling-block, to others foolishness. Opposed as the two are to each other, they unite in the rejection of Christ (Acts iv. 27). Romanism is a corruption of the truth; Protestantism refuses the corruption – and there rests. If idolatrous and priest-ridden Spain saddened me, I confess that enlightened Germany almost appals me. Its people glory in Luther, but not in the gospel which Luther preached. Deliverance from Rome has brought them temporal advantages, and they seek not those which are eternal.

But these reflections led to a second thought. Rebellion against God characterizes, as I have said, both Jew and Greek. The grace of God addresses itself to both alike. "The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first,

and also to the Greek.” This is encouraging, and enables the servants of God to say, “I am ready to preach the gospel” (Rom. i. 15). We in England should have our dear fellow-workers in continental countries in constant remembrance. At home we are often conscious of these two forces of evil (of other forces I speak not now) being arrayed against the Name of the Lord. In other parts of Europe they appear in greater intensity and magnitude, and those who fight under the banner of Christ are but few, very few indeed. The question arises in our hearts, in wonder, perhaps, rather than in unbelief, “What are they among so many?” If in simplicity of heart we put this question to the Lord, the whole thing is settled. It becomes then no question of few labourers, or many; of little or of great need. We see the multitudes in the desert, the few labourers; but we see also the Lord. We leave all in His hands, and we soon see what He can do.

May I urge my brethren in Great Britain to more prayer in this matter? This intreaty was laid upon my heart the last time I spoke in public in Berlin. I then gave to those assembled the following Scriptures, which I would also commend to their English fellow-saints: –

Luke xviii. 1, “Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”

Matt. ix. 37, 38, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.”

Eph. vi. 18, 19, “Praying ... for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

2 Thess. iii. 1, “Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.”

Of these three petitions, the first concerns the servant, the second his circumstances, the third the result. May we make it a much more constant habit to speak to our God about others, and about His Name.

Both in Spain and Germany the believers I met seem to feel that they are a “little flock.” But they are under the care of Him who is also the Shepherd of us in Great Britain. I told them of the sympathy of English brethren. With smiles on their faces they sent to all their loving greeting.

J. CHURCHILL.

¹, *The Downs, Wimbledon.*

Echoes of Service 250 (November 1891, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg. – My visit to England has been a help to me spiritually, leading me on to a deeper knowledge of the Word of God and a fuller reliance upon the Lord for everything. Intercourse with men of God has done me good and increased my love to the Word of God and to the service of the Lord.

Since my return the Lord has graciously given me the joy of leading to Him several who had longed to find peace. Our gospel services are well attended, and we pray that many may be won for Christ. The believers also are full of renewed zeal and love, but much wisdom, we find, is required in arranging matters as to church fellowship, and proportionately to lay privileges and responsibilities before believers, to avoid sectarian tendencies and even the appearance of evil, that the Lord may be *all* and in all. Our prayer-meetings and Bible-classes are occasions for much praise and thanksgiving, yet also of downright earnest searchings of heart. But we rejoice to see the Lord is at work.

Our dear brother Howard has gone for a few weeks' rest and recreation to Thuringia, and Br. Herforth finds himself, we trust, more and more at home in the work of the Lord.

Krumme Strasse 28, Charlottenburg, Oct. 24th, 1891.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 251 (December 1891, Part I)

{296} BOHEMIA. – I am learning to sow beside all waters. For four days I had happy gospel work in Frankfurt-on-Main, and here in Prague have two meetings daily amongst the Czechs, many of whom are coming out from Romanism and are hungering for the gospel. You would rejoice if you could witness the Bible-readings with the Bohemians by interpretation. I would gladly stay longer, but the dear brethren further on have stronger claims. After holding three meetings to-morrow (Nov. 20th) I go on by Vienna. Address, c/o M. A. Morrison, Esq., 58, Chersonskaja, Odessa. – F. W. BAEDEKER.

Echoes of Service 252 (December 1891, Part II)

{300} HOMBURG. – Mr. J. E. Leonhardt writes of increasing interest in the truth in his part of Germany, and he is hoping by means of addresses on the Tabernacle (with a model) to make more clear to fellow-believers heavenly realities as therein so marvellously shadowed forth.

Echoes of Service 253 (January 1892, Part I)

{2} BERLIN. – Having had occasion recently to go to Hamburg on business, I was glad to take the opportunity of spending the Lord's-day in Berlin. The work of God there in connection with assemblies at Charlottenburg and Moabit seems to be prospering. At an early meeting at Charlottenburg four sisters and two brethren were baptized, a considerable company having assembled to witness the ordinance. Afterwards some sixty sat down {3} to remember the Lord, and I was informed that a similar number would be assembled for the same purpose at Moabit. I was glad to find there was no restraint on the part of brethren present, several taking a helpful part in thanksgiving, and subsequently in ministry of the Word. There are evident traces still of old habits belonging to the ideas prevalent in denominations in regard to ministers. Our brother Rohrbach seems alive to the dangers connected with these things, and desirous of checking them. His difficulties are neither few nor small. Let us pray that his own hands, and those of his beloved wife and sharer in his toils, may be strengthened in the Lord. – ALFRED J. HOLIDAY.

{3}

RUSSIA.

{...}

I had four days at Frankfurt-on-Main, and also saw our brother Leonhardt at Homburg. There are open doors for the gospel in Germany and the Lord owns His Word. It was a real

joy to see the large Vereins Haus in Frankfurt filled even on weekdays with eager listeners. From there I journeyed to Prague and had happy fellowship in the gospel with brethren who labour successfully amongst the Roman Catholic Czechs. The Bohemians bear much resemblance to the Russians; they are very receptive of the truth of the gospel. I spent three days in Prague, having each day two meetings, a Bible reading *with Bibles* in the afternoons, and a Bible address in the evenings.

The one great need in Germany is the *use* of the Bible in meetings. The people need to be taught how to read for themselves in God's own Word. They have too much leaned on an arm of flesh, pinning their faith to the word of the preacher, whoever he may be, and have not formed an opinion of their own, founded on the Word of God.

From Prague I visited Vienna to meet two sisters from Hungary, who are labouring in O'Tura near Pressburg, amongst Slowaks. {...} {4} In Vienna the Lord is opening doors for His truth. The Free Church of Scotland, Baptists and Methodists are gaining ground, and a few personages of high rank are found amongst the bold witnesses of the truth, thanking God for the letter "m" in "Not *many* mighty, not *many* noble are called."

{...}

Nov. 26th, 1891.

F. W. BAEDKER.

Echoes of Service 255 (February 1892, Part I)

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RUSSIA.

We have received several letters and cards from our well-known friend who is re-visiting this country. A recent letter says, "On my way through Vienna I had the joy of meeting dear Mr. and Mrs. George Müller. The aged saint (86) laid his hands on his younger brother (68), separating him unto this special ministry to the banished brethren, and committing him to the loving care of our heavenly Father. Surely prayer has been abundantly answered."

Erivan, Dec. 14th, 1891. – {...}

Judging from many years' experience I can give my testimony that the joyful sound of the gospel can bear translating into many different tongues and still be "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." The ignorance of foreign tongues may in many cases be for the furtherance of the gospel, provided a faithful interpreter is found. Many nationalities have not patience to listen to one who speaks imperfectly their tongue, but the fact of hearing in a foreign tongue something they do not understand excites curiosity in the hearers and they receive with eager attention the rendering into their own tongue. I do not see any reason why gospel preaching might not be carried on much more extensively by English evangelists in the various countries of Europe. Hungary for example presents a wide open field for such labour; also many parts of Germany, such as Thuringia, Saxony, Bavaria; these with Austria offer grand opportunities for men whose hearts are *aglow with love* to their fellow men. It seems strange that the Roman Catholic parts of Germany should be held as outside the fields which are white unto the harvest. *Oh for hearts burning with zeal* to carry out our Lord's command to "preach the gospel to every creature!" Should not the very darkest places have *the first claim* to the *light* of the gospel?

If men have an aptitude for learning a language, they should use their gift; but if this gift is withheld from some, their lack might be supplied by the abundance of others, *i.e.*, interpreters, so that the Word of God might have free course.

{...}

{36} F. W. B.

{50}

GERMANY.

Charlottenburg. – The last weeks of the past year and the first days of the new year brought us a great amount of work, but also much joy and encouragement. On New Year's Eve I had an impressive meeting in Charlottenburg, attended by many who are not in any way in the habit of listening to the Word of God, followed by a watchnight service in our Gospel Hall in Moabit, where many praised the Lord for safely bringing them through another year, and committed themselves unto Him who is the same yesterday, today and for ever. On the first Lord's day we had the joy of receiving five into fellowship who had found peace in believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, and it was a cheering sight when about fifty at Charlottenburg gathered around the Lord's table, most of whom had been brought to the Lord during the past two or three years, some even quite recently. Though we are surrounded by masses of unbelief and godlessness, and often have to meet opposition from those who ought to know better, yet we cannot praise the Lord enough for His continued favour upon us, and in Him we trust. We desire to be kept faithful, daily so to do His work in His sight, that it may be well pleasing to Him and of lasting benefit to our fellow men. Experience of eleven years of service for the Lord in Berlin assures us of His abounding mercy and faithfulness, and though many difficulties surround and threaten, yet we go on day by day in His strength as He makes the way plain. Mr. Howard, our dear brother who helps us here, has been suffering from influenza, but we hope he will soon fully recover.

Charlottenburg, Krumme St. 28, Jan. 7th, 1892.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

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RUSSIA.

{...}

{108} Dear Rohrbach is hard at work in Berlin. He labours with great zeal, and is much blessed, but he is burdened with expenses of the work.

F. W. B.

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GERMANY.

Berlin. – The work in our Lands continues to prosper. A week of special services in Moabit was blest to the quickening of many believers and the conversion of several strangers. As one of our brethren went to Bremen to carry on mission work among sailors, several others have come forward to help in the ministry of the Word, and occasionally to speak to the unconverted, but they can give only very little time. At Charlottenburg we have the joy of seeing a good number of young men brought in, some of whom promise to become active co-workers. One of them left to work at Frankfort-on-the-Main where he hopes to testify for the Lord. But more than ever we feel the deadly influence of ungodliness, materialism and socialism around us. There is a coarseness and rudeness shown chiefly by young fellows from sixteen to twenty years of age, and a rowdyism, as never before. This increases more as we decidedly give our testimony for the Lord and His atoning sacrifice, His glorious resurrection and His looked-for coming again. In the midst of these high-going waves of socialism and open enmity to God and His cause, through grace I am glad to say

that more than ever I rejoice in doing the Lord's work here and daily meet with much encouragement. My dear wife who needed rest and change to prevent an utter break-down of her health has gone to England and taken our eldest daughter to school there. We look forward to the visit of Dr. Baedeker, hoping that his coming among us, as usual, may be abundantly blest of God.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Charlottenburg, April 1st, 1892.

Echoes of Service 269 (September 1892, Part I)

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JEWES ON THE CONTINENT.

Buda-pest, *Aug. 12th.* – {...}

I visited the same places as last year, viz., Rotterdam, Wesel, Bremen, Hamburg, Berlin, Breslau, and found great numbers of poor Jews, and had a most golden opportunity to preach Christ to them, and distribute portions of the New Testament.

While at Berlin I was again hospitably received by our dear brother Rohrbach. I was very glad to meet Miss Grant, who has helped us for three years in the work in London, and I trust when she returns to England she will be enabled to resume her work amongst the Jewesses; then she will be able to converse with them more freely. I was again privileged to see something of Mr. Rohrbach's work, and had the pleasure to preach in his hall to a large and attentive meeting.

{...}

ISRAEL ISAAH ASCHKENASI.

Echoes of Service 277 (January 1893, Part I)

{5}

GERMANY.

Berlin, *December 4th.* – After an absence of about two months in England, seeking to bring the work in Berlin, with its peculiar difficulties and many encouragements, to the notice of believers, and thus increase their sympathy, I was thankful to find that all the work, both at Moabit and Charlottenburg, had been well sustained by our brethren and sisters here. The gospel meetings had been well attended, and not without tokens of blessing, though the number of those who enter more deeply and fully into the spirit of the gospel, and are willing to follow the Lord fully, by taking up the cross, denying self and bearing His reproach, is exceedingly small. In the midst of high civilisation and a nominally Protestant church (many of whose members have given up faith in Christ, yea, belief in God), it requires much of the Spirit's work to lead men away from religious custom and sectarian prejudice to the simplicity of spiritual worship, and the realization of our utter dependence for everything on the Lord Jesus Christ, who is made unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption.

The masses of the people around us, especially of the so-called working-classes, but of the educated as well, live in practical godlessness, and ridicule the very idea of a belief in an unseen God, and of His revelation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Romanism leads thousands astray to dead forms and empty ceremonies, and many professing Christians think more of their church or creed than of the living Lord who died and rose, and is coming again.

Believers here need much teaching regarding their position in Christ Jesus, as well as their relation to one another in the Lord, and to the unbelieving around. I am thankful to find my weekly Bible-class well attended, and very much valued. I much regret to have so little time for visiting, but two or three hours' teaching every day, a large correspondence, public services of some kind or another almost every night, needful Bible study and meditation for my own heart and for public ministry, leave very little time for visiting. We pray for a suitable helper, as our dear fellow-labourer in the gospel, Mr. Howard, is far from strong, and my dear wife has frequent suffering and weakness. We expect encouraging fellowship with dear Dr. Baedeker, who is coming to Berlin at the end of this week. Brethren, pray for us!

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

28 *Krumme Strasse, Charlottenburg.*

HOMBURG. – You will be glad to hear of interest in the Gospel and Bible meetings on Sunday nights and on Thursday evenings. A pleasing feature now is that *young* men and women are coming, so that the room is well filled, thank God, on Lord's-day evenings. We have had conversions, and I believe there is also an increasing interest in the prayer meetings. The former is no doubt the result of the latter. – J. E. LEONHARDT

Echoes of Service 282 (March 1893, Part II)

{67}

GERMANY.

Berlin. – We had early in the year a very blessed series of meetings for prayer every night at Moabit, Charlottenburg and Bülow Strasse, Berlin. Some evenings from twenty to twenty-five engaged in short, earnest petitions to the throne of grace, and the Lord has answered by giving quite a revival among believers, and a renewed zeal in seeking to spread the knowledge of the gospel among the masses around. Our young men especially have been diligent in testifying to what the Lord has done for them. One of them, a blind young man, who formerly attended our Sunday School, and whilst preparing to become a teacher in a public school, lost his sight, but had his eyes fully opened to the grace of the Lord and the beauty of His service, is helping me now occasionally in gospel ministry, and is being blest of God to others.

In my weekly Bible class in Moabit it is quite a delight to see some forty or fifty men and women, young and old, with Bible in hand, following the teaching of the Word of God, and to hear them afterwards, by prayer, seeking to deepen the lessons taught, to have their minds opened to further instruction, and their consciences awakened to fuller surrender to the Lord and to more active service.

Notwithstanding many great difficulties, a heavy burden of responsibility resting upon me, and from two to three hours' tuition every day, I have found relief and joy in visiting two or three hours daily, seeking to strengthen believers and to speak faithful words of warning to the careless and undecided.

Our public gospel meetings are well attended, and almost after each one we hear of some desirous to follow the Lord. But awful godlessness and infidelity abound, and many would come out more boldly if they were not afraid of their ungodly surroundings. A working man, somewhat roused by what I told him, asked me to tell him sincerely whether I really believed in the existence of God, and whether I really expected another life after the

present. Please pray that we and our fellow-workers may be filled with the Spirit, and that many may be won for the Lord.

28, *Krumme Strasse, Charlottenburg, Berlin.*

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

SOUTH GERMANY. – I am now on an evangelizing tour in part of Switzerland and South Germany, and am thankful to say that open doors and receptive hearts are found in every place. Indeed, there is a revival in almost all parts of Germany, whilst at the same time infidelity and absolute negatives are making great havoc in the churches. My time for Germany is necessarily limited, as I feel bound to enter Russia once more, and to visit again the prisons of that vast empire, as the doors are yet open to me. I hope to return to England at the beginning of March and, God willing, to prepare for a journey to Russia early in April. I would lay claim to the prayers of God's children, very specially, that difficulties and hindrances may be made to vanish away, and paths made straight and smooth for me as a messenger of the Lord. – F. W. BAEDER.

Echoes of Service 283 (April 1893, Part I)

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AUSTRIA.

We do not hear much from this country, and, as is well known, it is one in which, through the influence of Rome, very little liberty is allowed. While on the Continent, Mr. and Mrs. Dyer visited Gratz, a city in Styria, about ninety miles southward of Vienna. There Mr. Reinmuth, formerly of Berlin, and his wife have been for some years labouring; and we are glad to make extracts from a letter sent by the latter to Mrs. Dyer. During last summer Mr. and Mrs. Reinmuth itinerated in the Tyrol the part of Austria adjoining Switzerland, searching out in a lonely valley of the Italian Tyrol some believers who were brought to a knowledge of the truth by one of their number, whose conversion resulted from his reading the New Testament. Notwithstanding much trial and persecution they had stood firm, and meet together for edification, and to remember the Lord's death. They were rejoiced to receive copies of the Scriptures and Italian hymn books.

Scattered believers found in other places were much beset by the priests, and they were greatly cheered by a visit, a few gathering together for Bible-reading and prayer. These isolated ones especially valued Christian books, tracts, etc., which were sent to most of them at the New Year. Tracts for the children were highly prized, because there is not one Protestant school in the whole of the Tyrol.

In Gratz itself, Mr. Reinmuth is allowed, according to law, to gather persons into his own house, but not in any public building, to hear the gospel. The Bible-readings are crowded. Meetings are also held for servants and working girls, and a class for youths and apprentices is well attended. Other means are adopted to help the people in that city, two Bible nurses being employed in caring for the sick poor in their dwellings, and a few sufferers are lodged in a little cottage, to save them from the attacks of priests and nuns in the hospital, where no one is allowed to visit and read or pray with any Protestants, lest the Roman Catholics in the same ward might hear, and have their faith disturbed. A little of what is called rescue work is also carried on, and two orphans have, it is hoped, received blessing. Mr. and Mrs. Reinmuth much desire to enlarge their sphere of work, while still observing police regulations. A piece of ground has been purchased, and they desire to erect a small dwelling for themselves, with as large a room as possible for meetings, under

one roof. The work in its many branches might then be increased, and to enable them to do this they are waiting on the Lord. It seems to be carried on with simplicity, and we may be thankful for the light thus shed abroad in Gratz and the neighbourhood by Mr. and Mrs. Reinmuth and the believers with them. We may ask God that these believers may be led into all His counsel, for in the strongholds of Popery the full truth of God's Word is especially needed. Also that God will supply all that is required for the furtherance of the gospel. The personal need of Mr. and Mrs. Reinmuth is met through the kindness of a Christian in this country. Their address is 28, *Leechgasse, Gratz, Styria, Austria*.

{87} HOMBURG, *March 2nd*. – On Sunday week I was in a town where some three hundred or four hundred came together, and I spoke to them in the Vereinshaus. In the evening seven hundred to eight hundred came, and we had a fair time from seven to ten. The brother who commenced the work ten years ago was fined 15s. for holding the second meeting in his house, but continued nevertheless, and many have been saved. Our meeting in Homburg is well attended, and it would be advisable, if possible, to build a small hall, as the room is becoming inconveniently full. – J. E. LEONHARDT.

Echoes of Service 289 (July 1893, Part I)

{146}

GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, *May 23rd*. – You will be glad to hear of the encouragement the Lord has given us during this month. On May 2nd we had a baptism in Moabit, when several brethren and sisters openly confessed the Lord, and their union in death and resurrection with Him. An earnest spirit of prayer has been manifested for months, and a good number of men and women have lately professed to receive life and light and liberty through Christ our Lord. Our place at Moabit, praise the Lord, is like a beehive of busy workers and efficient helpers. On May 11th some fifty of our brethren and sisters accompanied me to Potsdam to visit the young assembly of believers there. During the afternoon we had a splendid open-air meeting in a wood near Potsdam, under shady trees in their spring beauty, and in the evening a crowded meeting in the hall, where the power of the Spirit accompanied the preached word to the reviving of many believers, and the salvation of a few who had been undecided.

Last Sunday evening we had another most blessed baptismal service in the hall at Moabit, and so much faithful and earnest testimony from our brethren that it seemed like a Pentecostal wave coming over all. But yesterday (Whit- {147} monday) afternoon and evening was best of all. Our large hall in Charlottenburg was filled with about three hundred believers from Moabit, Charlottenburg, Potsdam, with a few from Berlin, and we had a fellowship meeting, full of power and joy and peace, such as I do not remember before. We commenced at 5 p.m., and seven of our brethren gave suitable addresses, interspersed with singing and prayer. The meeting lasted till after 9.30, when I had an after-meeting with some anxious ones, of whom most decided for the Lord. We rejoice to know that the Lord is with us in all the various branches of the work; day by day we commit ourselves, His servants, and His work to Him who careth for us. The need of workers is unspeakably great in this large city, where everything seems to be intended to make people live without God.

In one of the front windows of the house in Krumme Str. I have placed a large printed Bible, the leaves of which are being turned over day by day; there are also several attractive pictures and texts, and we are delighted to find the crowds of people standing and reading the texts and the Scriptures. Some mock, but a goodly number of believers have united in daily prayer that the open Bible may be the means of opening many a heart to the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

28, *Krumme Strasse, Charlottenburg.*

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 291 (August 1893, Part I)

{183} CHARLOTTENBURG, *July 12th.* – We give attention to prayer-meetings and Bible classes; both are not only well attended, but afford precious opportunities for spiritual quickening. Once a week I have a special class for Bible study and preparation for gospel work of five younger brethren, who already help in gospel testimony. Besides these three elder brethren have considerable experience in dealing out spiritual truths to others. During the last fortnight I have had the privilege of much fellowship with Mr. Alexander Grant, of Tottenham, late of Singapore, who with his daughter is now staying with us. Visits from such experienced brethren are always highly appreciated. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 298 (November 1893, Part II)

{264} HOMBURG, V. D. HÖHE, *October 21st.* – We had a large number of men and young men last Lord's-day evening, and our morning meetings are well attended. A nice young fellow of about seventeen or eighteen came last night and found peace. Another man whom my sister went to see last night is very happy and bright. He told the clergyman he had been to church and other places, but he never heard the gospel so simply and clearly as at our place, and that it was there he found peace and rest. I am glad for this open and candid testimony. Pray for us for submission [in the loss of father and mother], grace, and strength. – J. E. LEONHARDT.

Echoes of Service 305 (March 1894, Part I)

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AUSTRIA.

Those who know anything of the deep need of the gospel in Austria and of the hindrances to public testimony will be thankful for the work that Mr. Reinmuth is carrying on. Having a large room in a private house he is allowed legally to gather many to hear the gospel, and, as his letter mentions, he also seeks to make known the truth throughout several large provinces of Austria by holding private meetings and circulating Scriptures and tracts.

Gratz, Styria, January 16th. – By the grace of our Lord the work under our care has gradually grown so much that we have always our hands full. We have general meetings on three days of the week, also meetings for young men and for young women, children, etc.

Much time is also taken up in a very extensive correspondence with Christians and inquirers in the German provinces of the Austro-Hungarian Empire – a district extending from the Lake of Constance to the borders of Hungary, and from the Danube in the north to the Adriatic in the south, containing over ten millions of people, of whom the majority have never heard the truth as it is in Jesus. We are thankful for the opportunities and doors which the Lord graciously gives and opens to us. We thank Him especially for the new Gospel hall, which we opened on the 5th of November, which holds about three hundred people. It is well used, and our friends are delighted with it, and very grateful that we cannot be driven out of it by Roman Catholic landlords as is often the case. A dear Scotch brother lent me the needful money to build a suitable hall. British Christians who are accustomed to full religious liberty and toleration can scarcely understand this great boon of having a house and meeting place of our own. Through the kindness of another dear Scotch brother I have, since August, 1893, a young helper, an earnest worker for Christ. We work not only in Gratz, which is a city of more than 120,000 inhabitants, but also in all the German provinces of Austria, such as the Tyrol, Styria, Corinthia, etc. Whilst one of us stays here to take care of the Lord's work in this city and neighbourhood, the other travels about, holding Bible readings and prayer-meetings in private houses, school-rooms, etc., and visiting individuals in their dwellings, spreading Scriptures, tracts and good books, and doing all that is possible according to Austrian law in the way of publishing the "glad tidings" (Luke ii. 10, 11).

During these travels we also take addresses of such Christians as are willing to receive and distribute Bibles, Testaments, tracts, etc. To such we send parcels from time to time, and thus they are our co-workers in Christ. The Lord has graciously blessed our efforts, and during the fourteen years I have laboured for Christ in various parts of this large empire, many souls have been brought to a knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and led to trust in Him alone for salvation.

Besides the evangelistic work described above, which is, of course, our *chief work*, we were led by the Lord in the course of years to take care also (as far as He sends us means) of the poor sick believers with whom we are acquainted. No English person can form an idea of the unkind and cruel way in which poor Protestants are often treated by the nuns who are the nurses of the public hospitals in this country. We found poor patients in public hospitals who would rather return into the greatest misery in their own dwellings, though often damp and miserable, than endure any longer the persecution in the hospitals. This led us to search the Bible on this subject, and we were convinced by passages like Luke x. 25–37 and Acts vi., that our loving Saviour would have us follow Him in this matter, and look after the poor sick ones among His flock who are not cared for by public charity as they are in England. Some brethren in England do not approve of this work, but this is probably from the fact that they never resided and worked for a long period in Roman Catholic countries.

We do not, however, run before the Lord and burden ourselves with more responsibilities than He lays upon us. When any poor sick brother or sister asks us to take him or her in, we place the matter before the Lord, and ask Him if it be His will that we take the poor sick one in, to send us the necessary means for doing so. So we go just as far as He enables us, and thus are kept free from care and heaviness as to the means to carry on this or any other branch of His work. We never ask any human being to give or send anything towards the expenses of this work, *but only the Lord*, and He hears our prayers and hitherto has sent us what we needed. At present we have four poor sick ones in our house and one Christian nurse, who also attends some others who are sick in their own dwellings. This nurse was

converted eighteen years ago through our instrumentality, and is a great comfort and help in the work of the Lord.

In conclusion I wish to praise our gracious Lord that He has not only moved the hearts of many who know us personally to help us in His work, but also the hearts of some in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, England, Scotland, Ireland and even in Russia, whom we never saw and of whom we never had heard before. I heartily thank all who have thus expressed their fellowship, and would ask that the Lord's work in Austria may be remembered in prayer.

28 Leechgasse, Gratz, Styria, Austria.

P. W. REINMUTH.

{70} CHARLOTTENBURG, BERLIN, *January 18th.* – For the past month, there has been a spirit of prayer and activity among the believers here, which, if it continue, leads us to expect great things from God. On New-year's day we had special thanksgiving, and twelve of our brethren bore testimony to what the Lord had done for them through our mission work. During the first week of the year we had meetings for prayer every night at each of our gospel halls, and had the great joy of seeing several who for years had been wandering away from the Lord fully restored. Three young men, upon whose hearts the Lord has specially laid the burden of souls, gather every day for an hour with me around the Word of God, go visiting among the people and help in the gospel services which we have every evening. Besides this, I have again this year, as in former years, a fortnight's special Bible study and prayer with believers every afternoon from four to six o'clock. This time we have taken for our subject, "God's righteousness according to Romans," and there are from twenty to twenty-five who thus regularly come for two hours' study of the Word. We constantly show the importance, not merely of knowing the will of God from the Scriptures, but of doing His will; that every divine truth has a practical bearing in our every-day life. Thus the Lord greatly encourages us, and we commit ourselves to Him day by day. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

HOMBURG. – I feel truly thankful for the help sent, as the need and distress amongst the poor is very great, and in my own business I have suffered too much to help many. There are also the running expenses of the work, and we make no debts, thank God. The meetings are very well attended, and there is not room enough on Lord's-day evening. Our young men's class is also very well attended. In many ways we are encouraged, and have seen blessing and conversions. What with my own cares and difficulties it is wonderful how things have gone on. Kindly mention that there is a meeting here, as Christian visitors sometimes come and do not find us out for weeks. – J. E. LEONHARDT.

Echoes of Service 313 (July 1894, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, Berlin, May 9th. – Through the Lord's goodness we have been sustained and helped forward hitherto, but more than ever we are conscious of our own insufficiency, yet confident of the power of God. Of late we have been peculiarly tried by false teachers from the so-called Seventh-day Adventists coming among us in a most deceitful way, and leading astray several of our younger brethren and influencing others, before we were even aware of it. Of course this is a great trial to us, but it has taught us to lean the

more on the Lord, and more truly seek guidance and help from Him, that we may know how to instruct believers and help them to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made them free. But never before have we realised the influence of the evil one so much in {156} sending strong delusions, setting even believers at variance with one another, and thus hindering progressive work among the unsaved.

We are also anxious constantly to keep before believers the truth concerning Scriptural ministry, that no man-made forms may creep in and hinder the work of the Spirit. One is so inclined to look to man – and, of course, be disappointed – instead of to the Lord Himself, “Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” The work at our Bible-mission School is going on quietly and steadily, and our five young brethren seem anxious to be more fully taught in the Word of God; I give two hours every morning to this, and then for several hours in the afternoon they visit among the people and help in the Lord’s work.

Last Thursday some of the believers from Moabit and Charlottenburg accompanied me to Potsdam, where we met with believers of that place. We had a largely attended gospel service in one of the woods during the afternoon, and a very blessed fellowship-meeting in the evening. Since the warm weather has set in, the attendance at our evening services is not so full; still it is very satisfactory on Sunday evenings. Under the constant strain of daily work and responsibility, my dear wife and I have felt very weary of late, yet God from day to day renews our strength according to our need. Fellowship with dear Dr. Baedeker on his visit here last month was also very refreshing.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

28, *Krumme Strasse, Charlottenburg.*

Echoes of Service 314 (July 1894, Part II)

{176} GERMANY AND RUSSIA. – Dr. Baedeker earnestly bespeaks prayer for some conferences of students and others to be held in Germany during August, among whom he desires to spread any knowledge of God’s word that he has received. Afterwards he still hopes to visit prisons in Transcaucasia.

Echoes of Service 317 (September 1894, Part I)

{216} FALLEN ASLEEP. – Aug. 2nd, at Gratz, Styria, Austria, P. W. REINMUTH. The removal of this servant of Christ is one of those unexpected dealings of God which call for prayerful waiting upon Him to fulfil His own deep counsels. Austria’s need of the gospel is too well known, and our departed brother had for some years toiled diligently to spread it in Gratz and several of the provinces of Austria, the need of himself and family being met through the kindness of a Christian in this country. Convenient premises had just been completed in Gratz, in accordance with the laws of the country, which, under Romish influence, do not allow any public manifestation of gospel work. In a large room in their private dwelling accommodation had been prepared for many hearers, and other branches of work, such as caring for the sick and tract distribution, were also being enlarged, as has been mentioned in communications we have published. God’s blessing will doubtless be sought upon Mrs. Reinmuth and her family and all the work of the Lord under our departed

brother's care. Especially does it seem needful that someone well instructed in the truth should be raised up to fill Herr Reinmuth's place.

Echoes of Service 319 (October 1894, Part I)

{240} RUSSIA. – Dr. Baedeker writes gratefully of large and good gospel meetings in Frankfort and other cities. At Gratz he felt that a great blank had been made by the removal of our brother Reinmuth. He is now hastening to Odessa, hoping to arrive there early in October, and to cross the Black Sea to visit the sufferers who are on his heart. He says, "I make my count on the prayers of the Lord's remembrancers."

Echoes of Service 320 (October 1894, Part II)

{247} GRATZ, AUSTRIA. – Mrs. Reinmuth desires us to mention that there is every prospect of all the work of her departed husband being carried on and extended, as it was in his heart that it might be. She says that a faithful servant of the Lord, a returned Indian missionary, is about to take it up. The nursing of poor sick Christians will also be continued in the nursing home. These are all the particulars we have received, but we are thankful that in that dark land the light of the gospel will still spread from Gratz, and we may ask God that His word may in all things be faithfully followed.

Echoes of Service 321 (November 1894, Part I)

{264} CHARLOTTENBURG. – After many wanderings, chiefly in the northern parts of England and in Scotland, I have safely returned home, and am thankful to find the work of the Lord sustained and prospered during my absence. The believers have kept faithful, and several converts have been added, though at the Moabit meeting we are losing quite a number on account of removal to other districts, where I trust they will bear their testimony to the truth of God. Difficulties, nevertheless, abound and seem in many respects greater than ever, yet we look to the Lord by faith, strengthened through our experience hitherto, and in His name we go forward. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 323 (December 1894, Part I)

{278}

FRANCE.

Die, October 30th. – Since I wrote in July, I went with Mrs. Bird to Männedorf, and also visited Zurich, the centre of the German-Swiss reformation. There are many Christians,

but, from what I heard, sectarianism prevails. At Bienne, where I spent a Lord's-day, the brethren received me with much love. {...} W. BIRD.

Quartier de Pluviannes, Die, Drôme.

Echoes of Service 328 (February 1895, Part II)

{55} CHARLOTTENBURG, BERLIN, *December 29th.* – Both at Moabit and Charlottenburg as well as in Potsdam the work of the Lord continues to prosper; still we feel most anxious that people should not merely come and listen, but receive the message and yield loving obedience unto the Lord. Infidelity and utter indifference to the claims of God and His love abound all around. Many of our so-called educated people are, like Zaccheus, high up in the tree, but not obedient to the call of the Lord to come down to where He is and to learn of Him. The working-classes are taken up with the cares and anxieties of the present life, and most of the men belong to social democratic clubs and societies, so that they care not for the things of God. Our confidence is in the Living God, who for fourteen years now has upheld and kept us here, miraculously, to the praise of His name, and has enabled us in some feeble measure to testify to the power of His grace. He has also given us the joy of seeing a good many turn unto the Lord and lead a life of faith and obedience to Him. Kept by Him we desire to go onward, gratefully, humbly, ready to serve or to suffer as He sees best for us. Truly we can say: Hitherto the Lord hath helped us, and henceforth we will trust Him and not be afraid. You will be glad to hear that the work in the hands of our sister Fraulein von Blücher also continues to increase. I have heard that Dr. Baedeker has safely arrived in Berlin from his tour through Russia and Finland, and that he hopes to spend a week or so among us. – JULIUS ROHRBACH.

Echoes of Service 331 (April 1895, Part I)

{82}

GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, Berlin, February 15th. – For the past three or four months we have experienced much of the Lord's favour in blessing the testimony at each of our halls, and a number of conversions to God have of late come to our notice. Some who had been the slaves of drink and the terror of their families, are now in their right minds, praising the Lord for what He has done. We are the more thankful for such mani- {83} fest proofs of the Lord's gracious presence among us, as the masses around us live in utter indifference to the claims of God, and many openly declare Christianity to be a failure, whilst we can prove to them that man without the Lord Jesus Christ is a failure, and becomes a "success" only as He yields himself to the Lord.

At our last monthly fellowship meeting in Charlottenburg we had the joy of receiving ten into the fellowship of the children of God. During the past week I had the joyful privilege of baptizing ten believers from Berlin, Charlottenburg and Potsdam, in fellowship with a buried and risen Saviour. Early in January we had the pleasure of a visit from dear Dr. Baedeker, who preached the gospel at Charlottenburg to a large and appreciative audience. He gave most of his time to the blessed work of the Lord committed to our sister

Fraulein Blücher, where I also preach once or twice a month, as much as time and strength allow. Through all the *very* severe cold we have been kept well with our family; our daily visiting has brought me into contact with much need and suffering, and I am glad to say, some of our poor but believing people have helped others in greater need.

Once a month we have a missionary meeting at each of our halls, when we remember the servants of God in other countries. This month we remembered especially the African parties. What a wonderful bond is fellowship in prayer! May the Lord keep us watching, waiting, working for Him till He come.

JULIUS ROHRBACH.

28, *Krumme Str.*, Charlottenburg, Berlin.

Echoes of Service 338 (July 1895, Part II)

{183} STRASSBURG, *June 27th.* – I have been delayed already, and my dates are being shifted on account of the many open doors in Germany, and the many, many who are longing for the gospel. I would rejoice to feed the {184} hungry in Germany if Russia had not stronger claims. At Frankfort we had large meetings every day. On Lord's-day the feast was spread with dear Leonhardt at Homburg and a goodly company. On Monday an all-day Conference at Darmstadt; many brethren and sisters assembled and several believing pastors. Tuesday, a happy full time at Heidelberg; a Bible-reading in Mrs. Nickle's school for English girls. To-morrow I hope to arrive in Stuttgart, then on to Salzburg, Vienna and Warsaw. Pray that the way may be opened as I go forward, day by day. An interpreter for Poland has offered, also one for Russia. Praise the Lord. Isa. xl. 29–31.

F. W. BAEDEKER.

Echoes of Service 347 (December 1895, Part I)

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GERMANY.

A Recent Visit by Colonel Macgregor.

I have lately returned from spending about six weeks in Germany – a month in Homburg and a fortnight or so in Berlin.

I am rejoiced to say that the work in *Homburg* is going on most satisfactorily. There are now over thirty believers in fellowship; a good many young people have been recently converted, and seem very earnest. We found the meeting for worship on Sunday morning at 10.0 very refreshing.

There is now a small Sunday-school from 2.0 to 3.0 p.m., and a men's Bible-reading from 3.0 to 4.0 p.m. At the gospel meeting at 8.0 there were from fifty to seventy each Sunday evening we were there, although it was the height of the season, when it is very difficult to get the people, as they are so busy. In winter, I am told that the enlarged room, which now holds 200, is quite full.

On our last Sunday there was a *Waldfest*. About forty or fifty of us went out about two miles to the edge of the woods, and after partaking of coffee, etc., we had a gospel-meeting. From 150 to 200 persons were present, some from a fashionable restaurant close by, and some from a neighbouring Roman Catholic village. Open-air preaching, as such, not being

allowed in Germany, it was very cheering to have such an opportunity of preaching the gospel to so many, who certainly would not enter the meeting-room. Our time with these dear brethren at Homburg was very pleasant, and we thank God for the progress the work is making, and for the grace given to our brother Leonhardt, upon whom a good deal of the burden, both spiritually and financially, still rests.

At *Berlin* we visited our brother Rohrbach in Charlottenburg, where he lives, and had the privilege of breaking bread with the little company at Moabit, about twenty-five or thirty being present. It was a most happy meeting. Our {284} brother needs our sympathy and prayers, as the burden of the work, especially in a pecuniary sense, must be heavy.

On the Sunday afternoon I went to see Fräulein von Blücher, who is carrying on a good work. I found her in her Sunday-school of some 300 to 400 children, after which there were to be Bible-classes for both young men and young women (separately). She invited us to tea with some of the workers, and afterwards we attended the gospel-meeting in a fine hall which she rents, and where about 300 were assembled. A dear old man gave a very clear gospel address, after which I had the privilege of saying a few words.

Fräulein von Blücher told me that she carries on the work entirely in dependence upon God; she is not wealthy, but the Lord supplies all her needs in answer to prayer.

Our last Sunday we spent in Hanover, where, with the exception of a small Baptist and another very small evangelical meeting, we could not find any special work for God, though doubtless He has His people also in that large worldly city.

4, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin, 19th October.

R. H. MACGREGOR.

Echoes of Service 350 (January 1896, Part II)

{19}

GERMANY.

MR. HAMER BROADBENT'S VISIT.

Berlin, *December 10th*, 1895. – Having had pressing requests to stir up prayer for believers in this neighbourhood, I send a short account of some of our brethren and their labours here, more especially of those who are less generally known.

There is an increasing amount of work of different sorts done in Berlin, but the three assemblies in which we are particularly interested have their meeting-places at 58 Bremer Strasse on the north side of the city, at 28 Krumme Str. in Charlottenburg, a large suburb on the N.W., and at 81 Hohenstaufen Str. on the west side. The two former are those with which our brother Mr. Rohrbach is specially connected, he and his wife having been the means of commencing them, and having laboured diligently in them to the present time. Our sister Miss von Blücher bears the same relationship to the last named of the three meetings. In these assemblies the gospel testimony is maintained with much zeal, and is continually blessed to the conversion of sinners. The gospel meetings are always filled, and we can hardly over-estimate their value in this large and needy city. The chief need in the assemblies seems to be of helpers who would patiently and regularly give instruction in the word of God{.} There are many in fellowship who have but little acquaintance with the Scriptures, and there are practices which cannot fail to be a hindrance to the growth of those within and to their testimony towards those outside. At the same time there is an entire willingness to learn, and if brethren were raised up among them or sent to them, who would take their part in supplying this lack, there seems every reason to expect that much

blessing would result from their work. This might well be made a special matter of prayer. Also we should give thanks for so much which has been accomplished through the long continued service here of Mr. and Mrs. Rohrbach and those who help with them, and that the exceptional gifts and abilities of Miss von Blücher should have been devoted to the work of the Lord here, and accompanied by such abundant blessing.

A little meeting for gospel preaching has been commenced in the neighbouring town of Spandau, in connection with Hohenstaufen Str., and there have been conversions – notably that of a drunkard, in whose rooms the meetings are now held.

At the well-known town of Potsdam, near to Berlin, our brother Mr. Geier, who was converted in the meetings at Moabit, and afterwards removed to Potsdam, commenced work a few years ago. There is now an assembly of about fifty in fellowship, and an excellent and most promising work is going on. This assembly is specially interesting as being self-supporting, and not having received in any way help from England, though all in fellowship are poor people. Mr. Geier is a gifted man, well instructed in the Scriptures, and able in helping others. Potsdam is a great centre of Lutheranism, consequently these brethren have special difficulties and need our prayers.

They have commenced a weekly gospel meeting in Nowawes, a neighbouring village, and a good company of them walk over there every Friday evening.

The Mark Brandenburg, the province in which Berlin is situated, is a great plain of as pure sand as you would find on the sea shore. A great part of it is covered by extensive forests, chiefly pine, and there are numerous large and deep lakes. There are scarcely any towns of importance, but the whole plain is dotted over with little villages. A large proportion of these villages appear to be utterly destitute of any gospel testimony.

At Langerwisch, a village of 300 inhabitants, about two hours' walk through the forest from Potsdam, our young brother and sister Mr. and Mrs. Krop have recently gone to live. He is a gifted gospel preacher, a tailor by trade, and his wife an efficient helper, both of them in fellowship at Potsdam. They have not been able to find {20} a single converted person in the village. They have commenced a Sunday-school, and we cannot but be thankful that they have been led out there, and pray that they may be sustained at their lonely post.

Two hours' walk from them, on the other side of the Havel, is the village of Geltow, where there live two brethren and one sister, also from Potsdam, who are the only believers in their village. They hold meetings sometimes, but have not yet seen any fruit, and are somewhat discouraged, but their appreciation of a visit more than repays any difficulty in reaching them.

The assembly in Charlottenburg seems stirred to consider the needs of the villages, and it is to be hoped that having begun to pray for them they will soon go out and preach in them.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

AUSTRIA.

From the city of Gratz, Styria, we used now and again to hear from Mr. Reinmuth, who unexpectedly fell asleep in August, 1894. His widow is still serving there, and Mr. Cejnar is doing evangelistic work, while also visiting other parts of Austria-Hungary. Dr. Clark of Buda-pesth sends a translation of a letter from Mr. Cejnar, which shows that he seeks to take the light of the gospel into very dark places, for which we thank God, though in some respects he would not see with us, as to the bearing of Scripture.

VISITS TO CROATIA AND HUNGARY.

In the past months, besides my regular work in Gratz, I have been privileged to take the gospel message twice to Croatia and once to Hungary.

{...}

Several short journeys in Styria have been much blessed. In all directions there is need of earnest work guided by the Holy Spirit, and everywhere one may find open doors. Will not many join in sincere prayer that our gracious Lord may send more labourers? The Lord is near and is gathering His people from every nation. May we watch and pray that our Saviour may find us ready. To His name be all the praise.

Gratz, Austria.

W. Cejnar.

Echoes of Service 353 (March 1896, Part I)

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AUSTRIA.

Vienna, February 5th. – The Lord's leading came to me in unexpected ways. I had planned to return to England by this time, when first came a letter from Vienna asking me to hold meetings there. This proposal I felt free to put aside as not within my beaten path. About ten days later, whilst I was in St. Petersburg, a second invitation urged me not to leave the continent without visiting Bohemia. This I still declined, but another call came from Buda-Pesth and yet another from Gratz, the latter being repeated. Then I could no longer refuse to seriously consider these demands, and spread them before the Lord, in the meanwhile asking my dear wife what she thought of a prolonged absence. Now all the circumstances concur in convincing me that these calls are an indication that it is God's will for me to visit Austria.

From Berlin I went to Leipzig, Blankenburg in Thuringia, Frankfurt, Heidelberg and Stuttgart, in all of which I found open doors and eager listeners to the gospel. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. H. Broadbent in Stuttgart, where they find willing hearts to receive their testimony.

On arriving here I find that the days have been mapped out, and I have to look to the Lord for supplying His message for each day and opportunity. I am happy to find that there is a good measure of unity amongst the various sections of Christians in this R.C. land. There are signs of blessing in this busy city, yet it is indeed the day of small things.

I hope to remain in Vienna till February 9th, to go then to Gratz for a week and thence to Buda-Pesth. Hungary is a very fine country, and the people generally are kindly disposed, but concerning the gospel they are sadly ignorant and neglected. Wherever a witness is found to make known the gospel of Christ he or she meets with great encouragement. A dear brother, a converted Jew in Slavonia, has twice urged me to come and help in his work. Another brother itinerates in Carinthia and Styria, and finds many open doors and hearts. Two sisters began a Sunday-school not far from the city of Pressburg, but they soon found that adults wanted their teaching as much as the children, and some very precious fruit has been found of their patient labour. Two young men have already entered the field, and labour amongst their own people with blessed results.

Hungary will this year celebrate its thousand years' jubilee, and there will be a very grand display of national pride of success. Should not this opportunity be taken for a demonstration to the glory of the Lord Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords? Evangelists might easily find interpreters who would be glad to convey their messages to the Hungarian people.

The evangelist Cejnar, who occupies at Gratz the place of departed Br. Reinmuth, has taken a step in the right direction in hiring a hall in the centre of the city, which is more

accessible than the house which was built in the neighbourhood of the residences of the upper classes.

From Buda-Pesth my route will take me back to Vienna and thence to Prague, where there are very many open doors, chiefly amongst Czechs. *F. W. Baedeker.*

Echoes of Service 354 (March 1896, Part II)

{83}

GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, February 8th. – We have had very much to encourage us of late. I have been visiting a good deal, and there has been quite a wave of blessing. At each of our halls we have had very good gospel meetings, with cheering results in conversions; and an earnest spirit of prayer and faith is manifested among the believers. We have had with us dear Dr. Baedeker, whose testimony was greatly blessed, and for whose visit I was specially thankful, as, through his long acquaintance with our work here, he is able to enter more intelligently and sympathetically into our peculiar difficulties.

My dear daughter is very much helped in her work among young women; she gathers some twenty every Sunday at Moabit, and about forty regularly at Charlottenburg for the study of the Word. Last week I had the privilege of baptizing four believers at Charlottenburg, and next week several more will follow at Moabit, whilst the brethren at Potsdam, who now have their own baptistry in the hall, have of late baptized a good many upon their profession of faith. Within the last three weeks two of our sisters in the Lord entered into rest, triumphing through Christ, and we had solemn services at the hall and the open grave. The masses around are indifferent; the Lutheran Church is greatly opposed, the more so as they find us in real earnest and prospering, but we are upheld by God's gracious hand, a wonder to many as well as to ourselves.

26th. – There is a great fright here through incendiarism. Many public buildings and schools have been threatened, and during the last three weeks some thirty houses have been set fire to. We took matters quietly and in prayer, but thought it wise to look through every corner, and discovered some wood saturated with petroleum under the roof of the Hall, and people have been seen to go over the roof. Policemen and watchmen seem to be powerless, but we commit ourselves to the Lord.

28, Krumme Str., Charlottenburg.

Julius Rohrbach.

AUSTRIA.

A friend sends a paper which contains the translation of a circular from one of the Provincial Governors of Russia warning against F. W. B. and his interpreter as Protestant propagandists, forbidding their holding meetings, and directing that they are to be secretly watched. How far this may hinder Dr. B.'s prison service we know not, but we may be thankful that he has been allowed to continue it for so many years, with the approval of many Russian officials.

Buda-Pesth, February 17th. – The Austrian Empire is a land of great possibilities, although there are very strict regulations to be observed. {84} The law does not allow public meetings, but it allows people to be invited by card – the name being written on it – to a private dwelling, inhabited by the person who invites. A written list has to be kept of the invited guests. Another mode of proceeding is, to form a society under certain rules and with certain defined objects, which have to obtain the sanction of the Government. If these

regulations are complied with a great amount of liberty of action may be secured for holding public meetings, which may be advertised, by distributing papers, for instructing young people in religious and moral subjects, and for holding singing classes and meetings for prayer. Observing the letter of the law great success has attended the preaching of the gospel in Bohemia and in other parts of the Empire, large assemblies having been gathered by converts from the darkness of Roman superstition. Dr. Clark and Mr. Cejnar have recently obtained the sanction for the rules of such a society. Cejnar lives with his family in a dwelling that contains three large rooms, which may be joined into one. Last night I held the first public lecture in this hall at Gratz. The subject of my address had to be stated; it was *Light, Love, Life*, and I had the great joy under this title to preach a full gospel to a large and grateful audience.

19th. – On Monday evening I had a good time here in the large Baptist chapel, and last night a crowded meeting in a large school-room belonging to the minister of the Free Church of Scotland, Pastor A. Moody. There is much room in this free country (Hungary) for the gospel, and many evangelists, speaking German, would find great openings. I hope to go to Franzfeld in South Hungary, return hither, visit Prague (Bohemia) afterwards, and go *viâ* Dresden to Frankfurt-on-Maine, before returning to England.

The Hungarian Millennial Festival begins on May 1st. When will the Millennial reign of The Coming Lord begin? The Hungarians look back on the past; we look forward to the future.

F. W. Baedeker

Echoes of Service 359 (June 1896, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Berlin, April 16th. – Weeks have again passed since I wrote – weeks filled with blessed work for the Lord, as well as with blessed trial of faith and patience.

Our mothers' meeting at Moabit celebrated its fifteenth anniversary, and, in the absence of my dear wife, Miss von Blücher spoke to the mothers words of life and cheer. On Easter Monday believers gathered in happy fellowship at Moabit. At Charlottenburg, a few weeks ago, we had a Sunday-school public meeting for parents, teachers and children, which proved very helpful, and some parents who had never been at our meetings before came under the influence of the gospel. Last, not least, we celebrated the thirteenth anniversary of the work in the hands of our sister Miss von Blücher, which God has most remarkably honoured and blest. Some 400 friends were present, and all the brethren who spoke gave glory to God for what He has done. Our sister was brought to the Lord through Dr. Baedeker, just twenty-one years ago. I am preaching the gospel two or three times a month at her mission hall.

The work at Potsdam continues also to flourish. Last week I went over there, and had the great joy of hearing that about thirty newly converted ones had been baptized by our brother during this past winter. My dear wife is still in England, but expects soon to return. Our children are well, and my eldest daughter is a comfort, and a most valuable help in the home and in the work among the young women.

May 9th. – Open-air preaching is not allowed here, but talks with men, several of them standing in a group together, cannot be hindered. Love of sin, ignorance of the gospel, opposition to existing churches and systems, are the chief reasons for their indifference to spiritual realities. But it often requires more tact and grace to speak to them in this way

than to publicly preach the truth. I have sought conversation with Social Democrats and others who are not only indifferent but opposed to the word of God. Hitherto the Lord has helped us, and we trust He will give abundance of spiritual blessings in the conversion of many and the strengthening of His own. We want to use all diligence in every way.

28, *Krumme Str., Charlottenburg.*

Julius Rohrbach.

Echoes of Service 362 (July 1896, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, June 12th. – Though of late the heat has been very great, the attendance at the meetings has been very satisfactory; on several occasions we went out to the woods near Berlin and held open-air meetings; whilst several of our brethren and myself spoke, others distributed tracts and entered into conversation with some who had been caught by the Word. We know this labour is not in vain, though we may not see immediate results. Besides the regular gospel work and pastoral care I have done a good deal of visiting in places where any Bible truth had scarcely ever been brought, and where Social Democracy held its terrible sway over men and women; I find the women far more difficult to reach than the men, for these do enter into sensible con- {212} versation and give their reasons for not caring for Christian instruction. They don't want to be pitied or ruled, but to be understood; and after patient dealing with some, I have found them opening up to the word of God, and they afterwards attended our gospel meetings. But the indifference and general opposition of the masses is terrible, and one requires constant new supplies of grace, wisdom and patience in seeking to minister Christ to them. **J. Rohrbach.**

28, *Krumme Str., Charlottenburg, Berlin.*

Stuttgart, June 24th. – The meeting which was started when Mr. H. Broadbent was here is in a district entirely inhabited by Socialists, Democrats and Freethinkers, so that it cannot be said that it was an entering upon other Christians' spheres of labour. In fact nothing had been done amongst the 6,000 people in Ostheim, a suburb of Stuttgart.

My son went last Sunday from house to house, inviting many to the evening meetings, and the result was a room quite filled. The Sunday-school has increased considerably of late, and when I gave an address to the children in the afternoon they behaved as well as the best schools in England.

Those who have united to meet together in the name of the Lord alone are very few, but they are godly young men who bear a good testimony for Him by their lives.

My dear wife feels somewhat better of late, and I am daily getting stronger, through the Lord's goodness. **G. A. Eoll.**

5, *Alexander Strasse, Stuttgart.*

Echoes of Service 363 (August 1896, Part I)

{240} **The Continent.** – Mr. Hamer Broadbent is again visiting Germany and Austria, where from different causes many believers are unsettled in their thoughts, and help in

rightly dividing the word of God is greatly needed. May God guide as to whether he should give himself to work on the Continent, and remove there with his wife and little one. Mr. Max Isaac Reich is also about to start for Berlin to see his Jewish relatives, and to visit believers in different parts, having in mind that his wife and family should follow if the Lord so leads. For this prospect of service to believers in European {sic} lands we thank the Lord.

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RUSSIA.

ARMENIANS AND STUNDISTS.

I am asked to meet some German and Swiss brethren at Frankfort, to consult about the best way of ministering to the sore needs of the Armenians, and thence I go to Blankenburg in Thuringia. We may pay a visit to Berlin, and about the end of September return to England (D.V.). A further journey I have in contemplation for October, and shall greatly value the prayers of the Lord's remembrancers.

{...}

Wart-Eck, Weston-super-Mare, August 11th.

F. W. Baedeker.

{260}

GERMANY.

Homburg, August 10th. – Most of the young people in our classes are converted, and some are serving the Lord in small ways. Some begin to open the mouth in preaching now and again; some in Sunday-school work; some distribute tracts weekly, and so on. We lately had a good *forest* meeting; some 250 to 300 were present. There have been four of these meetings, and I believe they have been a blessing.

A great work could be done in this country if the right men were here. I know many open doors, but so far I have not been able to get about much. We have a field for labour here, and the fruits are ripe for gathering, but I feel personally as if the work had outgrown my strength in some respects.

J. E. Leonhardt.

Homburg v. d. Höhe.

Notes. – Mr. *Eoll*, who is now at 5 Alexander Strasse, Stuttgart, writes that much sickness in his family delays his coming to England. Mr. *Max Isaac Reich* in carrying out his purpose of visiting Germany reached Leipzig, Aug. 1, and was warmly welcomed by some Christians there, whose fellowship had hitherto been much restricted, and work was also opening up in the neighbourhood. He was “not posing as an agent of an ecclesiastical ‘party,’ but seeking to *attract to Christ.*”

Echoes of Service 366 (September 1896, Part II)

{275}

GERMANY.

Copenhagen, September 2nd. – You may be glad of a few lines from me giving some tidings of my Continental journeys for Christ. I am now in Denmark, having left Germany last

Monday. For opportunities afforded me in Germany for the spread of the truth I am thankful. In Leipzig I found much that gave joy, and returned there after making some other visits. There appears to be a real interest in the gospel in that important city. Though it is in Catholic Saxony, and the hall is reached through a court, and is over a yard, and three stories high, the place was always full, rain or shine. The last night I was there I had the unspeakable joy of meeting with three young men who had, to all appearance, really accepted Christ as Saviour and Lord. Had time permitted I would gladly have stayed longer.

My next halting-place was Potsdam, where a Mr. Geier, converted in Moabit, and several brethren in fellowship with Mr. Rohrbach have laboured for some years. There is an earnest {276} congregation there, though they do not break bread regularly. But the believers will, I trust, grow in the understanding and enjoyment of the mind of God.

At Berlin I enjoyed the truly Christian hospitality of Mr. Rohrbach's home, and had many opportunities of helping in Charlottenburg and Moabit, where I found young believers and anxious souls. I trust the visit was not in vain. I made the round of my relatives, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc., in Berlin, to tell them of the grace that has saved me and identified me with the Lord Jesus Christ. They all, without a single exception, received me kindly. But their thoughts were not mine as to almost any subject. To my great joy I found, in spite of the spiritual death, two seeking souls, who listened to the simple truth of the gospel for the first time in their lives, and two others were also exercised, I trust, even so far as to come to the meeting on Sunday evening. I am positive there will be results in the day of Christ.

On the whole, I think there is an ever widening door of testimony in Germany. But the lack is the ministry of men who have learned from God's word that *conversion is not everything*, nor baptism, but that there is a distinct path for the saints to walk in, in some feeble measure an answer on their part to the mighty grace that has formed them into one body with all the redeemed on earth, a body whose Head is the glorified Christ in heaven. What many Christians have enjoyed in the British Isles for the last sixty years is but feebly known in Germany.

Now that I am in Denmark I cast myself afresh upon the grace that is ever deeper than the faith that draws upon it, counting on the intercession of saints. **M. I. Reich.**

c/o Herr Thos. English, Axelius 2a, Köbenhavn, Denmark.

Prussia. – A Conference of believers from a good many assemblies fairly scriptural in character is to be held this month in Westphalia, and Mr. H. Broadbent, having been invited, hopes to attend.

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GERMANY.

THE SPECIAL NEED OF GERMAN CHRISTIANS.

The gifts assigned for Armenians I hope to send to my Armenian friend at Constanta. There is now much sympathy called out for their unhappy land, and sums of money for them are the expression of it; but my friend is doing a quiet and greatly needed work amongst the refugees at Constanta.

I returned last Saturday from a fortnight's visits in various places, finding open doors everywhere, and warm receptions from brethren at Düsseldorf and Neukirchen. There are in many parts of Germany signs of a revival, and it would be a joy if I could respond to many invitations from various places; as it is, I can only meet a few of the demands. German Christians greatly need teaching in the word of God, and this should be done with much love and patience, and without pressing for results as to mode of worship. Much harm has been done by pressing on Germans truths for which they were not prepared, and thus a number of narrow meetings have been formed in the past without the vitality to be found among English Christians. Germany will have its own development, and believers will doubtless find their way out of the bondage of tradition and false teaching. The full gospel of the *grace of God* is the God-appointed remedy for much that is contrary to the mind of God. There are in many places revived Christians in the Lutheran and other systems who do not yet see their way, but I maintain that development should be spontaneous and not forced. Any exclusive spirit will only hinder growth, and discourage instead of helping forward.

My intention is to visit Berlin, return to England October 8th, and go once again to Russia, leaving England by the end of November, visiting Holland and Hungary on the way.

Blankenburg, Sept. 21st.

F. W. Baedeker.

Berlin, August 24th. – The Lord opened the way for me to be here and work in the Exhibition, where there are so many Arabs, and also in the hall outside, where there are gospel meetings every day. The work in the Exhibition is in no way easy, as people come from North Africa here to “show themselves” and to “make money”{.} But I found one – a policeman – who was many years with a missionary doing itinerating work, and as far as one can see is truly converted. The missionary died, and his poor servant is wandering from place to place seeking to do something for his living{.} Among the Roman Catholics there is a dear lad with a sweet look, and a face telling of an indwelling peace that the world cannot give or take away. It is always a joy to meet him. The sheikh of all these Moslems took a New Testament, then wanted the whole Bible, and we have been reading together and talking; but he seems to think more of getting some advantage out of it than earnestly seeking the truth. It is now much more difficult to have a talk with the Arabs than at the beginning. They seem to have no time for anything but their work and pleasure. One of them was very insulting because in the “book” I had given to another there was nothing about Mohammed. He said I was a dangerous man, and that he had taken the book, and put it into the fire. However, a few days later I found that man, and had a long conversation with him, which he afterwards repeated to some Negroes and Arabs.

The work in the hall is a glorious one. There are conversions in every after-meeting, and I could tell of many cases of changed lives among people of all classes. One of the features of the conversions is that people abandon their sins and their old companions *at once*, and boldly confess their newly-found Saviour. They also help in the meetings, by inviting people and bringing friends and relatives into the hall.

S. Wasserzug.

{310} **Germany, September 19th.** – I came to England feeling the absolute need of a little rest and change. It is also good for the dear believers in Berlin that I should occasionally leave them, as they then feel their responsibility the more. During the summer the good attendance at the meetings has well kept up, and occasional visits from brethren have much cheered us. The visit of Mr. Reich was much blessed, especially at Moabit and Charlotten-

burg, where the Lord gave him much power and joy. It was also refreshing to myself and our family, and to the visitors at our home, to have our brother with us for a week. We are always thankful for the visits of experienced brethren and the believers here value their testimony.

Julius Rohrbach.

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SPAIN.

A VISIT TO SWITZERLAND FROM SPAIN.

Corunna, September 25th. – In Switzerland I found myself amongst a people who are so simple, and ready to receive any message from the Lord, that it was delightful to have little times with them over the Scriptures. The Lord greatly refreshed my own soul, whilst He gave me the privilege of watering others in my own tongue.

I staved at Bienne six weeks, and then my sister came from the north of Germany, and we went into German Switzerland, where my brother-in-law laboured for the Lord twenty years ago. The villagers received us with open hearts and houses, and for about a month we had thus precious opportunities of serving the Lord in Berner Oberland, working our way up to Zürich where we have some distant relatives. Again the Lord gave me precious opportunities, and I was able to give a little Bible lesson every evening to a number of servants.

Along the Zürich lake we visited some dear simple folk who took a most intelligent interest in the Scriptures, and in one place the love they showed to us in remembrance of my brother-in-law surprised me, though he left those parts for the north of Germany eleven years ago, and they {324} heartily invited me to come again. In the Canton Aargan {sic} a lady eighty years old called her neighbours together, that they might be helped, and when we parted it was touching indeed.

In German Switzerland I did not find any believers meeting simply in the Lord's name; once my sister took me to a gentleman who she thought would be one with me, but when he found who I was he rained upon me charges of heresy, and I could only tell him how grieved I was that children of God could not talk about anything better when they met. The ladies of the house heartily wished me God-speed and blessing in His service, and I think he was a little ashamed when he found I was too much occupied with better things to enter into his miserable questions.

Mr. Chesterman, I am sorry to say, seems tired and overworked. I took Mrs. Chesterman's Bible class yesterday, an interesting group of young and older women; the women's prayer-meeting was a good season, too. There are several afflicted and suffering in the congregation. Miss Esther Clapton is a great comfort to Mr. and Mrs. Chesterman, and their children seem to walk in the fear of the Lord.

Marie E. Gieser.

Echoes of Service 370 (November 1896, Part II)

{348} **Berlin.** – Mr. S. Wasserzug sent some further details of work in this city. Not a few young men of the Y.M.C.A. professed conversion, and also several persons at the Exhibition Hall. To show the reality of these conversions he mentions two cases. One woman, the wife

of a working man, brought £1, saying she intended to buy a winter jacket, but would make her old one do. A widow similarly brought £1 instead of purchasing a dress, and wished to give her own and her husband's wedding rings; these were not accepted, but she afterwards gave them away for the Lord's work in Berlin. Returning to London, Mr. Wasserzug was united in marriage on October 12th to Miss B. Roberts, who, like himself, was formerly occupied in service to the Lord in Tunis. They desire prayer for guidance as to a place of service.

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{378}

“WHOSE FAITH FOLLOW.”

{...}

We had meetings in an old theatre in Woking last week, and in the splendid New Public Hall this week. But I cast longing looks back to the greedy audiences I was helped to minister to in Germany and Denmark, where the truth of God, which has illuminated and emancipated so many in the British Isles for over sixty years, has made but slow and feeble progress. I think I see days of blessing ahead in the providence of God for those lands. But better still – “the Bright and Morning Star!” – HIMSELF is ever better than *His service*; His COMPANY ever sweeter than His *work*.

21, Louvaine Road, St. John's Hill, S.W., November 19th.

M. I. Reich.

Echoes of Service 374 (January 1897, Part II)

{22}

SWITZERLAND.

Our beloved brother Dr. Baedeker left us yesterday morning for Geneva, purposing to visit also Berne, Neuchâtel, Constance, and then Austria, Roumania, Odessa and the Caucasus. Had it been possible we would have kept him much longer with us, and many in other places were eager for a visit from him. Occasionally he seemed tired, but his speaking and visits and conversation were always with much sweetness and freshness and power of the Holy Ghost. On his heart, among other subjects, were the power of God in the gospel to raise up a man out of sin and himself and make him His child in Christ; separation unto God; unfeigned love to the Lord and to the brethren, and love for souls; and he beautifully blended with these some of his experiences in visiting both those who are suffering for righteousness' sake and for crime. We thank the Lord that we can see fruit, and our prayers follow this dear servant of the Lord, that He will be a sanctuary unto him in all countries where he may go, and a wall of fire round about him. It is a joy and blessing to have dear General Halliday here. He visits my dear wife in the afternoons of the Lord's-day. She is able to walk a little with help, and often goes out in a bath-chair, which a kind friend has placed altogether at our disposal. I am daily expecting to hear from our brother Honywill.

Les Baumes, La Tour de Peitz, Switzerland, Dec. 15th.

J. Henry Hake.

ROUMANIA.

Constanta, *December 26th.* – Hitherto I have been enabled to carry out my programme. The time I spent in Switzerland was fully occupied to the very last day. At Vevey beloved General Halliday and Mr. Hake were great helps, and fellowship with them was very refreshing to my own soul. I am thankful for such brooks by the way. Passing through Vienna and Buda-pest, not without testimony, I came to Bukarest and thence to Constanta, where I arrived on the 24th. {...}

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F. W. Baedeker.

Echoes of Service 378 (March 1897, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Freienwalde am Oder, *January 30th.* – We are here again after a stay in Berlin of three weeks instead of one only as we thought. The first week I had meetings in Y.M.C.A. We had also every morning a drawing-room Bible-reading in a friend's house. It is quite surprising to find such hunger for God's word in the higher classes. The two next weeks we had meetings in a hall, being the continuation of last summer's meetings, held in connection with the Exhibition; we saw there a number of those who had been converted last year, bright and consistent in their life and seeking to win others. It was a delight to be there again, and see some new faces, too. I had also two meetings in Count Bernstorff's hall, in another part of Berlin (west end). The second meeting was a glorious one. The way to Tunis being still closed, we are waiting upon the Lord with regard to going to Palestine, so as to be able to make use of our knowledge of Arabic.

S. Wasserzug.

c/o Colonel von Hochstetter, Malche, Freienwalde a/Oder.

{94} **Austria.** – The work in the Lord's vineyard in this country and particularly in the capital is very, very difficult, but we count upon the promise of our Saviour that He will not leave us, and to Him is given all power in heaven and on earth, including poor Austria. We believe that the time is coming when the walls around Jericho will fall. Until then we must faithfully make the gospel trumpet heard. For this may the Lord give us grace and help. You will no doubt remember the work in your prayers. Indeed we need power from on high that we may stand fast and confess the Lord, and be both light and salt in our surroundings.

W. C.

Echoes of Service 379 (April 1897, Part I)

{112} **Homburg**, *March 9th.* – During my absence for a while the meeting-room every Sunday night was so well filled that no more space could be found. The Sunday-school and young men's and young women's classes are very well attended, and I think the place will soon be too small again. Our landlord would no doubt enlarge our place by pulling down the walls, and would also give us two class-rooms. We wait upon God for guidance and help. My chief aim is to get him to build us a baptistry, as at present our difficulties are

great in this matter. At Frankfort also a new meeting has been commenced. We hope for times of blessing in this country.

Schöne Aussicht, 2, Homburg v. d. Höhe.

J. E. Leonhardt.

Echoes of Service 381 (May 1897, Part I)

{144} **Charlottenburg, March 18th.** – Day by day the powers of the evil one are realised all around us, and yet the Lord's power is seen conquering all. The gospel services are well attended, and the Bible classes, which are my special delight, are bearing fruit in many hearts and homes. Last week Mrs. Rohrbach had the sixteenth anniversary of the mothers' meeting at Moabit, and it was very encouraging to see one after another able to tell out what the Lord had done for them. A fortnight ago we buried the mortal remains of a dear sister at Potsdam, whose son and two daughters are in fellowship, and last week I visited some of the believers there, and had a profitable meeting in the evening. I was so thankful to find several growing in grace and in the knowledge of God. They gather now every Lord's-day around His table. Next week we hope to have the joy of baptizing several at Charlottenburg. Mr. Broadbent called here yesterday, and we expect him again to-night at our usual meeting.

Julius Rohrbach.

Echoes of Service 382 (May 1897, Part II)

{156} **Berlin, April 30th.** – Mr. Rohrbach's translation of Mr. Caldwell's tract on *Ministry*, etc., is now out of print. It is nicely got up, and I think likely to be useful. I am distributing copies in various directions, and hope the result may indicate the desirability of reprinting it. I think it very important that suitable tracts and booklets should be circulated in this country. Our brother Adolphus Eoll in Stuttgart is having translated and printed a tract of Mr. Holiday's, *Unity by the Way of the Bible*. Mr. Rohrbach has heartily consented to take part in a series of meetings of elder brethren for prayer and conference. We shall value prayer as regards this.

9 Booth Str., Grunewald, Berlin.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 385 (July 1897, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Homburg, June 7th. – Yesterday we had a very large and profitable forest meeting, which was accompanied with evident signs of blessing. Some four hundred people listened with eager attention, from four to six o'clock, to the open-air preaching. We were able to tell them about the ringleader of a set of socialists who last year desired to upset us. During the winter he was taken ill and desired to see us, and was converted, to the astonishment of his friends and the unconverted clergyman. This produced a great effect throughout the village and has done much good.

We have not procured a printing-press, as our expenses all round have increased. Our chief desire is to have a place where we can have a baptistery, as we are without one to this day, and have very great difficulties in respect of baptisms. *J. E. Leonhardt.*

Echoes of Service 386 (July 1897, Part II)

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GERMANY.

(From Herr J. Rohrbach.)

Charlottenburg, June 3rd. – During the past fortnight it has been my privilege to visit some believers and assemblies in the west of Germany, near the Rhine. I spent a happy evening with Br. Leonhardt at Homburg, and spoke to believers there about the Lord's work in Berlin and neighbourhood. As I had not seen him for twelve years I was pleased to notice the progress of the Lord's work in his hands. At Frankfort-on-the-Maine I had the joy of personal intercourse with several workers, whom hitherto I had known only by name and through correspondence. Thence I went by boat to Cologne, a thorough Roman Catholic {212} town, but the Lord has His own faithful witnesses to the truth as it is in Jesus among the masses there. Br. Bender has for over twenty-five years preached a full gospel and gathered believers to the Lord in the study of His word, with all scriptural simplicity. There is a good work going on at Mühlheim, on the Rhine, where on Lord's-day from 8.30 to 10.0 p.m. I had a fine opportunity of preaching the gospel, and telling believers about the work in Berlin. The Lord had arranged so graciously that I received hospitality from a family whose mother and daughter had been brought to the Lord at Charlottenburg some eight years ago, and of which another daughter and her husband are now in fellowship there. Going on to Düsseldorf I met a company of experienced, earnest believers, who meet simply in the name of the Lord, and among whom the ministry of dear Dr. Baedeker has been much blest in former years. At Witten and the surrounding towns and villages much gospel work is carried on by Br. Fries and his co-workers, who learn more and more of simple scriptural ways. As with individuals so with assemblies, there is much variety, all desiring to come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. I returned home just in time for the annual meeting at Potsdam. As usual, we had a fine open-air service in one of the woods near Potsdam, where Mr. Broadbent and I gave short addresses, and in the evening at the small hall several brethren from Potsdam and Charlottenburg, and one from Königsberg, now serving in the army, bore testimony to what the Lord had done for them. Mr. Broadbent has given some time to visiting in Moabit and Charlottenburg and especially at Potsdam, where he has arranged to give a series of Bible expositions on the feasts of the Lord. Last Lord's-day Mr. Rogers, of Barnet, spoke at the breaking of bread in the morning, also to a large number of lads of rather rough character, some forty to fifty of whom have during the past few weeks attended our gospel services.

Every day brings a large amount of work in teaching, visiting, preaching, etc., but the Lord graciously, in answer to prayer, directs and helps those who wait on Him.

28, Krumme Str., Charlottenburg.

Julius Rohrbach.

{224} **Married.** – {...}

June 28th, at Featherstone, JEAN E. LEONHARDT to IDA SCHNEIDER, both of Germany.

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, *July 1st.* – During the past few weeks we have held several large gospel meetings in the Grunewald, a large pine wood near Charlottenburg, where many pleasure seekers pass by, and on several occasions we had the joy of seeing their interest in the word that had been preached. A good deal of tract distribution is carried on at the same time. One of our brethren from Moabit is much helped in preaching the gospel every Lord's-day afternoon to a large concourse, averaging a thousand people, in one of the eastern suburbs of Berlin. He was a fire-brigade man, and the Lord used the faithful testimony and watchful care of our brother Howard some ten years ago to his conversion. Whilst dear H. is now laid by in suffering, the other is standing up boldly for Christ. We pray that God may be glorified in either case. Another brother, who had been a great help in the meetings here, has been called to take up the management of a sailors' home near Rügen, and to witness to the people there, and be a spiritual help to sailors.

A special feature of our gospel services at Charlottenburg is the regular attendance of some forty to fifty young men, some of the rougher sort, of whom a few already show distinct signs of an inward change, which the Spirit of God is working in them. Though some of the roughest had to be put out, yet they come again and again "to hear the word of God," as they themselves say. The work spreads in all directions – to Wilmersdorf, Lichterfelde, and other places, where the Lord gives us openings. At the same time I hold special Bible-classes, as I have done for the past twelve years regularly, with believers only, especially the young men, to prepare them for further service, by giving them a deeper insight into the varied truths of God's word.

Julius Rohrbach.

28, *Krumme Str., Charlottenburg.*

Blankenburg, *August 2nd.* – {...}

We arrived here on Saturday, after a tedious and fatiguing journey. There are openings for gospel work here and in the surrounding towns, and on August 30th the annual conference will begin, and last for four days; many guests are expected from Germany and Switzerland, and also some from England.

F. W. Baedeker.

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GERMANY.

August 19th. – Gotha has the reputation of being very dead; the clergy are rationalists, and there have not been signs of life for many years. But a lady, a native of the place and of one of the leading families, has begun a work amongst women, and this has grown larger and larger until she asked for further help. An evangelist has joined in the work and I have also two or three times visited the place, holding meetings which have been increasingly attended. The Lord has given blessing and caused inquiries to be made by many men and women. I also visited Frankfort and had meetings in several places; then Heidelberg, and had there a full meeting. Now I am at Blankenburg for the conference; it is the only one in Germany which bears the character of being simply *evangelical*. Several friends from England, Holland and Sweden are expected, as well as from various parts of Germany.

September 8th. – The Conference is over. The subject for consideration was 1 Cor. i. 30, and the power of the Lord's presence was manifest. There were visitors from England, Holland, Sweden, Russia, Switzerland and various parts of Germany. The oneness of the Body of Christ was manifested in measure, the different members all being gathered in the Lord's name.

I propose returning for a short time to England and then, in October, visiting Germany, the Baltic Provinces, Finland and Russia.

F. W. Baedeker.

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GERMANY.

Berlin, *October 2nd.* – I made another journey into Austria, from which I have just returned. I was able to visit a few little assemblies, and also isolated believers, some of whom I had visited before; of others I made the acquaintance for the first time. There was constant opportunity for holding meetings, both for preaching the gospel and helping Christians, sometimes in German, and sometimes through a German-speaking interpreter, by which one of the nationalities of another tongue was reached. Every time of visiting these districts deepens the impression of the abounding need, and also furnishes examples of the power and blessed effect of the Word. It was encouraging to find that those helped previously had spread their gain among others, so that in fresh places a testimony is springing up. But how often have they to say to themselves "Fear not, *little* flock," for they are indeed few! We are trying to get some insight into the Slavonic languages which bound us to the east and south. I hope to send specimens of pamphlets for the help of believers, which I am bringing out in German and Bohemian, and of some good gospel tracts that I have met with here.

9, Booth Str., Grunewald, Berlin.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 393 (November 1897, Part I)

{324} **Madrid**, *October 9th.* – Mrs. Payne and I returned to Barcelona on Sept. 20 after a profitable and happy time in Switzerland, where the Lord gave us a share of service, for which we praise Him. Some days I had conversations all day long, and it was very cheering to see the Lord working by the power of His Holy Spirit. We met with all kinds of people, with whom we had precious seasons over His word. Six souls professed to be saved at the house where we were staying, and it made our hearts full of praise to see in them deep sorrow for sin and afterwards true joy in the Lord. I never realized the Lord more precious to my own soul, and His word seemed very fresh and {325} beautiful. We were glad also to help sisters at Bienne to start a prayer meeting; on a pouring wet night twenty-four came together, and the Lord helped Mrs. Payne and myself to stammer an address and to pray in French. {...}

I did not move about much this year, but had a few women's Bible readings at Zürich for servants, through the influence of my relatives. I also went to Solothurn, a Catholic town, because I had met a woman from that place who, I trust, truly turned from darkness

to light after a hard battle. I went to encourage her husband that they may read and pray together daily.

{...}

Cardenal Cisneros, 57-3° Madrid.

Marie E. Gieser.

Echoes of Service 396 (December 1897, Part II)

{380} **Dr. Baedeker** found an open door in Berlin, and after other visits in Germany went on to Sweden. He hopes to go again to Finland and thence to South Russia; he pleads, as always, for true help by prayer.

Echoes of Service 397 (January 1898, Part I)

{16} **Setting Forth.** – On *Dec. 28*, Mr. and Mrs. F. Butcher, of Folkestone (previously at Bath) purpose leaving for Berlin, having in mind, after acquiring German, to labour in Austria or some German-speaking part. {...}

Echoes of Service 405 (May 1898, Part I)

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RUSSIA.

The Crimea. – I am once more at home after six months' absence, and feel the need of rest. {...}

Having met with two trustworthy Russian brethren who were willing to undertake in my stead the journey to Transkaukasia, I decided to return to Europe. I travelled by steamboat to Odessa, and, after spending some five days in that city and visiting the large prison, I took my journey direct to Berlin, and calling at Blankenburg, Dartmund {sic}, and Düsseldorf, I arrived in London April 9th.

F. W. Baedeker.

Wart-Eck, Weston-super-Mare, April 11th.

Echoes of Service 412 (August 1898, Part II)

{243}

ROUMANIA.

Two extracts from letters to Mr. E. H. Broadbent from places in this kingdom, bordering on the Black Sea, are inserted to show what a spirit of enquiry there is in Eastern Europe. {...}

Constantza. – I have received from you the pamphlet about the meeting together of the children of God simply as brethren (by Mr. d'Okolski, of Peseux, Switzerland). Many thanks for it. It seems to show a way out of the confusion of conflicting teachings; perhaps

the way which the Lord can use, in order to bring the scattered children of God in unity together.

{...}

GERMANY.

Berlin, July 18th. – There are now several places, in and about Berlin, where a simple testimony for Christ in the gospel is sought to be maintained. Of course there is not the same progress in all as yet, but a stand is being made, and that is a great thing for this hard and difficult part of the continent. We have had some {244} special meetings, going nightly through the book of the Revelation, and they have gradually increased in size and interest. The conversion of a dear man, the subject of many prayers by his wife, has given us much joy.

Yesterday afternoon we went to speak in a school-room in the *east* of Berlin. Some Christians in the Lutheran communion, feeling the awful state of death in the two parishes there, came together to preach the gospel to their friends and others. There has been, as a result, quite a stir with many conversions. I was cheered to see the simple, quiet and unassuming way in which a number of sober, intelligent men sought to maintain a testimony for God. In many villages of Pomerania an awakening has taken place, and the pastors do not know what to do with the many enquiring souls. In the days of the pious king Frederick IV. a similar wave of blessing swept over those parts. Everywhere meetings are being held, and the dear, simple country people are so unsuspecting that anyone bringing “the glad tidings” would be welcomed among them. Pray earnestly that the visit of a brother from Potsdam to those parts may be greatly owned of God.

As to the future, I may go to Copenhagen the last week in July, and then proceed from thence to Christiania, if it be the Lord’s will. *M. I. Reich.*

Echoes of Service 414 (September 1898, Part II)

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GERMANY.

After remaining for the last gospel meeting in the tent at Spinetta, Messrs. Chesterman, Fisher and I left for the conference at Vevey. There we enjoyed three days of happy fellowship with Swiss believers who gathered from surrounding meetings to hear of the Lord’s doings in other countries, and all seemed much helped and refreshed by these meetings.

Taking farewell of the brethren, Mr. Geo. Fisher and I started for Germany by way of the Rhine. We reached Vohwinkel on Saturday, August 20th, and were heartily welcomed by our brother in Christ, Mr. Max Springer, at whose house we stayed.

We were rejoiced to find a number of meetings gathered to the name of the Lord in Rhineland, and were able to visit some of these and hold meetings, viz. in Elberfeld and Barmen, as well as at Vohwinkel, where we spent the Lord’s-day.

There are many of the Lord’s people in this part of Germany, some of whom are longing to be free from human bondage and to enjoy the liberty wherewith the Lord makes us free, and I would ask the prayers of God’s children for His work in this part of Germany, and that our brother Max Springer’s hands may be strengthened in his work for the Lord.

J. W. Jordan.

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GERMANY.

Homburg v. d. Höhe, *September 5th.* – In the summer months in a place like this the number of those who are accustomed to attend the meetings is greatly reduced, as many have to work very hard to enable them to live during the winter months. I have gone to some places round about to hold open-air meetings. In one village in the hills, about fifteen miles away, we had two very good meetings on a large rock, from which there is a lovely view of all the country round. Here all the inhabitants came together, closing their houses and bringing all their belongings. Yesterday we had another good open-air meeting, not very far from here, and a very happy time. I am invited to many a village, but time will not allow me to go; there would be good openings for any one who was free to enter. It is surprising to see the general move there is for freedom from the yoke of our national state churches. In some country villages and towns Christians meet to read the Bible and preach the gospel apart from the church. Some godly schoolmasters I know have been much persecuted by the clergy for doing so. The Christian life amongst the country population is far more healthy than in the towns, and many are found in plain country dress who are sons of the great King.

J. E. Leonhardt.

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BELGIUM.

Dampremy, *October 5th.* – {...}

We had a visit from Mr. Broadbent a fortnight ago; he spoke very well in French on the work in Germany and the east of Europe. I hoped he would have come to live at Brussels, but he has decided to live for a while in Switzerland. {...}

W. J. Nock.

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AUSTRIA.

A VISIT BY F. BUTCHER.

My ten days' journey into Austria was most interesting. I had one meeting in Vienna among the Bohemians, Mr. Cejnar translating, and the attention was marked. I then went on to the town from which an invitation came in the spring, and stayed there two days, one being Sunday, when about eighteen came together for a Bible-reading, and twelve on Monday. Much of the population in that part is Slovenian, and the only gospel labourer among them is Mr. Chraska, who has been for two years in a town 100 miles to the south, and has learnt the language; he has just visited Scotland to try and get sympathy, but I am afraid he will relinquish Carniola and return to Bohemia. This would be sad, but we trust the Lord will strengthen his faith to go on there, as there is still only a very incomplete and faulty translation of the New Testament, and perhaps the Psalms, in Slovenian. On journeying to Radkersburg, a town on the Hungarian frontier, there was a young woman in the train who

had a little difficulty with the guard, and I heard her tell him she could not read German, so I took a Hungarian Testament out of my bag and asked if she could read it; on her replying in the affirmative, I told her she should have it on promising to read it, at which she was delighted. I returned to my compartment, but saw the people in the next compartment passing the book round with astonishment, and examining it, so I went again and shewed them my English Bible. An old woman who was travelling with her husband wanted one, promising to read it, being able to do so a little, so I could not refuse, and she shook hands with pleasure on receiving the gift. In Gratz for two evenings we had readings in Baron Bolschwing's house, some twenty assembling there. Austria needs discreet labourers; usually it is not well to mention the names of places.

Kirch Strasse 11, Charlottenburg, Berlin, October 24th.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 421 (January 1899, Part I)

{3}

GERMANY.

We hear of signs of spiritual life in different parts of Germany, and the following translation of a German brother's letter, sent to us by Mr. E. H. Broadbent (now in Switzerland), tells of marked readiness to listen to the Word of God, especially in one district at a considerable distance north-east of Berlin. Mr. Butcher has since gone on a visit to that neighbourhood.

COUNTRY WORK IN GERMANY.

I will try to tell you something of my short journey through Pomerania and Silesia. On August 30th my time on the Baltic coast ended, and on the 31st I reached Stargard. It is a small town of about 15,000 inhabitants, not far from Stettin. The Lord, who directs all things well, enabled me to discover friends I went to see, and I decided to stay the night. There were believers in the town, and I was taken to see them. I found some very dear brethren and sisters, to whom I suggested holding a meeting the same evening. To my great pleasure they were most willing, although it was already seven o'clock. At 8.30 some eighteen or twenty people came together, and we had a time of much blessing. We spent about two hours together, and they begged me to stay a few days longer. It was quickly decided that we should meet each afternoon at 4.0 for a Bible-reading, and each evening at 8.0 for preaching the gospel. You may think how great my joy was. Each afternoon we spent from 4.0 to 6.0 in considering the Word together; the attendance being from thirty upwards. In the evenings the little room was crowded with from seventy to eighty people; and the hours were among the happiest of my life.

There came also some believers from a village not far distant, who asked me to go to them. The friends in Stargard were at first unwilling, thinking the village people might better come to the town. However, we were soon agreed as to going out for an evening, and it was a special joy to me that about eighteen believers came with us the four miles to the village. These were happy days, and I was filled with thanksgiving to the Lord, who had prepared the way for me in so unexpected a manner, and in a place quite strange to me. Though much pressed to stay longer and very wishful to do so, I feared it might cause offence in K— to put them off there longer. Therefore I said farewell, which cost us much on both sides, but I promised to visit them again as soon as possible.

In K— I was very kindly received, and remained several days in order both to do something in the town, and to make short journeys to neighbouring places. There were not many believers in the town, but we had times of much blessing together. Among other short jour-

neys from here, I made one to the small town of B—, where I found some Christians, who received me joyfully. I was unable to stay this time, and had to comfort them and myself with the hope of returning. I made the acquaintance of a believing schoolmaster, who received the Truth with enthusiasm.

Two days before leaving K— a sister came from P—, a small town near Stargard, to make my acquaintance, and begged me to call at the house where she lives with an uncle, who dislikes intercourse with believers. He, however, gave permission for me to visit the house, and she invited a few Christians. I intended to remain there four hours and then go on into Silesia. Soon we had a little company together and a happy meeting, the time being all too short. I was preparing to leave, but the blessed Lord had again ordered it otherwise. The uncle, a well-educated man, appeared for the first time, for he had kept away from the house, in the garden. I spoke to him of my departure, and he invited me to remain a week if I were able. His niece and I were quite astonished, and, on his pressing me, I thankfully accepted the invitation. A minister of the Moravians had been prominent in hindering my coming to this town before, so I visited him, and after a time he became very friendly. We had arranged for a meeting at four, in the house of Mr. D—, and though I had not specially invited the minister mentioned he came, and expressed his regret that we could not oftener have such opportunities of meeting. Mr. D— pressed me to come again and stay longer.

I then went to R—, in Silesia, and was most warmly received on all sides. As a believing minister in L— had invited me to visit him, I went there and preached in his meeting, to about 300 persons. I was not able to stay longer, though they wished me to do so, as I wanted to be in Potsdam for the Sunday.

Carl Geier.

16, Bismark Str., Potsdam.

Echoes of Service 422 (January 1899, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, Dec. 5th. – After my absence in England I was thankful to find all well at home and the work of the Lord ably sustained by our brethren here; at each of the halls not only all had remained faithful to the Lord and in fellowship with one another, but some had been added. My absence has also helped some of the brethren to take a more active part in the service of the Lord. But in comparison with what I have seen in England, I am quite overwhelmed by the indifference of the masses of the people around us to the claims of God and His gracious provision in the gospel. We have had the joy of having Miss Gilchrist with us for a few days; she has been staying some months at Leipzig, under medical treatment, to be healed of the effects of African fever, and she seems much better in health. She gave such interesting accounts of her work in Central Africa that many of us were drawn out in special prayer for our African fellow labourers.

Julius Rohrbach.

{Cover 3} **Germany.** – Only reaching Berlin about the beginning of 1898 Mr. and Mrs. F. Butcher have made such good progress in the language that in October our brother was able to make a journey into Austria, and recently he has visited northwards in Pomerania, while Mrs. Butcher finds useful service among women in Berlin. In one town Mr. Butcher's meetings in a house were so well attended – partly, perhaps, to hear an Englishman, he adds – that the door into an adjoining room was unhinged. He was asked to speak freely the whole truth of God, but as many who came were unconverted he kept to the simple truths of the

gospel. In another town a full meeting was held in the house of a Moravian pastor, whose wife is a sister of Miss Gieser of Madrid.

Echoes of Service 423 (February 1899, Part I)

{Cover 5} **Berlin**, *December 5th.* – About a month ago the sisters in the meeting started a weekly prayer-meeting *before* the general meeting. I think they take an interest in it, and nearly all take part, which seems encouraging. *M. K. Butcher.*

Echoes of Service 425 (March 1899, Part I)

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GERMANY.

From a long and varied experience gained in China, Singapore, and England, as the result of his habit of testing everything by Scripture, Mr. Alex. Grant makes some observations regarding Christians in Germany, founded on a recent visit there, on his way to the scene of his former labours in the East. We can only give a summary of his remarks. He reminds us of the value of condensing by saying, “The book of Acts covers the story of *thirty-three* years.”

{...}

In praying for Germany Mr. Grant says he used to think chiefly of Christians in Lutheran churches, but on visiting Rheinland he was surprised to learn that in the great German Empire there were some 600 gatherings of believers assembling on the basis of *earthly* unity, the fruit of the early labours of that “great man of God,” J. N. Darby. “Oh that he had been scriptural on two points, (1) What is the Church? (2) What is God’s mind on baptism? One excellent thing that he did was to translate the Scriptures into German.” The effort at “earthly unity” has sadly failed there as elsewhere, and remembering “our own weakness, ignorance and mistakes” we cannot wonder at such failure.

In Rheinland Mr. Grant found the very opposite of what he had left at Tottenham – small meetings, quiet, almost to dulness, with the utmost regard to Scripture authority, and yet not much appearance of souls being won. Still there was evident reality in true fear of God. Our brother sought to press the truth that the business of servants is *obedience*, and not simply the carrying out of “principles.” So great was his interest in the work he saw in Rheinland that he found it hard to tear himself a way.

Proceeding to Berlin, he could trace in the work in Charlottenburg some advance upon what he had witnessed in 1893, though progress in pleasing the Lord might still be made there as elsewhere. God has manifestly honoured the gospel work in that district, and this should be thankfully owned.

Stopping to see a friend in Chemnitz he found evidence of the hostility of the clergy against the Baptists in compelling them to close a Sunday school of sixty children, and he asks prayer for these persecuted brethren in Saxony.

Writing on board the steamer on the way from Genoa to Naples he was not able to add anything as to his brief time in Switzerland, and in Italy with Mr. Honywill. He will value

prayer for help in visiting former scenes of service in the Straits Settlements, that in every way his service may be fruitful.

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BULGARIA.

Before leaving Switzerland for a second journey through Austria to Roumania Mr. Broadbent was commended to the Lord by believers at Bienne, and he hopes on his return to visit various meetings in Canton de Vaud, to increase interest in the spread of the gospel. The remarkable movement among Roman Catholics in Austria, especially at Gratz, is attracting public attention, and we may pray that such an opening for preaching the gospel may be taken advantage of. Since he reached Constantza on the Black Sea he has been pressed to enter Southern Russia, and may do so, God willing.

Constantza, February 1st. – {...}

In the struggle between the various nationalities in Austria the Germans find themselves at present in sharp opposition to the Romish clergy, and are endeavouring to organize a formal separation from the church of Rome, which shall be impressive by reason of its numbers. Though this is a political movement it gives access with the simple gospel to a class of people of influence, who were previously scarcely approachable.

It is always encouraging to find results of former sowing. Visiting an R.C. teacher I found he had become acquainted with and, I believe, accepted the gospel through reading a book which the late M. Reinmuth had given to someone who, not valuing it herself, had allowed this man to have it.

{...}

E. Hamer Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 427 (April 1899, Part I)

{Cover 14} **Visits to the Continent.** – We hope that Mr. A. Mitchell, of Farøe, will be able to carry out his purpose of making a second visit to Denmark and Norway. Mr. Max I. Reich was to leave a few days ago for the Continent, where wide doors are open to him not only in the same lands, but also in Germany and Austria. Such visits may be rich in results if accompanied by much prayer.

Echoes of Service 428 (April 1899, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, March 9th. – For some years past the Lutheran Church here has been putting forth increasing activity; new churches have been built and more ministers and missionaries have been installed. If this meant the spreading of gospel light and life we should indeed rejoice, but a great deal of the energy is directed against all “sectarians,” *i.e.*, all workers outside of the National Church. Last year a church was built and a mission room opened in Krumme Strasse, and more than ever parents and children are visited to keep and influence them for the church. Its practice of infant sprinkling, confirmation and “holy communion” manifests a spirit of sacerdotalism utterly foreign to the gospel. With the increase of power and influence of the Empire, the State Church covets and gains increasing ecclesiastical power, and “officials” care not and dare not to enter halls or mission rooms; even teachers in national schools are bound to attend the services of the National

Church. This revival of churchism is a great hindrance to the spread of true gospel principles, of spiritual life and liberty of conscience. An increased police surveillance – from fear of the increase of social-democratic tendencies and agitations – often interferes even with the distribution of gospel literature and sometimes with the preaching of the gospel.

Then, all around us there are teeming multitudes who live in utter indifference as to God's righteous claims and in utter ignorance of Christ and His salvation, steeped in sin and sorrow, with no fear of the judgment of God.

All this makes testimony for the truth, as we learn it from the New Testament by the Holy Spirit's teaching, very difficult. Faith and prayer are much exercised, but we are able to praise the Lord. Some considerable alterations in our hall at Charlottenburg, demanded by the police authorities, had to be carried out, and have added to our already heavy responsibilities. Hitherto the Lord has sustained us in health, though often in much weariness.

Julius Rohrbach.

28, *Krumme Strasse, Charlottenburg.*

Echoes of Service 429 (May 1899, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Homburg, April 1st. – This is the fourth time during the last three years I have visited this immense country, and this visit has been the happiest of all. A wonderful spirit seems to pervade one part of Germany, where the people of God have, through the sleight and cunning of man, been estranged the one from the other for so long. We had wonderful meetings together, dear Max Springer and myself, in Vohwinkel, Elberfeld, Mettmann and Wald. In these places thirsty souls came together and I trust were not disappointed. A real yearning is in many hearts to answer in some little measure to the desire of our Lord Jesus as expressed in John xvii., “that they all may be one.” Not the mere uniformity of an ecclesiastical corporation, but the living oneness in the power of divine life, having Christ for its centre and object. A wonderfully hallowed and tender feeling pervaded the meetings, and I believe that in the solemn stillness of our souls in His presence the language of the Spirit was heard. Yesterday, on so-called Good Friday, there was a special coming together for about three hours. Our subject was, the presence of the Spirit *in* and *with* the saints of this dispensation, and our responsibility in the light of this truth.

Br. Springer, accompanied by another, has gone to Berlin and Potsdam, and I came south to these parts. I desire to be here for Christ. I know not what lies before me, but

“All I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come!”

The river of God is still full of water, and as Samuel Rutherford said, “A *little* of God can fill my soul from bank to bank.”

M. I. Reich.

per Herrn J. Leonhardt, Homburg v. d. Höhe.

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EASTERN EUROPE.

FROM SWITZERLAND THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE.

Mr. E. H. Broadbent sends to friends an account of a journey that he took from Switzerland through Eastern Europe, occupying from January 12th to March 23rd. It would not be prudent to mention certain details or the names of places and persons in Austria and Russia, but we make some general remarks that may be interesting and instructive.

The evening before he set out a meeting was held at Bienne to commend him to God for the journey. The season of the year made travelling very different from what it is in summer, and when away from the railway routes and large towns the discomforts were often trying, but there was on the other hand an especial joy in visiting very isolated believers, and preaching the gospel where it was almost unknown.

On entering Austria a visit was made to one of these Christians in a little village perched high up among the mountains of the Tyrol. Converted some years ago through reading a Bible given to him in Switzerland, this Christian began to speak to others, several of whom, chiefly his own relatives, were also converted. Such persecution ensued, including boycotting, that some of them emigrated to South America; but a few remained, and half a dozen were gathered on this occasion to remember the Lord's death, chanting their hymns somewhat as priests intone. Nicola T— cultivates a little patch of ground like his neighbours, and in winter visits in the district, selling Bibles and Testaments.

The next call was made on a Bohemian Christian, Mr. C—, who works amongst Slovenes and Germans in a town in Styria, which is pleasantly situated in a mountainous district; the German population is on one side of the river and the Slovenian on the other. At the railway works one of the men diligently gives his testimony among the people, and a number were gathered in the evening to hear the gospel. In this part the present movement against the Church of Rome is much discussed, and in calling upon the editor of a newspaper and enquiring about the movement Mr. Broadbent learned from him that it was chiefly political, but this gentleman was quite moved when pressed on the point of his own personal need of salvation. There is no doubt that many Roman Catholics would now be ready to listen to the gospel, instead of, as formerly, turning a deaf ear to it under priestly influence. Many visits were made among these, and they gave Mr. Broadbent and Mr. C— a good reception. One evening a Slovenian shoemaker, who was expecting a visit, gathered a number of his friends to hear the gospel, and they listened with evident interest.

The Slovenes occupy part of South Austria between the German and Italian speaking districts. The translation of the Bible into their language is not yet completed.

The work in Gratz, of which we used to hear in Mr. Reinmuth's lifetime, is diligently carried on, but not on such simple lines as formerly. A few, however, still take the Scripture as their guide.

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GERMANY.

MR. REICH'S VISIT TO WEST GERMANY.

As my present visit to this country is drawing to a close I will try and give my impressions of the Lord's work in Germany as I have been permitted to come in contact with it this time.

This is my fourth visit within three years, and I bless the hand that guided and the heart that planned in this particular journey. The *Rhineland* was my first stop. The aspect of the country there reminds one of the manufacturing districts of North Britain. God has much people in that thickly populated district of Western Germany. So repeated have been the waves of spiritual blessing which have swept over the *Wupper valley* that the hatred of the world has expressed itself by calling it the *Mucker valley* – that is, the valley of the “extra” pious! As in all my previous visits I have been in parts where much darkness and death prevail, I was greatly cheered by the warmth of Christian fellowship I met there. I lodged with our brother Max Springer, who finds himself freed from business more and more to labour in the Word. The last day I was there we had a special coming together of believers from Elberfeld, Barmen, Langerfeld, Vohwinkel, Mettmann, Winkelsen, Haam {sic}, Solingen and Wald.

Leaving those happy parts I went south along the Rhine, passing through many noble cities and towns, and cast longing eyes into them to see a {148} testimony according to Scripture, and finally reached *Homburg v. d. Höhe* in the Cassel district. Our brother J. Leonhardt has laboured many years here against great odds, but, supported by the Lord, has held the fort against the enemy. I came in time for the opening of the new hall, and found about thirty believers gathered together for the breaking of bread. We commenced special gospel meetings, and from the first had a full house and manifest blessing. One chief feature of the meetings was the great variety of people who came regularly to them. Rich and poor, nobility and commoners, officers and privates, Protestants and Roman Catholics, were represented. We humbly believe God’s smile rested upon the meetings, and that many families as well as individuals were reached. The dear people came to us at the house to tell of their conversion. One Saturday no less than five thus reported themselves, in whom we felt we could see the work of divine grace. Another cheering feature of the meetings was the simplicity and readiness with which the young believers were prepared to follow on in the lines of revealed truth.

About forty minutes from Homburg is the great city of *Frankfurt*. Both spiritually and historically this city has played an important part in the development of affairs in Germany. It is the home of the well-known “Pietists,” and in the last few years many hundreds of believers have more or less severed their connection with the State church, feeling after more light and simpler fellowship one with another. Thus a number of “free” circles of Christians have been formed, under the guidance of converted ministers who have given themselves to evangelizing, or under the influence of godly “private” Christians, among whom I may particularly mention a Danish countess.

While there is much one cannot but bless God for in this remarkable coming out and coming together, one cannot be blind to many serious blemishes, which I need not specify here, attached to these free communions. But I have had the privilege of coming in contact with many of those still dissatisfied, and who, as the result, have been *cast upon the inspired Scriptures for divine guidance*. With a number of such we had meetings for Bible searching, and last Lord’s-day we broke bread together for the first time. It was a weak beginning – only eight of us; but we had “Jesus in the midst.”

From Frankfurt I went to *Stuttgart*, in the kingdom of Würtemberg, breaking my journey at Mannheim, to visit a brother of our friend and brother Mr. English of Copenhagen, who is in business there. In Stuttgart I was warmly received by our dear brother Eoll; he is the son of our brother in Port Said, whose wife and younger children are also at present living in Stuttgart. There is a charming little circle of believers, owning the name of the Lord Jesus Christ alone as a bond of gathering, in that city. They maintain a constant testi-

mony in two places. There I also met a very dear brother, named Steinberger, who has evidently learned much of the mind of God in secret, and is serving Christ according to his light. He was coming through from Switzerland to Thuringia, his special field of labour, and we had very sweet fellowship together. One whole day was spent in prayer and the searching of the Word, and we have no doubt that it was the beginning of much fellowship in the future. I am glad that he is going to visit Frankfurt, where he will be especially useful at this juncture.

Once more returning north to meet my dear wife, who needed a change, I had further opportunities of helping in Homburg and Frankfurt, and now turn my eyes back to the British Isles for a very brief period, hoping to visit Scandinavian countries later on in the year. I desire fresh power to do the will of the Lord, and feel myself very much cast upon the intercession of saints to go on for the glory of Christ. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

Homburg v. d. Höhe, April 24th.

M. I. Reich.

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AUSTRIA.

A Bohemian labourer referred to by Mr. Broadbent, who understands English well, writes from Styria, and gives the following testimony regarding the state of things among Roman Catholics in his part of Austria.

You must have heard about the anti-papal movement which is at present going on in the German parts of Austria. Secessions from the R.C. church are continually taking place. Of course most of the seceders act only on national and political grounds, and will care as little for the Protestant doctrines as they cared for the Popish doctrines. But we may hope that some will not be satisfied with changing the outward form of religion, and will be led to know the truth as it is in Jesus. The present movement will also have a good influence upon the public mind, so that it will in coming days be easier to carry on evangelistic work.

Here there was also something of the movement. At first they said 400 persons had signed a pledge to leave the Church of Rome, but only sixty-eight have actually joined the Protestant Church. There was great cry here but little wool.

I did not identify myself in any way with this movement. Our Lord and the apostles did not concern themselves about the political matters of their times, neither must we. Besides, the present movement is severely watched by the authorities, and had I mingled with it I should draw their attention to me, which is not desirable. I have been here six months, and have been quite unmolested.

Our meeting continues to be visited by one or two strangers on each occasion, but they mostly come out of curiosity, once or twice, and then fail to make their appearance any more. And we cannot speak of any real conversions as yet. It is very difficult to bring these R.C. people to a conviction of their sinfulness and depravity. But the Spirit of God can surely accomplish that which is impossible to us.

The present time is favourable for mission work in Austria, as in many places are individual souls who would be willing to accept a simple testimony of the gospel. Will you pray that the Lord might bring me into connection with such souls, and give me openings at different places?

C—.

April 26th.

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AUSTRIA.

A VISIT TO SOUTH AUSTRIA.

My journey into Austria was full of interest, but although I went with the idea of seeing if doors were open for the truth, I was not much impressed in this respect with any one place unless it were Gratz, and that is not a promising place on account of diversities among those at work there. I found Br. Chraska quietly going on in Marburg, and remained there a day longer than I intended, to be present at the trial of a brother who wrote some time ago to invite us to live in Marburg.

The bishop had obtained a tract that this brother had given to someone, and proceedings were taken against him. He hadn't really distributed papers openly, but had given a few to some of his fellow-workmen, etc. I went to the court, but all was carried on privately. He was fined 10 *gulden*, about 17/-. One can *lend* papers and books, I suppose, that being the proverbial loophole in the law. Mr. Chraska hopes to commence a monthly paper in Slovenish next year, which he can distribute *to obtain subscribers*; of course each number will have to be read by the authorities before publication. I visited also a brother in *Eger*, a town in the German-speaking part of Bohemia, who has endeavoured to find other Christians, but so far in vain, the nearest being in Saxony, over the frontier, some two and a half hours' railway journey, or in Pilsen, a station of Dr. Clarke's work, but there they are Bohemians. I called on Dr. Clarke in Prague, and thought to have seen Dr. Baedeker, but he was in another part of Bohemia. Though I cannot speak of this present movement in Austria as an open door for the gospel, the hand of God is in the matter and He will get glory through it. Perhaps Dr. Baedeker will be able to find some entrance among these seceders from Rome. They seem to want to keep clear of the authority of priests and of everything Jewish, and many are going to the "Old Catholics."

We trust, if the Lord will, to visit England in August for thirty days, return tickets being available for that period at reduced fares.

Kirch Str. 11, Charlottenburg, Berlin, June 20th.

F. Butcher.

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GERMANY.

Charlottenburg, July 10th. – My first week of service in Germany has been a time of much blessing. I have had the privilege of ministering the word in the beautiful Charlottenburg Hall in Krumme Strasse, where Mr. and Mrs. Rohrbach have laboured amidst many discouragements during the past eighteen years. Each afternoon I have given Bible readings on the Tabernacle, illustrated by coloured diagrams, and many, we believe, have learned more perfectly what Christ is *to* God, and what He is *for* the believer. It has been a great joy to notice the way in which the people have feasted upon the word of God with apparent delight. This is what we should expect when Christ Himself is presented to His people as God's Portion and theirs – "Eat ye that which is good, and let your soul *delight itself* in fatness."

In the gospel meetings the attendances have been very good for summer months. A number have confessed the Lord as their Saviour, whilst many are anxious concerning their

condition in the sight of God. In several cases there is apparent blessing in whole families. To confess the Lord, and follow on in the path of obedience, in *Germany* is not an easy thing. To leave the Lutheran state-church and gather with believers outside is looked upon as being a terrible sin of schism, and much persecution invariably follows.

Open-air preaching is not allowed in the streets of Berlin but in the garden in front of the Hall we have had some splendid opportunities, and many have listened at their open windows. We rejoice to see the splendid band of young men and women who rally round our brother Rohrbach, many of the brethren helping in the various branches of the work. The need is great. Here in Charlottenburg there is a population of about 180,000, and church and chapel accommodation for only 4,000. But the great mass of the people are altogether indifferent to the claims of the gospel, giving themselves over to business and pleasure.

The Lord willing, I hope to continue here during the next fortnight or so.

James Sprunt.

Echoes of Service 436 (August 1899, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Conference at Charlottenburg. – During the second week of July we had our conference on the Second Coming of our Lord, and whilst the various subjects connected with this truth were ably and clearly treated, the main object was the preparation of hearts and souls for Him, “the Coming One.” The character of the present dispensation, of the Church, of God’s purposes concerning Israel, the truth as to the millennium and the two resurrections, the judgment of the nations, of believers at the judgment-seat of Christ, of unbelievers at the final judgment – all these divinely revealed truths were powerfully set forth before attentive and appreciative audiences. The masses around live in utter indifference to these glorious and terrible facts, but in the name of the Lord we go among them day by day with the message of the Lord, as to His accomplished salvation, His living in power at the right hand of God, and His speedy return.

Julius Rohrbach.

28, *Krumme Strasse, Charlottenburg, July 15th.*

Berlin, July 28th. – On two occasions I went with several friends into the very beautiful woods called the Grunewald. Here we gathered a number of children and young people together, and gave addresses in a *conversational* manner. Open-air *preaching*, even in the woods, is not really allowed without permission, but no one seems to object to a homely talk with children, and many adults have in this way heard the gospel. I gave the children a talk about my watch, showing how hands and face were right only when the mainspring and works were right. Opportunity was found afterwards for conversation with several adults concerning the condition of their mainspring – *the heart*. Of many we fear we can only say “their heart was not right in the sight of God.”

Last Sunday we had a great thunderstorm during the evening meeting at Charlottenburg, and near by the hall three persons were killed and forty injured by one flash of lightning. When this became known it caused a deep impression on the minds of many, and we pray that it may lead to repentance and conversion and salvation.

July 24th to 27th I spent among the Hartz mountains. Here a goodly number of the Lord’s people were gathered together from different parts of Germany for a four-days’

Conference. It proved to be a time of much blessing and help. I had the privilege of giving an afternoon Bible-reading, and also of meeting with several Christians for Bible study in the house of Frau von Griesham, a devoted Christian lady.

So many have expressed the desire that I should soon visit this country again, and feeling sure that the need of Germany – the northern part at any rate – is the declaration of the foundation truths of the gospel, I shall hope, if the Lord wills, to re-visit Berlin in the early part of 1900. I return home to-day.

James Sprunt.

SWITZERLAND.

While there are many scriptural assemblies of believers in Switzerland there are few teachers and evangelists moving to and fro. We are glad to translate a letter from one who has of late given himself to such work, chiefly in evangelizing – Mr. F. Widmer.

Since the end of last year my labour has been principally devoted to the Bernese Jura and the countries bordering on France and Alsace. The Jura is a country of contrasts, not only in its mountains and Valleys, but also in its inhabitants; the south is Protestant, the north Roman Catholic; the villages are French, while the isolated farms on the mountain heights are German in general. My work has been divided by all these differences of nature, race and religion.

{...}

{244} The German population of our mountains is very interesting. Descended from ancient Anabaptists, whom persecution drove into these retired spots, they have retained the firmness of their convictions. There are among them many children of God. A strong education, of which the word of God is almost the only basis, has developed among them a high moral and spiritual culture. It seems that here life clothes itself with the sternness and purity of the nature which surrounds it from the cradle. I can yet hear re-echoing in the silence of the night the beautiful singing of the shepherds after a Bible study, in which the word of God was our delight.

It was permitted me to be present at the work of grace in the conversion of more than one soul. It was in particular touching to see one young man give himself to the Lord, and put himself immediately at His service.

I can only look back with humility and gratitude{.} May the Lord, who in His condescension deigns to use such feeble instruments, accomplish His work and heal us of our infirmities, that we may be vessels more useful in His service!

{...}

Promenade da la Suze 13, Bienne, July 10th.

F. Widmer.

Echoes of Service 439 (October 1899, Part I)

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AUSTRIA.

ON THE WAY TO ROUMANIA – E. H. BROADBENT.

Vienna, September 11th. – Mrs. Broadbent has accompanied me here, so I have had her help in paying many visits on the way. She will not be able to stay longer away from the children, and will be returning to Switzerland next week, when I go on to Bucharest with the four Swiss friends who purpose to labour for the Lord in Roumania. We expect them here on the 16th inst.

In coming here we have stayed in the Tyrol, Bavaria and Bohemia, and have found much opportunity for preaching the Word. In Austria generally, although the old restrictions remain in full force, there is no doubt that recent movements have resulted in a far greater readiness to hear than was the case a short time ago. {...}

{292} Here in Vienna we are much occupied, and hope also to visit some outlying districts. Our Br. Cejnar has no little encouragement in his work. I have not been able this time to see Tiso, but have corresponded with him, and tried to arrange for some Italian brother to visit him. He has been cheered lately by the conversion of several. Br. Chraska has left Marburg, and taken a position at Budweis in Bohemia for two years with the American Mission. He had been discouraged by the difficulties in Marburg. He hopes from time to time to visit the Slovenes in South Austria, and thinks that perhaps later his way may be made more clear to return and stay among them.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 441 (November 1899, Part I)

{Cover 42} **Germany.** – As life and strength are given I hope once again to go to the Continent, visiting various parts of South Germany, later on in the North, and possibly also the Baltic Provinces and Finland. I shall be grateful for remembrance in prayer.

F. W. Baedeker.

Echoes of Service 442 (November 1899, Part II)

{Cover 43} **Stuttgart, October 26th.** – God willing, I leave here for Bern and Geneva tomorrow morning, stopping in Bern over Sunday next, having promised to hold a service in German in the morning, and in French in the evening. As I am embarking on board the s.s. *Prinz Heinrich* I shall have the joy of seeing Mr. E. K. Groves on his way to India, besides some missionaries on their way to China.

During my stay here it has been a most blessed time, both in the midst of my family and amongst the few believers here. My son's visit to England was a very profitable time to him. Next month he will enter upon his new duties as Assistant Professor in the school he was formerly in, having been accepted by the Minister of State. The latest news from my daughter in Port Said was not cheering as to her health; the heat had been most trying for a long time.

G. A. Eoll.

Echoes of Service 445 (January 1900, Part I)

{5} A short stay in *Vienna* deepened the desire that German-speaking brethren might be moved to take advantage of the special opportunities now presented for service in that city and neighbourhood.

At Zurich I learned of the departure to be with Christ of that valiant soldier of Jesus Christ, our beloved brother William Squire. His place among Swiss assemblies can never be

filled, but his example may well stimulate others to follow his faith, for indeed the end of his conversation was “JESUS CHRIST, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever.”

E. H. Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 451 (April 1900, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Berlin, March 8th. – Though there is scope for gospel work here and in the neighbourhood, the need in Austria is certainly greater. We cannot leave till September on account of our house, unless the Lord intervenes, but I hope to get down into Austria before then and look round. I don't set particular value upon this “Loose from Rome” movement, and it has toned down since the language laws have been again altered. The thought had occurred to us that it might be well to live in Hungary, where German is spoken and where there is a greater measure of freedom, and to visit places in Austria. Pressburg, the old capital of Hungary, is only forty miles from Vienna. One would like to live where Gratz and Marburg would not be too difficult of access.

Things are still interesting in Pomerania (from which I am writing), but what they will develop into I cannot tell; the people all cling to the state-church, although not satisfied with it.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 453 (May 1900, Part I)

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SWEDEN.

Malmö, April 10th. – {...} Just at the close of my engagements at Norrköping a telegram reached me from Blankenburg in Thuringia, “Miss von Weling very ill, come if possible.” I had to alter my engagements at Malmö and Copenhagen, and travelled direct to Berlin, where I found Miss von Blücher very ill, and thence to Blankenburg where Miss von Weling was very weak and ill. From these sick beds I returned to Malmö, where meetings had been postponed for a week, and to-day I am to visit the Lund University to have a meeting with students, and to-morrow I hope to return to Berlin, and take part in some larger gatherings of Christians.

Hitherto the Lord has helped, and has richly blessed the seed of His word. My return ticket for six weeks will expire April 22nd. I am grateful for every remembrance in prayer.

F. W. Baedeker.

Echoes of Service 454 (May 1900, Part II)

{Cover 19} **Conference in Rhineland.** – A small conference was to be held from May 6 for a few days, at which Mr. Reich, Mr. F. Butcher and others hoped to be present.

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GERMANY.

Homburg, May 23rd. – Knowing your interest in this great country I write to tell you a little of things here.

I visited the two halves of Rhineland; the Protestant on the right bank of the Rhine, and the R. Catholic on the left. There is a very sharp contrast between the two. In the first lived the saintly Tersteegen, and the influence of his holy, hidden life in God is felt to this day. His prayers have perfumed the country districts of his earthly abode. On the other side of the Rhine Romanism reigns supreme, and the evidences of her tyranny are the same all over the world. In Vohwinkel, where our brother Max Springer lives, we had a precious season of conference. Besides those in local fellowship at eight or nine places, fellow-heirs in life and glory enquiring after the path of truth assembled with us for quiet waiting upon God, prayer and praise, conference over Scripture truths, and ministry of the Word. The felt presence of God was both searching and comforting.

After a meeting in Meersheid, Br. Butcher went to Elberfeld and I came on to Crefeld. Here a door has been opened through the influence of our brother Leonhardt and two believers from Crefeld who came into our midst in Homburg last year. At first we had a stiff time, but succeeded in overcoming prejudices, and the ice began to melt. I feel that the meetings in Crefeld were a triumph for the truth and a distinct step in advance in Germany. Twice a day we came together, and there was a hungering after God and the path of true discipleship. I called upon the only converted Lutheran “pastor” to encourage him to be faithful to his light, and not to be afraid of the people in his preaching. It cost me something to pay this visit, but I believe I followed Divine direction. Going daily from house to house to call upon converted people I had great joy in service, and I am hoping to see Crefeld again before returning to England next month.

Br. Springer has gone again to Westphalia to labour in the Word, Br. Butcher went back to Berlin, and I came south to Homburg. Here the young converts of last year have all gone on well, and this is no small thing for a place given up to worldly pleasure. But God can keep His people as Nazarites to Himself, even in such an atmosphere. To-morrow being “Ascension Day” we hope to have a special coming together, the friends in Frankfurt being expected to join us. We also intend to attract the careless by means of a large chart on the two ways to Eternity, given by our well-known brother Baker of Kansas City.

I thank God that I came to Germany this time. There is hope for this land. Signs are not wanting that a widespread movement is at work among the people. We feel ourselves drawn out to pray that from the Alps to the Baltic, and from the Moselle to the Vistula, waves of grace and blessing might overflow the land.

Br. Leonhardt joins me in heartiest greetings.

Max I. Reich.

{Cover 27} **Vohwinkel, Rheinland, June 20th.** – I went with Br. Broadbent this morning to the train for Düsseldorf and Krefeld. Last night we had a very good meeting here. Though his stay has been very short (only two days) the brotherly fellowship has been very sweet to our hearts. I shall (D.V.) leave here again for Siegerland (Land of Victory!) perhaps

to-morrow. The dear brethren and sisters there need care and standing-by, and it is on my heart to spend another few days with them. I am much exercised about a tour to Bohemia, Hungary, etc.

Max Springer.

Echoes of Service 459 (August 1900, Part I)

{Cover 30} **Charlottenburg, July 7th.** – Your letter came a few hours before my husband started for Austria and Hungary. He left at midnight yesterday, and would be about twenty hours on the way, as having a cheap excursion ticket it was not a quick train. With regard to what our attention is drawn to in the letter, it is certainly of great importance, as far as we are enabled, not only to instruct, but to seek to set an example to those with whom we come in contact, though of course we shall fall short of our Pattern. Those who teach, are always more closely watched than others – deeds, words, looks, and even dress, all come in for their share of investigation. Therefore we have need to “take heed” to ourselves. We are hoping soon to know if we are still to stay here, or move on. We both *think* the time has come to go further, but it is easy to be mistaken, therefore now more particularly we should value prayer for definite guidance.

M. Kate Butcher.

Echoes of Service 461 (September 1900, Part I)

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AUSTRIA.

Schloss Treffen, near Villach, July 26th. – After visiting some places in Hungary and Croatia, and spending some days in Graz, I arrived here, and as the guest of Countess La Tour have happy opportunities for telling out the wondrous story of God’s love to sinful men. I hope to depart on Monday for Switzerland, to be a week in Zürich and a week in Basel, then to return here for a conference of Christians on August 12th. On August 15th I hope to be in Vienna for the opening of a new hall, which Mr. Gordon Oswald has built for work among the large population of Czechish people in Vienna. The work is very effective, and many are brought into liberty from Romish thralldom. I have had to postpone visits to the southern provinces of the Austrian empire. The heat is very intense, and the people are at harvest, and not {259} easily gathered. The Austrian provinces have as yet been very neglected; the Protestant churches have not much to show as the fruit of their labour, but a loving testimony in strengthening that which remains meets with encouragement, and very blessed work might be done in hearty brotherly fellowship with those who labour according to their light and knowledge.

F. W. Baedeker.

THE SLOVACKS.

July 23rd. – My little journey into Austria-Hungary was very interesting. On previous visits I had come into contact mainly with Germans, but having visited this time the north of Hungary, I got to know something of one branch of the Slavs, viz., the Slovacks. {...} Notices at railway-stations and post-offices are in Hungarian; German is spoken by the Jews, who are the trades-people; and Slovack is spoken by the peasants and labourers.
{...}

At Waag Neustadt I found a brother awaiting me, and we drove nine miles to a small town, where a work had been commenced some years ago by two or three sisters. Here I found Dr. Baedeker, who had just come from Buda-Pesth; he seemed pretty well after his journey into Roumania, etc., and made known the gospel with much freshness. He stayed but two evenings, and then went on to Vienna. We accompanied him to the station, and stayed there for a German meeting for Jews. It was rather astonishing that so many came, and they listened with marked attention to the story of the few who went to David as he was in the cave, and were told that now all who wish to escape the fate of Saul on Mount Gilboa must go to the rejected One, to Him who suffered for us on the cross. One young Jew we met in the train told us he was a most unhappy man – a very candid confession. They are all very willing to take German booklets printed in Hebrew characters, and don't seem to take offence when they are spoken to. I stayed a little over a week in the valley of the Waag, and visited two or three other little towns.

We are now much exercised about labouring in these parts, as we must quit our dwelling in Berlin in September, and our attention is drawn to the "Slovackei." The brother who lives in Waag Neustadt suggested our living there and holding meetings for Jews and others who speak German till some knowledge of Slovack was acquired. It would certainly be a great help to be in a small town where there are already three or four Christians, and I think we should be able to work in harmony with these. The only organization amongst them is a "Temperance Association," which gives them a right to hold meetings without coming much into conflict with the authorities. We shall value your prayers that we may be guided aright.

F. Butcher.

Kirch Str. 11, Charlottenburg, Berlin.

Echoes of Service 464 (October 1900, Part II)

{307} Mr. Eoll's health rendered it needful for him to leave Port Said, and he rejoined his wife and some of his family in Germany. {...}

GERMANY.

Stuttgart, September 11th. – Both my daughter and myself now feel weak in body, but I trust after a time of rest we shall improve. At the end of last week and last Sunday we had Mr. Reich of London with us. It was a great joy to me to make his acquaintance; he is one of the Lord's chosen vessels in the ministry of His word.

My coming here is a new step, not chosen by myself, but led and ordered by the Lord. I need help in prayer. Mrs. Eoll has been ill for some time, but feels somewhat better.

158, Alexanderstrasse, Stuttgart.

G. A. Eoll.

{Cover 40} **Mr. and Mrs. Butcher** were leaving Berlin Oct. 1, and seeking guidance as to a sphere of service, having now acquired a knowledge of the German language; they are for the present proceeding to Hungary.

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GERMANY.

(From Max Springer.)

Vohwinkel, September 10th. – We have to thank the Lord much for what He has done. As we expect hardship and trials, I need not speak of them. The Lord gave us grace and love to hold fast for His truth and testimony, though sometimes it looked as if the little and feeble testimonies would be swept away. The attacks are not made by the world, but by beloved children of God, who are wanting in love, and make their doctrines prominent.

We are happy in Him who sustaineth us, and I am more encouraged than ever. The working of God's Spirit has often been manifested. Some souls cried out for peace and others confessed, and it was sweet to hear how they had lately found true peace for both conscience and heart through believing in Christ. During the last few weeks six or seven dear souls have been received into fellowship. The monthly meetings here and the fortnightly meetings in Elberfeld have been greatly blessed. Opportunity is given to any Christians to hear or to ask questions, and real interest is shown by a great many. It is quite true, that when compared with other parts of Germany, there are in our district a good number of believers; but what {324} are the few compared with the 100,000 who live in darkness and sin? In our district, the greatest industrial district of Germany, it is well known that more than half the population are socialists and democrats of the worst class. Members of parliament are socialists! Many so-called Christians are worldly and pleasure-seeking, and the Sundays are becoming more like Sundays in France. Elberfeld and Barmen are two towns joined together, with more than 300,000 inhabitants; then there is Solingen (the German Sheffield) with more than 60,000, and Remscheid with 70,000. Both places are renowned for cutlery and weapon-making, but are dark and sinful: still, the Lord has a few there and the door is open, not to mention the many smaller places around here.

I feel it a solemn responsibility to testify of God's saving grace in these dark and worldly parts, and my heart yearns over the thousands of slaves of sin and Satan, though I am sorry that so little can be done.

Not far from here is that great town of Essen, Krupp's gun place, where more than 40,000 men work day and night, and close by are Dortmund and Bochum (iron places) with more than 100,000 inhabitants, mostly emigrated from East Prussia.

The field is wide, and labourers are few – we need *labourers*, not merely *preachers*; may the Lord send them. The few who are in fellowship belong to the hard-working class of people, who just earn enough to keep them living, and though their interest is in the work, they cannot help much with means. The people in the Wupper Valley are busied with great preparations for the reception of the Emperor and the Empress, who are coming to Vohwinkel next month to open the new electric railway, the new town hall in Elberfeld, and in Barmen “the Hall of honour”! Would to God that preparations would be made by sinners to receive the Son of God!

Max Springer.

9 Gartenstrasse, Vohwinkel (Rheinland).

{Cover 47} **Religious Liberty in Germany.** – A fortnight ago a dear old sister was called home after a short illness; she was the mother of thirteen children, eleven of whom know the Lord. We buried her in the churchyard at Mettmann, one of the few places where we have liberty to testify of our blessed hope in Christ; hundreds of believers of all denominations were present. In other places we are not allowed to pray or sing a hymn.

Max Springer.

Oberammergau. – Tours from England are annually made to this now famous village in Bavaria, where the scene of the crucifixion is performed in a “Passion Play.” The man who personates the Lord was warmly received by the Pope recently, and says, “His Holiness took much interest in the ‘Passion Play,’ and passed his hand many times over my hair.” While the Spirit of God takes of the things of Christ and reveals them to our hearts by faith, does not this climax of outward form, and its approval in Rome, show us the awful blindness of Christendom?

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RUSSIA.

My movements for the last two months have been unusually rapid. I visited Baden, Wiesbaden, Frankfort, Vienna, Budapest, and Prague, finding in all these places open doors and receptive hearts. I then went into South Russia to Odessa, Sevastopol, and to the Mennonite Colonies, where I found the Lord is working by His Spirit. I next visited a large prison in Moscow, and had the privilege of giving God’s message to some thousand and more prisoners in chains, who were to be sent to Siberia. Travelling to St. Petersburg and Helsingfors, I came to Berlin in response to urgent invitations.

{...}

God willing, I hope to return home on Jan. 4th.

Berlin, Dec. 25th.

F. W. Baedeker.

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GERMANY.

Stuttgart, Dec. 20th. – The present season brings the happy duty of giving a treat to the children who attend the Sunday-school here in the morning, and to those attending in the afternoon in Gablenzberg suburb. Quite a number of the older ones often remain for the afternoon general meeting, and are very attentive.

We meet together on Lord’s-day mornings for the breaking of bread at 10.0, and in the evenings at 8.0 for mutual study of the Word. In spite of the catechetical religious instruction, which according to the law of the land each child up to the age of fourteen is obliged to receive, I find that Bible truths, even the very fundamental ones, need to be considered. On the first Tuesday of each month we have a missionary meeting, and translations are given from letters in *Echoes of Service*, etc. For the last night of the year we are issuing invitations to a tea-meeting, followed by short general addresses and prayer, in the hope of opportunity for close conversation and earnest appeal afterwards.

The spirit of the meetings is warm, and the Lord is working amongst the young men and women. The visits of brethren from other parts are very much relished, and Mr. Reich's presence here for a few days was much appreciated by all. Besides the natural outward attractions of Stuttgart, which make it well worthy of a visit from those travelling to or through South Germany, it might be added that any of God's children passing this way would greatly encourage us by a visit, and insufficient knowledge of German would form no impediment, as we can translate.

G. A. Eoll.

{39} **Village Work in Hungary**, *Dec. 21st.* – I have been out three or four times with a colporteur, and in getting about in that way one finds openings for testimony. Many listen very well indeed to a few simple words, asking us in to sit down, and sometimes there is opportunity for prayer. Others say they have no time, and do not wish to listen, but most are simple people, although in great darkness; in fact one comes in contact with none who seem to be really converted. The villages we have visited are German-speaking, but in others north of us many are Slovak-speaking, and others talk a mixed language. Pure Hungarian villages are not to be found in this district, but the children are instructed at school in Hungarian, and everything is explained to them in that language, as the Hungarians wish to stamp other languages out of their country. The Slovaks are mostly poor, and not very well educated. They usually wear in winter prepared sheepskins turned inside out, and these last them many a year. I saw a man wearing one which looked fairly new, but the date worked on the back was 1890. One family with whom we stayed a night this week were Roman Catholics, very poor, but they lodged the colporteur and myself, though we all had to sleep in the one room.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 474 (March 1901, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Crefeld, Feb. 26th. – I am now nearing my third week of work on the continent at this time. In Copenhagen I had indeed a time to be remembered. {...}

Here in Germany more work offers than I can possibly overtake. I have had already to alter engagements in London to prolong my stay here, and shall have to do so again. I hope to go to Homburg from this place, and to Frankfurt, where 170 believers have resolved to accept *divine truth*, and not *human tradition*, as their authority. So Br. Leonhardt writes, he having been a help to them in the step thus taken. Then G. Steinberger wishes me to go to a place in Westphalia where he has laboured, and after that to join him in German Switzerland, where a Conference of brethren is to be held. Pray that the four days of quietness before God, to whose sole guidance the meetings are to be committed, may leave an eternal stamp for good upon all who shall attend. We expect holy days, praying that the mighty current of that river "that maketh glad the city of God," may be turned in our direction.

I ask again for an earnest remembrance in prayer that the will of God may be done in me at this time.

M. I. Reich.

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REMARKS ON ANNUAL ACCOUNT.

{...}

{138} Space will not allow of our referring to other European lands, but we rejoice to hear of more abundant life in some Lutheran countries, and in *Germany* there is – what is not so frequent – a movement led by *pastors*; these need our prayers that they may not stop short of learning and carrying out the whole counsel of God.

{...}

{142} **Vohwinkel, Rhineland, March 11th.** – There has been some blessing during the last few weeks in this neighbourhood, and quite a number of young souls confess faith in Christ. But to follow the Lord openly needs much grace, for to leave the state-church and meet with a little flock, which is still despised and reproached, means counting the cost. On Sunday, March 3rd, the Lord gave us a very good time. Two young men professed conversion, and we hear of others who had been troubled finding peace through believing in Christ. The little, new gathering of believers in Wald goes on happily, and the Lord is blessing His testimony there.

Max Springer.

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AUSTRIA.

(From F. Butcher.)

Pressburg, Feb. 26th. – This winter we have found rather trying on account of the intense cold, but we trust the weather has now turned. The Danube was firmly frozen over for three weeks, although it is a swift and mighty river. In general we have cause for thankfulness, and look forward to increased opportunities for service. We judge that the Lord has led us here; it is indeed a large field of service, and we trust He will in His own time and way send a fellow-labourer. We cannot speak of this part as being *occupied*, for we know of no one at work nearer than Vienna, except the young colporteur who came here at the same time as ourselves; we work very happily together. Among the Slovacks we have not yet attempted anything, as the German work takes up our time and leaves very little for acquiring another language. In the villages in which we have been working we rarely find a Slovak and only now and then a Hungarian family, but living among Germans they can generally speak German.

In nearly all parts of Austria-Hungary two languages are spoken, except in the two provinces of Austria proper, but it would be useless for a foreigner to attempt work there, as he would simply be conducted to the frontier. “The Scripture Gift Mission” is sending us a grant of 2,000 German Gospels, {148} which we hope to distribute. In one village we unwittingly went to the priest’s house, and, finding it locked, handed in a tract through the window to the servant. On the following Sunday this tract was publicly torn to pieces from the pulpit before the congregation, with the admonition to all who received such papers to burn them *slowly*, and to drive the distributors of such literature from the village. A Jesuit priest with whom we have corresponded writes that I am only fit for a lunatic asylum, but if they called our Lord “Beelzebub” we cannot expect anything better.

Our brother Cejnar, who works among the Bohemians in Vienna, came over to see us yesterday, and we expect to be visiting him for some meetings shortly. **F. Butcher.**

Erzherzog Friedrich Str. 12, Pressburg, Hungary.

Echoes of Service 478 (May 1901, Part II)

{199} **Stockholm, April 24th.** – I arrived here on the 20th after visiting friends in Hamburg, Berlin, and Görlitz, where opportunities for gospel testimony were given. My time has been filled up with various happy meetings, Dr. Fries and others translating. The daily prayer meeting with scripture addresses has been numerously attended, and interest in missions is especially manifest.

Hitherto the Lord has helped, and I am greatly encouraged to look to Him for further guidance. I find a great readiness both in Germany and in Sweden for the gospel and for the truth of the Word, and in many parts there are tokens of a revival, which may extend over the continent. The Austrian empire shows marks of it in the increasing desire to be “loosed from Rome.”

It is well to be in harmony with any movement toward the liberty of the gospel of Christ, even where the fetters of tradition are not shaken off, and people are still groping for light. I shall be grateful for prayer that His grace may prove sufficient for me and that more especially my steps may be guided in Russia to the right paths.

F. W. Baedeker.

Echoes of Service 480 (June 1901, Part II)

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AUSTRIA.

Pressburg, May 6th. – A German brother from London arrived here last week, and we are glad of his coming, as the young colporteur connected with Baptists, with whom we have had some fellowship in service, has just left Pressburg. It is good to have a fellow-labourer in a strange land where one is often looked upon with suspicion. We have had notice to leave this flat, the landlady objecting to our little meetings. We rented another smaller one last Saturday, but the landlord heard afterwards that I was “a missionary of an unknown sect,” and wrote that he must return the instalment of rent paid in advance if we intended to have our “ceremonies” in his house. Fortunately we had not intended doing so, having taken a smaller flat, so as to be able to rent a small room else where for our meetings. We are not without encouragement; there are two or three souls that we believe will be gathered in. This week we hope to go to Vienna for two days, as some special meetings are to be held there on “Alliance” lines. We also hope to visit the neighbouring Austrian town of Hainburg on Saturday; it is eight or nine miles distant, so we can walk, the railway connection being impossible. I have been there a few times on my bicycle to distribute Gospels, and have thus got to know a family, the father of {227} which has invited me. We rejoice over every family in which we find the slightest desire to hear of the things of God, and we believe the Lord will grant us to know more of these. **F. Butcher.**

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AUSTRIA.

Pressburg, June 11th. – Village work cannot be so well carried on here now the summer is upon us, as both men and women are busy in the fields and their houses are locked up. This shows how necessary it is to be diligent in winter. We can now only distribute Gospels and tracts to those whom we meet on the roads when visiting in the country. Tents and open air meetings are of course unknown here; these advantages for summer gospel work can only be had in such highly favoured lands as England.

Our little meetings go quietly on, though always taking an informal style, especially when two or three Slovacks turn in. The Lord has very graciously sent a young Bohemian, who has found employment here, and has thrown himself into the work with much zeal and joy; he was converted some three years ago in Vienna. He can always interpret for us to the Slovacks. There are four or five thousand more of these in the town in summer; they come to work in the vineyards which lie all along the hills, and after the vintage return to their own homes higher up in North Hungary, where it is too cold to have vines; they are all devout Roman Catholics. I mentioned that we had engaged a smaller flat for ourselves, and now we have taken another flat of two rooms on the ground floor in a quiet street, one of them being large and suitable for meetings; Grenda is going to try and get a little furniture and live in the other room. This will undoubtedly add to our responsibilities, but we concluded that the Lord was leading us to stretch out a little, and this second flat for meetings seems in every way suitable; the landlord has given his permission for this use of it. Of course we cannot make any move till August 1st, that being quarter-day. Please remember us in your prayers in our little launching out into deeper waters. **F. Butcher.**

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GERMANY.

THROUGH GERMANY TO SWITZERLAND.

The link between believers in Switzerland and other lands has been much increased during the last few years through annual conferences. Among others Mr. W. H. Bennet in 1898 attended an Italian *agapé* and also a conference in Switzerland, and each year since then he has made an effort to {325} visit the latter country during his brief holiday. In order to increase fellowship with believers on the Continent he has this year called at several places in Germany *en route*, and has had the pleasure of meeting other brethren also journeying to the Swiss Conference.

Bienne, August 13th. – Leaving London at 10 a.m. July 30th, we reached *Brussels* about 7 p.m., where our brethren Bain, Gaudibert and Nock kindly met us and guided us to an hotel. Messrs. Bain and Nock went to begin the meeting to be held that evening, Mr. Gaudibert and I following; he interpreted for me and then spoke himself. He had arranged to accompany Mr. Nock to Amsterdam, to see Mr. van der Rijst and others on the 31st, and kindly came to Brussels a day earlier to meet us. Leaving together soon after mid-day on Wednesday these two brethren were just in time to meet Messrs. Broadbent and Reich at Amsterdam, and all were able to join in some meetings in that town.

Mr. Springer kindly met us at Cologne, and the next day, August 1st, we accompanied him to *Vohwinkel*. That evening he and I went about twelve miles to meet some Christians

who are desirous of learning more of the way of the Lord, and we received a hearty welcome; the next evening we had a meeting at *Barmen*, also some miles distant. At the top of forty steps we found ourselves in a room closely packed with about forty people, who appeared to drink in the Word.

On Lord's-day at 10 we met in a large room formed of two ordinary ones in Mr. Springer's house, and the brethren took part in a very hearty and simple manner. At 4.0 there was what is called the monthly conference, and the room and passage were crowded with believers from various assemblies within some miles. Two addresses were given; Mr. Springer interpreted for me, and Br. Reich, who had been at *Dusseldorf* in the morning, followed; he speaks German fluently.

On Monday evening we went to the usual prayer-meeting at *Dusseldorf*. The attendance was not large, but several brethren took part happily in prayer, and at their invitation I spoke briefly.

There are several meetings in which Mr. Springer seems to help. As the people are accustomed to work till 8 o'clock, meetings cannot generally be held till 8.30, so it often means a late return to his home. We were glad to meet two sons of Christians known to us – one from England and one from Ireland – who find a home with Mr. and Mrs. Springer while attending schools at *Elberfeld* and studying German.

On Wednesday my wife and I reached *Frankfurt* and were met by Mr. Leonhardt, accompanied by Mr. Reich. It had been arranged for four brethren and two sisters of *Homburg* to be baptized that evening at *Frankfurt* in the Baptist Chapel, kindly lent for the purpose. We met at 8.30, and after a hymn and prayer, and a brief address from myself, Br. Reich baptized them. Others took part, and after prayer by Mr. Leonhardt the meeting was closed by the pastor, with whom I was glad to have a few words in English. The chapel and indeed everything gave evidence of simplicity and godliness.

Mr. Leonhardt kindly asked us to spend Thursday with him at *Homburg*; and we had a time of happy fellowship. *Homburg* is always full in August, and this year it is unusually crowded. The residence of the Empress Frederick, who died on the 5th, is near, and on this account the Kaiser had come to his castle at *Homburg*, and his attendants occupy many houses. We were glad to see a very nice meeting-room, obtained with no little difficulty and after much waiting upon God. The work has evidently grown from a very small beginning under our brother's care. As our brother Reich, who has much acceptance there, had had a meeting on Tuesday, and some had been into *Frankfurt* on Wednesday, and the town was so crowded, it is not surprising that the meeting, though on their usual evening, was not large. But I was glad to say a few words to some attentive listeners before we returned to *Frankfurt*.

W. H. Bennet.

The further account of the meetings at *Bienne* did not arrive in time to add to the above. They were very profitable, but were shadowed by a sorrowful calamity – the death, through being burnt, of the Swiss Christian who had received Mr. and Mrs. Bennet, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and other visitors. We reserve the sorrowful details of this till our next issue.

{339} **Pressburg, Hungary, Aug. 13th.** – We have just changed our address. Also last Thursday we took possession of a suitable flat for meetings, but on Sunday received notice to quit at the end of the quarter. We are told that the clergy will soon arouse the authorities to forbid our meetings, but our confidence is in God. We were cheered to-day by a long letter from a girl in *South Berlin*, formerly in our class there, telling of her conversion. She was at first very wild, and we thought we should have to tell her not to come; she thanks us now for continually pointing her to Jesus and not giving her up as hopeless.

Schöndorfer gasse 31, Pressburg.

F. Butcher.

{340} **Dr. Baedeker** is taking another wide tour in Germany and Russia, expecting to be absent till the middle of October, and to reach Transcaucasia again.

Echoes of Service 488 (October 1901, Part II)

{382} **Dr. Baedeker** has been making one of his long rounds, having left Berlin, September 8th, his first journey – to Rostow-on-Don – occupying three days and nights. {...} On his return journey he hoped to see again the Mennonite brethren of the German colonies north of the Crimea, and to reach England *viâ* Budapest and Vienna before the end of October.
{...}

Echoes of Service 489 (November 1901, Part I)

{419} **Stuttgart, Germany, Oct. 11th.** – Since Mr. Anderson’s visit at the beginning of June we have had meetings for Italians, the first of which he kindly took, and afterwards his son so long as he was here, until the beginning of August. We are still going on with these meetings, which will last until the end of November, when the Italians return to their own country for the winter. At times we get a good number on Sunday afternoons. A brother in the Lord, who speaks Italian fairly well, has been able to go out into the lanes and streets to get the people in. For myself I feel such weakness in walking as to render this work impossible.

At the September fair three of my daughters and another sister went to distribute tracts and Gospels; they held some meetings for gipsy children outside their vans, and got a good number together.

G. A. Eoll.

158, *Alexanderstrasse, Stuttgart.*

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AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

{...}

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OPENINGS FOR THE GOSPEL.

There are *great restrictions* placed upon the preaching of the gospel and the gathering of believers in *Austria. Hungary*, however, which, though united with Austria, has its own separate Government, *gives much more liberty* in this respect. *In both countries* there are, in spite of all hindrances, *abundant openings* for making known the Word, by such servants of God as add to the usual necessary grace and gifts the prudence which the special circumstances demand.

RECENT MOVEMENTS.

If we consider first the large German population, we notice some things which allow more entrance among them than was obtainable some years ago. The movement called,

“**Away from Rome**,” although in itself chiefly political, has yet awakened a spirit of enquiry among Roman Catholics which did not previously exist. It is true that a very large proportion of those who have left the Romish church, in connection with this movement, have merely become Protestants, without being spiritually quickened; yet even a movement among this mass of dark Romanism is a hopeful sign, and is doubtless, in individual souls, a blind groping after light, which leads some to the Son of God as the Saviour.

Another and perhaps more important factor is that **spiritual revival**, which has for years been working in many parts of Germany, and, by means of literature and the visits of brethren, has its influence upon believing Germans wherever they are to be found. The importance of this movement, which cannot now be more particularly described, is but little known among the majority of {428} English Christians, but, apart from Germany itself, it leads to the reviving of spiritual life in German believers in Austria and other countries, so that, whether living among R.C. fellow-countrymen, or among dead Protestants, or other nationalities, many are constrained to bear witness for Christ with new courage and power.

ACCESS THROUGH THE GERMAN LANGUAGE.

This is true of regions far beyond Austria-Hungary; indeed, there is at present an apparently **inexhaustible field** for the preaching of the gospel and the ministry of the Word in the German language, from the borders of the *North Sea* to the coasts of the *Caspian*, in all which countries are either German settlements, or other nationalities which may be reached by means of Germans living among them and able to translate the Word into their diverse tongues.

RATIONALISM.

The Germans, called **Saxons**, in *Transylvania*, have characteristics of their own, the result of centuries of isolation from their countrymen in the west. They are principally Lutherans, and a very extreme form of *rationalism* has developed among them, rendering them blind with the darkness of those who say “we see.” Yet among them the Word may be freely preached, and is received by some.

“EARS TO HEAR.”

In *Bohemia*, perhaps more than in any other part of Austria at present, the Word of Life is preached to interested listeners, which is no doubt partly due to the remembrance of the many who, in former days in that country, witnessed a good confession. Though the testimony was extinguished by force, so far as force could extinguish it, yet we see that even the *distant* memory of the walk and words of *good men* works with their prayers – which in heaven are not forgotten – and *brings blessing* on the labours of those who, long after, follow in their steps of faith. Even in Bohemia, however, the reviving is very small compared with the great bulk of the population still in ignorance of the way of salvation.

WITNESSES FOR CHRIST.

Among the *Slovaks*, some few have, of late years, been raised up and constrained to devote their lives to making known the gospel among their neglected country-people. We may think of them as they go about the mountains, gathering the scattered village people to hear the Word, or, in some few centres, maintaining regular preaching, in spite of the violence of some who would suppress it.

Hungarians, Roumanians, and Italians, have some of Christ’s witnesses among them, but, while the promise of Life is to “whosoever believeth,” most have not yet heard it. Among *Poles, Ruthenes* and others, the messengers of the gospel are rarely found; in the *Slovenes* we have a European people who *have not yet* the whole of the *Scriptures* in their

native tongue; and how rarely do we hear of any ray of gospel light penetrating among the numerous *Croats* in the South, a fine, manly race, inhabiting a country of exceptional beauty.

The “Nazarenes,” with their strange mixture of truth and error, are spreading among the inhabitants of Southern Hungary and Servia; and the extensive emigration to America results in giving some new ideas, good and bad, in villages which had remained unchanged for centuries.

THE EVANGELIZING OF EMIGRANTS IN AMERICA.

Brethren in America will no doubt recognize the responsibility and opportunity given them by the sending among them of numbers of these varied peoples, some of whom, if enlightened by the Spirit, might return to preach the Word in their own lands.

PRAYER FOR WORKERS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

These lines are written to stir up prayer for the many dwellers in Central Europe, and for the few who labour among them in the gospel. While giving thanks for the latter, who are much beloved, and are blessed in their work, we may request for them that they may be strengthened in faith, to declare “all the counsel of God,” and to lead on believers in the knowledge and practice of the Word of God, without fear, and unhindered by traditions of men.

E. H. Broadbent.

Pressburg, Hungary, Oct. 21st. – We had a short visit from Mr. Broadbent about two months ago, after the Swiss conference. It was his first visit to us here in Hungary, and we trust the Lord will permit him to come often; his sphere of service is now so large that visits are very short. Last week Dr. Baedeker was with us for six hours, just halting on his way from Buda-pest to Paris; he met the friends from O’Tura and Vágújhely here, and thus saved a journey to them, but it must have been tiring for the sisters; he had a small Bible-reading in our room.

The Lord encourages us to go on still, but the meetings vary a good deal. Yesterday the gospel meeting was nicely attended; two women joined heartily in the singing, having picked up the tunes through listening often outside. It takes time to win confidence, as such informal little meetings are a novelty, especially after the magnificent forms in the R.C. churches. One old woman came in and crossed herself as she entered; she looked a bit surprised to see no cross or holy picture. I don’t think she could understand German, being dressed like a Slovak; after a while she made some excuse and went out. Several {429} who come to see us have not yet been to the meetings; I think they are frightened. If there were only some Christians who could fetch those invited, I think more might come; it is a day of small things, and we must be content to go on steadily sowing and watering the sown seed with prayer. Two Hungarian young men came to see us last week, and we shall be glad to know more; but the Hungarians here generally, with their intense patriotism and also pride, have not much sense of their need, and have no desire for things spiritual.

The winter will soon be upon us, and I hope to visit many villages again. The colporteur is back in Pressburg, so we shall no doubt often go together; “The Scripture Gift Mission” sent us 2,000 German Gospels, and these with their attractive appearance are most suitable for house distribution, and I have known only two or three refusals. They have promised also to print eight Scripture portions in Bohemian and Slovak for distribution, but Mr. Chorvát of Vágújhely, who is doing the translation, has not got them ready yet. We believe the Lord will use these Gospels and portions; they are admirably adapted for Roman Catholics.

I am glad to say we have had good health since we left England for the first time, over three and a half years ago; the Lord has sustained us in the great heat of summer and the cold of winter.

F. Butcher.

Schöndorfer gasse 31, Pressburg.

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INDEX, WITH PREFATORY REMARKS.

{...} We are glad to include the names of some workers of French, German, Swiss and other nationalities, who carry on their service as guided by the Word of God, similarly to those from the British Isles; our sympathy for workers in France seems especially called for because of the few Christians in their own country to minister to them. Spiritual movements in Germany are said to be very widespread, and prayer is called for that in all of them the Scriptures may have their true place of authority. The continuance of simple gospel work long maintained in Berlin is a cause for thankfulness, though in the church work connected with it a fuller carrying out of what we judge to be the teaching of Scripture is desirable.

{...}

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GERMANY.

Stuttgart, Jan. 31st. – Six years ago the Lord led us to Ostheim, the suburb of Stuttgart most wholly given to social democracy. For three years systematic labour was carried on in a Sunday school, evangelistic services and some visiting, and our hearts were rejoiced by a few conversions and some blessing to older Christians. I was privileged to help in this work during the first year and a half before leaving for Egypt. After three years the brethren felt the time had come for them to begin work at Gablenberg, a village three-quarters of an hour's walk from Stuttgart, the inhabitants of which have the name of being the worst in the neighbourhood. The meetings have not been attended by large numbers, but a few have come regularly. There are about fifty names on the Sunday school books, between thirty and forty being the usual attendance.

In December we held special services every evening for a week, 240 invitations being left at different apartments. The room was filled with young people, from thirteen to sixteen years of age, not one older person being present until the third night. Mr. Senkheil {sic} and my brother spoke every evening; my father was only able to go out one night. We all felt that the Spirit of God was working; His power was specially felt the last two nights, and since that time there has been a marked difference in the older boys and girls. We believe and pray that the Lord will bless the seed sown.

The greatest hindrance to much visiting in winter is the long hilly walk to and fro in the short afternoons, though this is the best season for finding the people at home, as most of them labour continually in their fields and vineyards at every other time of the year. We are thinking whether it may not be the Lord's mind that, whilst my comparatively little strength forbids my thinking at present of the foreign field, I should take a room in Gablen-

berg and devote myself entirely to the work there for a time, and we are looking to Him to show us.

Hettie A. Eoll.

AUSTRIA.

Bibles preserved but not read. – F. Butcher.

Pressburg, Jan. 20th – We are glad to be encouraged to go on, for many speak of the almost hopeless task of getting people, steeped in years of superstition, to comprehend the simple truth of the gospel. But if we go on steadily pointing souls to Christ alone, there will be a harvest time.

We rejoice in every token of blessing, even though it is sometimes so small that Christians in England might ignore it{.}

Last month I was able to pay a short visit to Marburg, where a young couple have been brought to the Lord since I was there, over two years ago. I stayed with them and had a very interesting meeting in their flat, at which some twenty neighbours and others were present. The young man is a Slovene by birth and visits Carniola as colporteur, but since I was there I have heard that he has been arrested and locked up. I trust his faith may be sustained, and also that of {86} his young wife, who told me how very anxious she felt when he was away on his journeys and she was left alone at home. The young colporteur here in Pressburg will, I am afraid, have a hard time of it now, as the help he has hitherto received has been withdrawn, and he has only the profit from his sales.

A fortnight ago I had a very interesting meeting in a village between twenty and thirty miles away, in the house of a wheelwright who seems a most intelligent man; there were nearly fifty present. Most of the people in that village are Lutherans, but conversion is unknown. In the neighbouring village some three miles distant all are Roman Catholics, and in visiting from house to house there with the colporteur we found the people very dissatisfied with their priest for some political reason. Tracts and Gospels were scattered freely among them, and the colporteur sold some New Testaments and one Bible. We stayed a night with a R.C. family, and as, in conversation, I was quoting some passages from Rom. iii., the man said they had a book that contained them, and produced a Bible. It had come into his possession two or three years ago from a relative in Vienna who had died. We also found another man who had one. Some purchase a Bible or Testament simply because it is a nice-looking book and evidently cheap; but, when bought, it is just glanced into and put on one side. "How shall they hear without a *preacher*?" To stay with a family for a night when visiting a village is good, as it gives opportunity of having an impromptu Bible reading in the evening, at which a neighbour or two may drop in.

Our meetings in Pressburg are fairly well attended. Yesterday Mr. Cejnar (who is connected with Dr. Clark) was over from Vienna, so we had a Slovack meeting, at which the interest in the Word spoken was certainly marked. If the Lord will, we hope to have a Slovack meeting once a month, when one of the brethren will come over from Vienna.

Schöndorfergasse 31, Pressburg.

F. Butcher.

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REMARKS ON ANNUAL ACCOUNT.

{...}

{118} In Austria the breaking away from Rome, chiefly political, still continues, and loudly calls for help, but workers known to us there are very few. {...} In Germany, where human wisdom in connection with divine things has proved so hurtful, many children of God are seeking to be freed from formal religion, and while we know little of them personally we may help them much by prayer. Fresh spiritual vigour is evident in Switzerland, and increased fellowship of believers with Christians of other parts calls for praise.

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GERMANY.

Hamburg. – Through grace I am kept well in health, and am very busy, fresh doors always opening for drawing-room Bible-readings, etc. I have held three or four meetings weekly for some time, chiefly among ladies. Last week I spoke to large gatherings of wealthy American and English ladies, and was asked to give them another meeting. Next week I am to speak to a circle of fashionable *young* ladies, many of whom in the midst of their gaiety have sad, hungry hearts. The dear Christian who was the *first* in Wenigeröde to get up a drawing-room Bible-reading writes, “The people you meet will listen to an English lady, will let her say what she likes, but will turn a deaf ear to people of their own country. God knows whom He will use, and we praise Him for sending someone who can tell them that they will never enter His kingdom except they are born again, that only the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin, and that eternal life cannot be bought for money or good works, but is the *gift* of God.” Such testimonies are cheering, and I praise God and take courage. For April I have invitations to Kiel, Perleberg, Frauen Walden, and Berlin.

A Danish young lady came on a visit to Hamburg, and attended one of these meetings. She sat weeping the whole evening, and stayed long afterwards. She accepted Christ, but went home still weeping. After some days, however, the sun broke through the clouds, and she became full of praise and thanksgiving. Then as the time drew near to return to her home, she trembled, dreading the gay, worldly friends and relatives; her father is a very strict Lutheran pastor. Much prayer was made, and she went home. In a few days she wrote that she was very happy; her father and sisters were not angry, but liked to listen, and wished they were as happy as she.

Rosetta S. Blamire.

{219} **Pressburg, Austria, May 3rd.** – We seek to live as quietly as possible for two reasons, *viz.*, that it does not become the followers of the Lord to do as the world does, and also we find it necessary to be unto the poor as those who are also poor; otherwise they would not care to visit us. We now know a good number of people, and in the villages a few souls

are desiring forgiveness, but in the town all seems barren and dry. Now that summer is coming on, the people prefer to go to the haunts of amusement on Sunday afternoons and evenings, and here we have not the privilege of open-air testimony as in England. May brethren at home use this privilege!

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Broadbent, and also M. Widmer from Switzerland, on his first visit to Austria-Hungary. They remained but one night with us, and took the Danube steamer the next day for Budapest and thence to Bucarest, as any special meetings in Roumania must be held before the weather gets warmer. On the return journey our brethren hope to {220} stay for a time in South Hungary. It is good that these lands are getting more attention.

The work here amongst the young is encouraging as regards numbers, but it would scarcely be advisable that many should come; it is not easy to refuse when someone says that a friend is outside the door and wants to know if he may come in. Next week we move back to our old room again, which we had to quit nine months ago; the Lord works all things according to His will.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 508 (August 1902, Part II)

{320} **Mr. Max Springer**, of Vohwinkel, Germany, writes that during the last few months they have had very good and interesting meetings, which have been well attended, and many speak of having received blessing{.} In February a brother, Mr. Sidler, who has for some years been at Vohwinkel, left them for South Brazil to work amongst the numerous German colonists there. Mr. Springer had just heard from him, and he spoke of great darkness around, but of many opportunities to preach the gospel and speak to souls. He and his work are constantly remembered before the Lord in prayer.

Echoes of Service 519 (February 1903, Part I)

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AUSTRIA.

Marched between soldiers with fixed bayonets.

Pressburg, Dec. 6th. – We enjoyed Mr. Aschkenasi's brief visit, and since then had Mr. Broadbent for twenty-two hours on his eastern journey; we had a nice little meeting. Another English brother spent last Sunday with us, having come over from Vienna to have a little fellowship with us, which we much appreciated. We should rejoice if a brother sent of God were ready to come and live here.

I was arrested last month in a village some thirty miles away by two gendarmes. I had the day previously distributed Gospels, and remained in a private house for the night. A little while afterwards the colporteur, who was in the same village, was also arrested, and we were marched with fixed bayonets for three or four hours to the chief town of that district. The judge sentenced me to expulsion from the district, with a threat of what they would do if they caught me again; the colporteur was also expelled, but had to pay 5/- as a fine for selling without a license. I had done nothing against the law, and a friend in Budapest has gone to the English consul about it, but I have not heard the result. The consul is a

Jew and the chief consul a Romanist, so they may refuse to move in the matter. While out two days this week in the country I called upon a woman, whom I had visited a few weeks ago, when she said she would like to hear more. This time she asked me to stay the night, which I did, and some four or five neighbours coming in to help her pick goose feathers in the evening, I was able to read a portion and put the gospel before them. In the morning she left her work to sit and talk of the gospel for an hour. In the same village I met another woman who also has an open ear.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 522 (March 1903, Part II)

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GERMANY.

The Emperor and the Bible. – *J. E. Leonhardt.*

Homburg, Feb. 21st. – Some time back I proposed to write something about the Lord's Hand amongst us, but the many claims on my time have hitherto prevented. We have been permitted of late to evangelize in many ways, in many places, and amongst many classes of people, and have seen some pleasant fruits, to God's praise. We have had our hall filled night after night, and also good attendance in larger buildings. A number have been saved and some added to His people, while others, I trust, have been stirred up. God willing, we hope again to have special gospel services at the beginning of April, and I would ask prayer for them.

Next Lord's-day will be a great day for the "Carnival Feast," when we hope to distribute a great many special leaflets against this ungodly and devilish custom.

I am delighted to tell you that in many hearts up and down the country the desire for clearer truth and deeper fellowship has been created, entirely by the Spirit's work, and not by special human instrumentality.

Our country has of late been chiefly divided into *two camps*, "Babel" and "Bible." I have no doubt you are aware that Professor Delitzsch has taken up this subject, and has tried to prove that *Christ could not be the Son of God*. He was lately invited to the Emperor's Palace, and the papers published a great many articles to prove that the Emperor had been converted to Professor Delitzsch's views. It was a source of great sorrow to all those who had hitherto admired the Emperor's frank and manly profession of simple faith in Christ, and many desired to know the truth of these statements. You will be thankful to hear that an open letter has been published by the Emperor, and I will attempt to translate a portion touching upon the most important point.

{108} Writing to Admiral Hollmann, 15th February, His Majesty says: –

"At an evening party Professor Delitzsch had an opportunity of debating and explaining fully his views before Her Majesty and Superintendent-General Dryander, during which I remained passive and listened. He left the ground of the rigid historian and Assyriologist and got into theological and religious conclusions and hypotheses, which very often to me appeared foggy and vague. In speaking about the New Testament it became evident to me that he developed such deviating views that I not only could not endorse his words but was obliged to *diametrically oppose* them. He disowns the Godhead of Christ, and draws the final conclusion that the Old Testament contains no revelation as to His being the coming Messiah. Here the Assyriologist and searching historian ends, and the theologian with all his shades of light and darkness begins."

It would take too long to translate all, but I will now give you what I call the "Confession of Faith" expressed by the Emperor in the rest of his letter.

“It is by direct interference of God that this people Israel are able to withstand, and thus it continues on through all the centuries until the Messiah, foretold by prophets and the Psalmist, appears – the *greatest revelation of God to the World. He reveals Himself in His Son, Christ being God, God manifest in the flesh.* He redeems us. He stirs us up and entices us to follow Him. We feel His fire burning within us. His mercy revives us, His disapproval humbles us, but His intercession sets us free. Triumphantly, *only trusting in His Word*, we walk through labour, taunt, misery and distress, and even through death, having in Him God’s revealed Word which *never* fails us. This is my view of the whole question.”

With many others I feel deeply thankful that such weighty words should have fallen from the lips of one in such high authority, and having such a far-reaching influence over the whole of his people.

We are all well and the little ones are our daily delight. Would that all God’s people were His daily delight!

Homburg, v. der Höhe.

Jean E. Leonhardt.

The new saying in Germany, “The Bible is Babel,” means that the Bible record is merely taken from the tablet records recently discovered in Babylon, and this novelty has been readily taken up in this country by those who think themselves wise, but understand not the things of the Spirit of God. That the *Jewish* Lord Mayor should preside at the Bible Society’s Annual Meeting, and the Prime Minister should speak in honour of the Word of God, is a remarkable event in our own land.

{119} **Germany.** – Mr. Max Springer writes that during last year several hundreds of souls confessed Christ in a town fifteen to twenty miles from Vohwinkel, which he occasionally has the privilege of visiting. Many of these have become connected with various denominations, and some seem desirous of learning the way of the Lord from the Scriptures. Mr. Springer says the Lord is opening doors for His truth in those parts, and he asks prayer for wisdom and grace in seeking to make use of the opportunities given, especially as there is considerable opposition from various quarters.

Seventh-day Adventists in Austria.

Pressburg, Feb. 2nd. – When the weather is severe one finds the people more at home, with time to listen to a few words; but since my arrest I have endeavoured to be as careful as I can, as one does not want to see districts closed to further efforts. To-day, being “Candlemas,” is a holiday, so we have asked a few young people to come to us this afternoon. We can make some use of these numerous *holy days*, as the people are not at work, although we are in much ignorance of what the days are supposed to celebrate.

We are sorry that the Seventh-day Adventists have come to Pressburg. A German-American preacher from among them took up his residence here last September; and in a large neighbouring village he has found an entrance among the German Lutherans. An emigrant from this village became an Adventist in the States, and returning to his home held a meeting and visited his old friends; now their preacher has taken up the work and is carrying it on. Yesterday a young man from that village came to talk with us about it, thinking that we too might be Adventists; he has offered me the use of his room for a meeting on Wednesday evening, promising to invite those specially interested to come and hear what I have to say. I should be very glad of earnest prayer for the village; I am acquainted with three or four families there.

Hochstr. 44, Pressburg, Hungary.

F. Butcher.

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EASTERN EUROPE.

Romish zeal in Hungary.

Pressburg, Austria, April 6th. – We are going on happily in this town, but *much* prayer is needed that souls might be broken down. In my last letter I mentioned a village, from which a man visited me and offered his room for a meeting. This was held; attention was paid to the Word, and a further coming together arranged for the following week; but on the day appointed the man came into the town to say it was too dangerous to go out, as the people were on the watch for me, threatening to beat me or to bind me on a crucifix near his house. He himself slept with a loaded gun at his side. Though we are hindered from visiting there at present, this man or his wife comes in every Sunday to the meeting; one of them remains with the children. The woman seems to grasp the truth better than her husband, but both have had to suffer some scorn and petty persecution. We hope a work has been commenced in their hearts, though it is of course rather early to say anything definitely.

Next week there is to be a two days' conference in Vienna, and I hope to be present. Most of the brethren are dear, earnest souls. There are not very many preachers and colporteurs in Austria-Hungary, but some will no doubt travel great distances to be there.

A fortnight ago a German brother from British East Africa was with us for a night, and told our friends something about the Lord's work there, which was new to them.

Hochstr. 44, Pressburg, Hungary,

F. Butcher.

{202} **Mr. E. Hamer Broadbent**, who has rendered much service in Eastern countries, hopes soon to set out again for Russia, but as he feels it desirable to strengthen the link with Swiss and German believers – who are by position and language most suited to help in Eastern Europe – he purposes first to take his family (his widowed sister-in-law and her little one accompanying them) to Switzerland, and to leave them there for some time, while he pursues his difficult service eastward. He mentions that a valued German brother, Mr. Geier, of Potsdam, who has long followed his calling in summer, and has been enabled thereby to give his winters to spiritual work, now feels called, with his wife's fellowship, to give his entire time to preaching and teaching, and is removing to a neglected part of the great city of Berlin as a centre; he is "much to be commended for his long-proved godliness and grace as well as gift," Mr. Broadbent adds.

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Emigrants from Europe to Canada and U.S.A.

Pressburg, Hungary, June 18th. – The man and his wife who came regularly from the village to the meeting on Sundays will, I expect, emigrate to Canada; we think both of them

are truly converted. A fortnight ago two men who had been coming to the meetings for a long time set off for Winnipeg. Our Canadian and American brethren have most precious opportunities; thousands of Croates and Ruthenians are now emigrating, as well as Bohemians, Slovacks, Hungarians, etc. In the home-lands these peoples, especially the Croates, Poles, and Ruthenians, cannot be reached; therefore God sends them to Canada or the United States, where there is liberty for the gospel, but if the gospel does not reach them there they just drift into infidelity.

F. Butcher.

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Visit to Germany and Austria.

Dr. Baedeker wrote on July 14th, the day before he left England: – “While the days are going by, and while life and strength are sustained, I am thankful for opportunities granted to sow the precious seed abroad. Once more I hope to leave home to visit South Germany, Austria and Hungary before going to Blankenburg for the annual Conference, August 25th to 28th. I am very thankful for any tokens of spiritual life here and there throughout the Austrian empire. I shall be grateful for sympathy and remembrance in prayer. God willing, I reckon to return to England in two months.”

{...}

Work amongst Italians in Germany.

Stuttgart, Germany, July 4th. – Here we have the joy of witnessing to the poor Italians, for whom we began meetings again last April, not only fortnightly meetings here on Sunday afternoons, but also in the suburb of Gablenberg, and at Suffenhausen, some distance by rail, where a Baptist community have kindly lent us their chapel for Italian meetings. At another place, called Feuerbach, we also hold occasional meetings. Last Sunday night at Suffenhausen a good number came, and most attentive listeners they were. To our German meetings only a small number come, but we wait and pray for an increase even in these.

G. A. Eoll.

Echoes of Service 534 (September 1903, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Visiting Evangelical Clergymen. – *C. Geier.*

Potsdam, Aug. 8th. – (*To Mr. Butcher.*) Now I am back from my journey, I should like to tell you something about it. From Stolp I went to Vehsin to see Pastor Cierus, of the State Church, who is a truly converted man and received me most heartily, persuading me to remain a few days. There was much to do here, but at the same time much blessing and joy. On the Sunday afternoon we had a meeting, at which about 1,000 people, I should think, came together to hear the Word, and many, I believe, found peace. It was a long and very blessed meeting, the best in my experience, lasting from 3.0 till 10 p.m.; in the afternoon we were out of doors and in the evening under cover. From far and near souls were assem-

bled longing for salvation, and the Lord blessed richly. The day following we had a meeting attended with blessed results in the school building. Both the schoolmaster and sexton are converted, and also the pastor's wife.

By Pastor Cierus I was commended to another believing clergyman; he was not at home, but I had some happy times with his family. I then went to a third converted pastor, and was received with {346} much love. I was here earnestly requested to come again soon and stay longer. From this point I had to hasten my steps as my time was drawing short. Four other places were visited, and in each I found open doors.

Pray for these dear ones in Pomerania, that the work of grace in their hearts may be furthered; perhaps an opportunity may soon arise to visit them again.

We move (D.V.) from Potsdam to Berlin in October. With the Lord's grace I hope to set out again in a week's time for a second journey, travelling this time westward.

Carl Geier.

Echoes of Service 537 (November 1903, Part I)

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Blessing through the Word in Germany.

Concerning the work in Germany, especially the part where I am living, the Lord has done great things. During June and July more than 500 souls have been drawn to Christ as their Saviour in Mülheim, the place where Tersteegen lived. Several of the state church ministers have not only been converted, but are deeply exercised as to following the Master in simplicity and in dependance on Him. It will further give joy to you and the dear brethren with you, to hear that one whom I used to visit when he was a socialist, and who then turned anarchist, is doing well. He not only has come to Christ, but is preaching the gospel in Wildungen and several other places near it. He, who formerly went in for great things in the eyes of men, has become like a little child. He is a most able and learned man, and knows six or eight languages. Do pray for him, and also praise God for His saving power.

I have just received a nice, bright letter from a former minister of the Lutheran Church in Saxony, now in our neighbourhood. Two other dear brethren who have been labouring for the Lord in Rhineland, have received the truth and are like fire and flame, with a heart full of love for souls, and are much used.

Max Springer.

Echoes of Service 541 (January 1904, Part I)

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AUSTRIA.

An Example in Giving. – Opening a Hall.

Pressburg, Nov. 24th. – About a month ago I sent an application to the Government for a colporteur's license for myself, but have received no reply yet. I should find this very useful in getting about in the country, as the gendarmes are inclined to ask every stranger what his business is, etc. In Austria the Bible Society, with all its influence, has its applications continually refused, but in Hungary licenses are obtained more readily. My being a foreigner is, however, against me.

A man and his wife, who have been converted this year, set us an example in giving. I had not mentioned it to them, but on selling the produce of their little vineyard, they brought rather a large proportion for the Lord's work, which we forwarded to Eastern Europe. About two weeks ago I was in South Hungary at the opening of a little hall, holding about 150, which some believers had built. About fifty guests were present from four or five German settlements, and all were accommodated by the local Christians for three days. A Swiss brother from Slavonia, a Slovak from O'Tura, a German from Central Hungary, and I, ministered the Word, and the Lord gave us a time of blessing. There are still things lacking in this company of Christians, but their delight in the Word exceeds that of many with more light. Over thirty of us set off home together, and on the Danube steamer, going along between Servia and Hungary, we were able to sing gospel hymns, to the astonishment of fellow-travellers; a goodly number received tracts afterwards. The Slovak meeting here is the best attended, but we should like to see definite conversions among them.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 542 (January 1904, Part II)

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Interesting work in Westphalia, Germany.

Mr. Springer sends some particulars about a conference to which he had lately been invited by some pastors of the national church, who, having learned for themselves the power of the gospel, are diligently seeking to lead others to the knowledge of Christ. In Germany, as in England, no layman is allowed to take part in any service in a consecrated building; therefore these servants of Christ, desiring the help of others, have for a year been holding services in a barn, during which time they have been able to erect a large hall. This hall was seated for about 700 people, but at some of the meetings quite 200 were standing, the novelty of meetings in a building other than a church no doubt attracting some. Mr. Springer says that during the two days of the conference, as well as on the Lord's day, much blessing was given, believers were helped through the Word, and many heard the gospel. After each address fifteen to twenty minutes were given to quiet waiting upon God in prayer, often some twenty or thirty taking part.

Our brother adds, "It was marvellous to see what the Lord has done and is doing, and also to see the grace given to the dear believers, who, though still formally in the state church, have to suffer for His name's sake, together with his two faithful servants." He asks prayer that they may be helped and guided of God.

Berlin. – A meeting has been opened in South Berlin at 7, York Strasse, particulars of which may be obtained from Herr Carl Geier, Katzbach Strasse, 22, Berlin, S.W.

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GERMANY.

A Visit to Rhineland, Germany.

Brussels, Feb. 5th. – I arrived home yesterday, having been in Germany for ten days. I was at a series of meetings for the deepening of the spiritual life, and was rejoiced to see such a desire after closer communion with God, the hall being crowded. There is a great movement apparently towards leaving the State Church, many going to the Free Church and a good many to the Baptists, but they are hearty and sincere. I had a soul-refreshing time at Vohwinkel, enjoying Br. Springer's hospitality, and the Lord gave us blessing, some souls professing to find peace. We had special meetings three evenings at Velbert, and one at Neviges, a Romish town. I was able to understand nearly all that was said in the meetings and to converse in German, but had to leave it till a future occasion to dare to speak to such large audiences, save by interpretation. Dear Mr. and Mrs. Springer seemed cheered by my stay, as they feel their isolation. I have an invitation to go for a week to Croix in the north of France for gospel meetings, and have just received a letter from a friend in East Germany, telling of open doors for the gospel there. The field is great, but I must not neglect the work here, though I hope, D.V., to go to Croix. We expect to begin a little English Bible-reading here next week, as the English element is growing. *William J. Nock.*

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AUSTRIA.

Value of a license to sell Bibles, etc.

Pressburg, Feb. 25th. – I have found my license very useful, as I can now get about selling Bibles and distributing tracts in the villages without fear of the authorities. I have sold in the three months that I have had it some £7 or £8 worth of Bibles, gospel books, etc., and also distributed hundreds of tracts. My sales hardly pay for expenses of journeying; still the idea is not to do business, but to spread abroad the knowledge of the Lord. The man from the village who was converted last year has accompanied me several times, and on four occasions we have visited Slovack villages, as he speaks Slovack very well. I could not {127} have gone to these villages alone, not knowing the language, so the Lord raised him up to help.

Yesterday we were in a Slovack village. The first thing one does is to go to the notary and get the license signed and stamped. The notary was not at home, but his clerk was very friendly. He took a German Gospel and a Hungarian tract readily, and advised me to visit another Slovack village belonging to the same district. When the license is signed we can commence going from house to house. The village was very muddy, in some places like a swamp, and I wonder the people are healthy. On inadvertently going into the mayor's house we ran against two gendarmes, who asked at once if I had a license, and what books I sold. The chief one took some Hungarian tracts to read, for which he wanted to pay, and I showed him a Hungarian Testament, but he said he had one; several people who had come together in the mayor's house bought gospel books. The mayor is generally a well-to-do peasant, but the notary on the other hand is an educated State official. We disposed of four-

teen Testaments and one Bible in that village and a good number of gospel books, all in the Slovack tongue.

Last Sunday we had our Slovack meeting, which was well attended as usual. One young Slovack has told us he would like to help in the work, but strangely he does not yet see that he needs help, though we think he is nearer than when we first knew him. He is a wood carver, and has in his workshop several “saints” that he has carved to order for a village church; his conscience is a little uneasy about this, and if he really comes to Christ he will find that he cannot go on carving “saints” or the “virgin,” before which deluded souls kneel down to pray.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 548 (April 1904, Part II)

{142} **Mr. Arnot** writes that he had a good reception from the Belgian authorities at Brussels, and quite hopes that the work in Garenganze will now be pursued without hindrance. {...} He then proceeded to Homburg and to Switzerland, where he has been holding meetings night after night.

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ROUMANIA.

{...} Mr. Broadbent speaks of blessing received in the neighbourhood of Lausanne through recent meetings, and remarks that in visiting with Monsieur F. Widmer “among the German-speaking farmers of the Bernese Jura, we saw how the Spirit of God has been working among the people.”

{...}

Echoes of Service 552 (June 1904, Part II)

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AUSTRIA.

“Some hard blows.”

Pressburg, May 18th. – Last Sunday the Lord gave us a happy time, Mr. Humphries, of London, being with us, and also Mr. and Mrs. Chorvat, of Va’g-ujhelz. Mr. Humphries spoke a little in the German meeting in the afternoon, and Mr. Chorvat translated for him in the Slovack meeting in the evening, also speaking himself from the same text. A young Slovack told me next day that Mr. Chorvat had given them some hard blows. The meeting was well attended, though there were not quite so many as previously, some opposition having been aroused. I suppose the great enemy could not endure the sight of so many coming under the sound of the gospel.

There are three or four souls who seem awakened and desire to be true followers of Christ. Yesterday I received a packet of “God’s Way of Salvation” in German. I translated it, and a brother in Leipzig corrected it and saw to the printing. We trust it will be a blessing to many, and that brethren in German-speaking lands will take copies for distribution. It is to be sold for 8 Pfennig (1d.), allowing discount for those who take fifty or more.

We hope to set out on the 27th inst. for England, where our address will be *Roberts-bridge, near Hawkhurst, Kent.*

F. Butcher.

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Mr. Nagel's visit to his native land.

Stamheim, Hessen, Germany, May 14th. – In this my native village the Lord has been doing wondrous things in answer to prayer during my absence. Where everything was dead quite a number are now alive and rejoicing in their personal Saviour, and some of them have begun breaking bread once a month. But all are like little babes, and one cannot help crying to the Lord that He may supply the need of teachers and pastors able to guide and feed His flock. I have held meetings at a little hall which has been built by these dear souls, and have had a good attendance.

Next week, if the Lord will, I shall go to other places and travel about as the Lord leads.

V. Nagel.

Power of the Gospel proved in Germany.

Vohwinkel, Rhineland, May 18th. – In Bochum (Westphalia) I was privileged to bring the gospel before hundreds every night for a fortnight. Though the ground is very hard, God's Spirit is mighty. Some forty or fifty professed to have been found by the great Shepherd. In several other places also the Lord has given blessing.

I only returned last week from *Werden* on the Ruhr, where I had a mission for a fortnight, and the Hall was constantly full. Three-fourths of the population are R.C. and only about 3,000 souls Protestants. Several Romanists were deeply convicted {240} through the Word. On Wednesday afternoon I held a children's meeting, and they were allowed to bring their friends and parents. It was a sight, and my heart leaped for joy. The Hall was packed, and there was a deep movement of God's Spirit.

When I closed the evening meeting I appealed once more to them to decide for Christ to-night; there was a breaking-down, and seventy or eighty men and women were on their knees asking God to forgive their sins.

Last Sunday I spent at *Langerfeld* (Westphalia), where hundreds of hungry souls heard the gospel in the afternoon. God is doing a great work in our days. May we be faithful!

Max Springer.

Echoes of Service 553 (July 1904, Part I)

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A meeting in Germany for Italians.

Stuttgart, June 7th. – Last Sunday week we had a time of blessed fellowship with the Lord's servants, Messrs. d'Okolsky and Butcher. We assembled here in the morning for breaking of bread, and in the afternoon had a good meeting in the large hall of the Y.M.C.A., for Italians, of whom about a hundred were present. At the end a Romish priest stood up and spoke to his countrymen, and though not contradicting anything that had been said, wished to recommend himself as their Catholic missionary, to whom they might come in matters spiritual and material, reminding them, with a flood of language, of some of Italy's great men, as Dante, etc. Our meeting in Gablenberg had to be given up for the day, but we had a blessed and profitable meeting here, with our room full.

G. A. Eoll.

{280} **Mr. E. H. Broadbent** purposed starting July 11th, for the continent, leaving his wife and children at Featherstone. After visiting various places in Germany he hopes to spend some time in Austria and Hungary and then go on to Roumania. He will value prayer for God's guidance and help.

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GERMANY.

En route to Switzerland.

Frankfurt, Aug. 11th. – It does not require a long residence in a Continental country to make one conscious of the great liberty enjoyed in England, and the many privileges possessed there as contrasted with other lands. In Rotterdam, Major Tapp, while acquiring the language for service in South Africa, is rendering help in efforts to reach some of the vast numbers who are entirely given up to business and pleasure, or sunk below this; but he tells us that no open-air preaching is allowed in Holland, because Socialists and others would take advantage of it.

We often hear from our brethren in Spain of their *one* opportunity of speaking of Christ in the open air, when called to bury those who have separated from the church of Rome; but no such privilege can be had in Germany. On Saturday last I accompanied Mr. Springer to the burial of an aged sister in the Lord at Solingen, the Sheffield of this country. She and her husband (who is over eighty) have had the meeting in their house from the time it was opened, about two years. In two rooms connected by an open door about fifty were assembled, while in another room opening into one of these the coffin was placed. After hymns, prayers, and an address by Mr. Springer, the body was borne to the cemetery, in which no word may be spoken except by the clergy of the Lutheran Church or the priests of Rome.

The grave was surrounded, the body was lowered, and all present stood in silence, the men with their heads uncovered. Then the bereaved husband took a light spade and threw three small quantities of earth into the grave, the same thing being done by other relatives and close friends in succession. The bearers, who had received a common pair of white gloves each, removed them and threw them into the grave. As we left, Mr. Springer drew my attention to an official who had been standing near all the time to see that nothing was said. Anyone transgressing this law would be liable to a fine.

We rejoice to see growth in the work here. Though some who used to go from Solingen to Vohwinkel ceased to do so when the meeting there was opened, the one at Vohwinkel is larger than formerly; the two meetings work in happy fellowship.

After the morning and afternoon meetings at Vohwinkel, I went with Mr. Springer to Velbert, where he kindly interpreted for me to a company of about 200, mostly Christians. Here, too, there is a very real work of God going on. The meeting there is at 8.30, and we only got home at midnight.

Yesterday afternoon we had a pleasant time with Mr. and Mrs. Leonhardt at Homburg, who warmly welcomed us. We heard much from our brother of the working of God in different parts, as evidenced by visits he receives from one and another, representing many who have been exercised by the Word of God, and, having heard of the meeting at Hom-

burg, have gone with the definite object of learning about the truths of baptism, the breaking of bread, and other things. The fact that so many in different places are thus moved without any great leader or teacher, gives a true indication of the work of the Holy Spirit of God, of which it is good to hear when outwardly everything seems to speak of disregard of God and His Word.

Mr. Leonhardt thought the best way of occupying the evening would be to hold a meeting of young brethren, which was therefore arranged in the room of a young officer of noble birth in the German army. Another officer of the same position was present, as were also some private soldiers and other young men. The attention was very real as I spoke to them, through Mr. Leonhardt, of the authority of the Holy Scriptures and the testimony of our Lord concerning those of the Old Testament, and the remarks by some when I suggested a little time of conversation showed how intelligently they had entered into the subject. May the Lord preserve and lead on those who are young in years and surrounded by every form of temptation calculated to appeal to them, and may He still help our brother in his valuable service amongst them!

W. H. Bennet.

Echoes of Service 560 (October 1904, Part II)

{399} **Transylvania.** – Mons. Berney writes that Messrs. Springer and Butcher have gone to Rosenau to carry on for a little the hopeful work he was enabled to commence there during the summer. He went there again to introduce them into it, but they thought they would only be able to stay fifteen days.

Echoes of Service 562 (November 1904, Part II)

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HUNGARY.

Work in Transylvania. – Return to Pressburg.

Pressburg, Oct. 14th. – There was a manifest moving of the Spirit of God in the hearts of several in Rosenau in Transylvania. The interest manifest night after night as our brother Springer preached the gospel was most marked, and several souls undoubtedly found peace, while of others there is every reason to hope that they are not far from conversion. I trust that Br. Springer will be able to go there again in the winter, when the people have more time, for there is a hunger amongst them for the Word of God. He went on to Bucarest, and is at present in Buda-Pesth, but intends leaving Hungary next week.

Here we go on quietly as usual. A man from the country was baptized this week near his own village, but his wife is most indifferent to the gospel. Our Slovack meetings, held at first monthly, seem to be becoming weekly now, and are generally taken by a Slovack colporteur. Lately a {427} young Slovack converted in Germany has come to live in Pressburg, and another, whom we believe to be the Lord's, seeks to help as much as he can, always inviting a goodly number to the Slovack meetings.

F. Butcher.

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Work of the Spirit of God in Hungary and Roumania.

Vohwinkel, Germany, Nov. 2nd. – Through God's grace I returned last week after six weeks' absence. There was a gospel meeting nearly every night, and at Buda-Pesth meetings with believers in the afternoon also, and on one Sunday we had five meetings (7.0, 9.30, 2.0, 5.30 and 8.0, with an after-meeting till 10.20), but I praise the Lord for His sustaining power in soul and body. The whole time has been a chain of blessing, continuing right up to my arrival at home. The Lord proved Himself mighty, not only in Rosenau, but also in Bucarest and especially in Buda-Pesth. At every meeting the Spirit was manifestedly working and convincing souls. In Buda-Pesth four to six hundred persons were present every night, of whom at least a quarter were Jews. At the close forty to seventy would stay behind, and on each occasion I had to deal with some old people desirous to accept the rejected Messiah as Saviour. Fellowship with dear Br. Butcher was very sweet, and I was sorry when we had to part. I am exercised about going again in January, as these people need help.

Max Springer.

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GERMANY.

Work in the town of Tersteegen.

Taarn, November 16th. – The meetings at Mülheim have been well attended, every corner being occupied; 700 to 1000 people came together every night. They all listened with the greatest attention, and Christians were deeply interested. My time has been well occupied from morning to night. I am very thankful for this opportunity to bring truths before these people, who otherwise are always afraid to hear anything else than their pastors preach. It needs the greatest wisdom to move among them, to interest in love their hearts for the truth, for Christ. In many families a most loving spirit is found. Mülheim is the place where the saintly Tersteegen lived.

Taarn, where I am now, belongs to Mülheim, too, though it is some six kilometers from the actual town. I am speaking on the *Tabernacle* here, putting forth the truth of Christ, God's house, etc. I have a nice hall here and have nothing to pay for it; I am also invited to stay with a Christian in his house.

Max Springer.

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A true helper in the work.

Pressburg, Hungary, Dec. 21st. – I have obtained a renewal of my colportage licence from the Government, and our brother Marhofer (the first baptized here) has also got one, so he can get about in the winter time (during the summer he works in his vineyard), and he seems really very fitted for the work. He understands the people, and can get at them so much better than a foreigner, and then he is perfectly at home in German and Slovak, and

speaks Hungarian fairly. Every week we have a little meeting in his house on the slopes of the Carpathians, and although very few have the courage or desire to come, we are thankful that a few turn up, and we trust a work for eternity may be commenced in their hearts. Here in Pressburg itself our meetings have been fairly well attended of late, those coming being mostly young men.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 568 (February 1905, Part II)

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Gospel work in Austria and Hungary.

Vohwinkel, *Jan. 16th.* – Having lived, as a young man, from 1875 to 1877, in Austria-Hungary, and travelled a great deal in it, and having since then visited Bohemia and Vienna with the gospel, I am very well acquainted with the condition of things there. Though there is a great difference as to laws and Government between Austria and Hungary, a gospel labourer has to be careful in all his movements in both countries. At any time in Hungary the evangelist may be arrested and marched off. In spite of all difficulties a work has been going on in Vienna since 1869, also in later years at Gratz, Prague, Brünn, Raudnitz, and at Buda-Pesth in Hungary. The Baptists began to work there, and since then thirty-four churches have sprung up, with some 220 stations where the gospel is preached. But Transylvania and other parts, to which the old Saxons emigrated about 200 years ago (though the first great emigration took place over 800 years ago) have never been really reached yet, very little having been done. There are eight or ten places in Transylvania which have been laid on my heart; I trust the Lord will enable me to visit them. On my last visit to Hungary and Roumania, I asked the Lord to show His blessing distinctly *every day, and He did.* Many confessed Him, but they were left as sheep without a shepherd.

Max Springer.

{80} **Dr. Baedeker**, though unable in his advanced years to undertake service in Russia as formerly, is again making a visit to the south of Germany, and would value the prayers of God's people.

Echoes of Service 570 (March 1905, Part II)

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HUNGARY.

“No faith” and “No name.” – *Mrs. Butcher.*

Pressburg, *Feb. 10th.* – (*To a friend.*) Each country doubtless has its own peculiar difficulties and hindrances, which keep those who are not aroused already from troubling about things. Here people say *we have no faith*, by which they mean no special set of dogmas, and worst of all, *no name*. Even that is enough to keep some away from us. Others *give* us a name, calling us Baptists, and that in their eyes is almost as bad, for by the ignorant and ill-informed the Baptists are looked down upon. But in spite of this we are thankful to say there are some who are {108} really in earnest, and every now and then we are cheered by hearing that one and another are converted. Perhaps later we may find there are others at present unknown to us.

Having meetings in our own sitting-room may to most English people seem a very humble way of doing things, but it is a good-sized room, and out here people's ideas are very different from what they are in England; some of our country friends exclaim that we have a flat of *two* rooms and a kitchen, and we are only two people! So many would live and sleep all in the same room; as it is we have to use our sitting-room as a bedroom if we have any one staying with us. Mr. Broadbent looks us up now and then as he goes on his long journeys, and at times we get calls from different German or Slovack brethren.

We find one distinct advantage of having meetings in our own room, it is so informal. Suppose quite a number come, we bring out all our chairs and seats, and the rest stand – *they* don't mind; whereas if only a few come, we get round the table, and have not the *cold* feeling of a large empty space. But we know that, whether few or many, it is to no purpose unless God is working in hearts, and we desire most of all that *He* should arouse and awaken them. It takes a *long* time for some definite thought to really strike them, for many are only working people and have a hard struggle to live. *M. Kate Butcher.*

Echoes of Service 571 (April 1905, Part I)

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TRANSYLVANIA.

Chief Justice reverses the action of local authorities.

Rosenau, Feb. 25th. – The meetings here were crowded, and the Spirit of God was at work, so that a deep conviction of sin and shortcomings set in, the people speaking of nothing else day or night. No wonder the {127} devil did not like it, and tried to hinder the work and make the people afraid. On Feb. 18th on returning from Kronstadt I heard that I had been summoned to appear before the local authorities with my passport. Since then I have had to appear several times, and the first judge heaped a stream of not very choice language upon me, telling me that if I attempted to hold meetings any longer he had given orders to the police and gendarmes to stop them, and that I should be brought before the superior judge at Kronstadt. The intentions of the local authorities were pretty well known to the population, and as I did not appear in the meeting-room they all thought that something had happened.

Yesterday I went to see the Chief Justice at Kronstadt. At first he appeared very stern, and told me that accusations about the state of things had reached him, but after my explanations he changed his manner entirely, and said, "No one can hinder you from holding religious meetings if the proper notice be given." I told him that the judge at Rosenau indicated to me that I must show him a certificate from Kronstadt, to which he answered, "Hand in a written request of what you desire, what is the character of the meetings, and in what house you propose to hold them, and also mention that you want permission for four months." I thanked him most heartily, and asked him if he would allow me to do it at once, perhaps in his office, to which he in a most friendly way consented. If I had had to hand it in in the formal way it would have been a week or two before I got an answer. While he was filling up the document, which took some time, he kindly explained rights and privileges as to any meetings, and said he could only give permission for four months, but I could always come again; for a year or more the document would need a stamp. The Lord has greatly helped, and all these experiences are good, though trying.

Miss Eoll came over on Thursday to pay a few visits in the Roumanian quarter, there being the same liberty to bring the gospel to the poor Roumanians and gypsies as there is to preach among the “Saxons.”

Max Springer.

Echoes of Service 575 (June 1905, Part I)

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HUNGARY.

Letters intercepted. – Work among Gypsies.

Pressburg, April 28th. – It is still a day of small things with us in Hungary, but we rejoice over every soul won, even if it is but slow work. There are some who have come at intervals for a long time, whose hearts remain cold and indifferent, but others have received the message not as our word, but “as it is in truth the Word of God.” We had an interesting little meeting on “Easter Monday”; it was a time for testimony, and five men took part, telling something of the Lord’s dealings with them. Four of these professed to have found the Lord here in Pressburg; they were all Slovacks and spoke in their mother tongue.

Our German friends from the country were not present. Opposition to the gospel in the village where they live is still very strong, and the enemy has subtle ways of keeping the people from hearing the gospel. A brother gave me the address of a young man and his wife, who were affected by the Word, and as it was thought inadvisable to visit them, I wrote, putting the gospel before them. One letter got opened before it reached them, and was the cause of much mockery; another letter never reached them at all, being intercepted. Those opposed to the gospel, knowing that the couple are somewhat awakened, keep a watch upon them, and had evidently bribed the postmaster to give up any letters addressed to them. A fortnight ago we wrote again and had the letter registered.

To-morrow we are expecting Br. Rohacek from O’Tura for the meetings on Sunday; he takes an interest in the gypsies, of whom there are over 90,000 in Hungary. He has learnt a little of their language, but they are most difficult to reach. There are a lot of villages having a little gypsy colony, the children running about in a state of dirt and half-nakedness. It is a rare thing to find a gypsy who can read.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 578 (July 1905, Part II)

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GERMANY.

Revival in Germany

June 29th. – At Mülheim-Ruhr good meetings are now being held in a large tent, the halls proving too small. Since Whitsuntide some 1500 souls have confessed Christ, amongst them gross sinners. Conviction of sin is with most of them deep and painful. God’s children of different sections (alas that there should be such!) are heart and soul with the movement, and therefore we expect great things. Recently the Prince of Salm-Horstmar came to see the Revival, and through him a grand meeting was held for soldiers, several of whom sought and found the Lord. Every night between two and three thousand people gather

together, numbers coming from the neighbouring villages and towns and getting some fire to carry further. The devil is also at work and tries to hinder as much as he can. Some older believers are holding back in unbelief and criticising the movement. Pray that these brethren may cease to thus grieve the Holy Spirit.

Max Springer.

HUNGARY.

“Dry bones” of dead Protestantism.

Pressburg, June 15th. – We hear of awakenings in various parts of the Continent, but generally speaking these revivings take place among Protestant peoples where the Bible is known. The Lutheran and Calvinist congregations in Hungary are very dead, but when the Lord grants revivings amongst them, it will surely result in their taking the gospel to their neighbours. There are many villages and towns in Hungary where half the people are Protestant and half Romanist or Greek, and many where all three confessions are found, but these Protestants give no light, and the others consider themselves much more pious, as indeed they are in their way, though true piety does not consist in the exact fulfilment of the requirements of their religions. Comparatively few Romanists in Hungary come to a knowledge of the truth. The *Los-von-Rom* movement in Austria has had no effect in Hungary; in fact Protestantism loses ground in this country, and what else can one expect when it is dead? We long to see a movement of the dry bones.

Last Monday we baptized a young brother, and another, a young Slovack, has asked for baptism on the next holiday. He was brought to the Lord amongst our friends at O’Tura, but is at present working as a journeyman tailor in Pressburg.

Mr. Broadbent passed through Pressburg a few weeks since and spent a Sunday with us.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 580 (August 1905, Part II)

{307} Here in Tiflis it is quiet now, the throwing of bombs having ceased. I expect to leave here July 20th, visiting different places, and reaching Wolgast, in Germany, by Sunday, Aug. 6th.

E. H. Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 583 (October 1905, Part I)

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Fruit of Tent Services in Berlin.

Berlin, Sept. 7th. – We have been kept very busy throughout the summer by a tent-mission carried on at the corner of our street, where services are conducted for believers each afternoon and the gospel is clearly preached every evening with soul-saving results. There is quite a revival among Christians, and it is gracious of the Lord to permit us to see so much fruit in the saving of souls after twenty-five years of steady sowing, often under heavy pressure and with tears.

Julius Rohrbach.

Echoes of Service 584 (October 1905, Part II)

{389} In passing through Germany again I found the evidences of the increase and deepening of the work of revival there unmistakable. Never has there been such opportunity as now for the effectual preaching of the whole Word of God in that country, and the saving and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is everywhere manifest. *E. H. Broadbent.*

Echoes of Service 585 (November 1905, Part I)

{420} **Reaching Austrians through the press.**

Austria. – Through Mr. Butcher we learn a little about the work carried on by Mr. Anton Chraska among the Slovenians, who are Romanists. He brings out a little gospel paper monthly, and by posting it to people obtains an entrance for the gospel into homes where otherwise it would never be heard. In a letter to Mr. Butcher he speaks of a village where the inhabitants, having quarrelled with the R.C. bishop, desired to join the Greek United and afterwards the Russian Church, but were prevented from doing so by the Authorities. None of them attend mass, and they themselves say they have lost all faith. Mr. Chraska tried to have a meeting, but did not succeed. One young man, however, confesses faith in Christ, having read the New Testament for two years, and the Lord may make him a blessing to others.

Echoes of Service 586 (November 1905, Part II)

{439} **Trusting Christ before an early death.**

Stuttgart, Germany, Oct. 25th. – Not long since, a youth of 16, the son of Christians in fellowship with us, was in the hospital for four months suffering from blood-poisoning, but was finally cured. Six weeks ago he came to our meeting, and afterwards I took him with me for a walk to have conversation with him about the state of his soul, but he gave no answer to my questions. Two days later he was brought back to the hospital with pneumonia, and last Saturday I was called upon to visit him, when I had the joy of hearing him say that ten days previously he could by God's grace see that all his sins had been laid on Jesus. He died that night.

While many parts of Germany have experienced the Spirit's working among the masses of the people, Württemberg seems untouched, dead formalism prevailing both in the Establishment and outside. *G. A. Eoll.*

{5}

GERMANY.

Visits to Bienne, Rosenau and Mülheim.

Vohwinkel, Dec. 5th. – Wonderful are the ways of the Lord. During five weeks I was holding meetings every night at Bienne, and the Spirit of God was mightily at work. Christians from different places came together, and a spirit of prayer came over the assembly. For nearly four weeks we had prolonged meetings, and often from twenty to fifty prayed, humbling themselves. We had the joy of seeing a brother breaking down and making an *open confession* under tears before the whole assembly on the second Lord's-day morning, and many followed afterwards. Though I had to speak by interpretation the Lord was very good to us. The day before we started for home, my dear wife tried to get up, but felt too poorly. I cannot tell you how I felt the next morning when we had to return home, but a good many of our beloved brethren and sisters met us at the station, and some told us that they would not go to bed that night but would pray until our train had reached Vohwinkel. We started at 10.0 a.m., and reached home at midnight, and after a good rest my wife daily regained strength. When I started for Kronstadt she was still very weak, but I knew she was in the Lord's good hands.

I was thankful for my third visit to Rosenau; we had full meetings, and the joy was great in seeing the dear friends again. The Lord in His goodness gave me strength and health to labour with great happiness. I was also thankful that Kronstadt had so far been opened. I had the opportunity of holding gospel meetings and private Bible-readings. Oh, the need is great! No one there is able to entertain a brother, and so one has to stay at an hotel.

In Zeiden all the meetings were well attended; every night we had to use the biggest room and kitchen. I cannot speak of many definite results yet, but one evening from forty-five to fifty responded, deeply moved by conviction of their sins. Our sisters Misses Eoll and Berney are doing a good work there indeed. Their Sunday-school is well attended, and also two or three meetings they hold for women. As they are well up in the Roumanian language they also labour amongst Roumanians, and often come into contact with the poor neglected Gipsies.

In the immense distance lying between Budapest, the capital of Hungary, and Kronstadt – 750 kilometres – comparatively little is done, and what a responsibility we have! On my way home I preached in the German church at Budapest and at two other places, and had a drawing-room meeting with a small number of high-class people. I also stayed two days at Berlin-Steglitz, where I visited the two former clergymen, pastors Köhler and Warus (= Warns), and had some happy hours with them. I had the joy of seeing nine young Russian brethren in their Home, Stundists, who are getting help and training for future work in the gospel in Russia.

After two days of rest at home I went to Mülheim-Saarn, where I was last year, and was glad to see the dear souls who then came to Christ full of joy. There are about 400 seats in the hall there, but on two days we hired the largest hall in Saarn, and each time it proved too small. To-morrow I shall be in a new spot, at Mülheim-Styrum, and hope to remain for a week, holding two meetings daily. One of the Mülheim pastors is resigning, and in May is going, D.V., to labour as an evangelist freely. I know him very well.

Max Springer.

HUNGARY.

Visiting houses in the country. – F. Butcher.

Pressburg, Nov. 23rd. – Now that the winter has come on again, the work of visiting in the country has been recommenced, the brother who helped last year doing so still. This work, although of a lowly character, is not in vain. It would be almost impossible to go into strange villages to hold meetings, but the quieter work of going from house to house can be {6} accomplished, and every now and again one finds a good opportunity of putting the gospel before people. Yesterday a woman seemed inclined to listen, but then turned and asked if I sold spectacles as well. She purchased a copy of *God's Way of Salvation*. On turning over the leaves her eye caught the words, "I never did anything wrong in my life," and she remarked that that was just how she often felt. On Sunday another woman, on receiving the same book, caught sight of the words, "I don't feel that I am saved," and said that was how it was with her.

One of our Slovak brethren has a new apprentice, a Magyar lad, from North Hungary, son of believing parents. He has all the fire of his race, and has been getting hold of the children, and bringing them to tears in his earnestness; some have professed conversion, though it is difficult to know how much of the work is real, as he cannot speak German.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 592 (February 1906, Part II)

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HUNGARY.

Meeting held in spite of threats.

Pressburg, Jan. 15th. – The little circle of believers has grown somewhat, and there are others who profess conversion, but are not yet openly in fellowship with us. Some may never see their responsibility to leave the Lutheran Church.

The new year has opened with opportunities to make known the gospel in two small towns where I had had no chance of a meeting previously. The first of these, four hours distant by rail, was visited on New Year's Day. There are three or four ladies in that town who are believers, but no brethren. In the house of one of these a little meeting was held in German; the authorities sent to forbid it, threatening to disperse it by the gendarmes, but we held it nevertheless and were not disturbed. Only people of better standing were present; the town is really Slovak, but the educated classes understand German, although they speak Hungarian amongst themselves. Good attention was paid to the Word yesterday (Sunday). Our brother Chorvat was with us for the German and Slovak gospel meetings in Pressburg; so I was able to set off with a brother for his native town sixteen miles away, and we had a nice meeting in the house of his parents. Although not converted, they not only allowed a meeting, but invited the people to it. The father confessed that the Spirit is working in his heart, but perhaps he does not yet realize the extent of the persecution that is likely to be raised. The meeting was in Slovak, the brother translating for me and then testifying himself. Brother Chorvat had had good times in Pressburg; my wife said our room was crowded; many were standing, and there were some in the kitchen. She has a hard time of it after the meetings, as our sitting-room gets into a very bad condition, espe-

cially when the roads are muddy. Br. Chorvat must have been very tired also; he had to start at 3.13 a.m. to reach us, and arrived home again an hour after midnight.

F. Butcher.

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Attractiveness of the Gospel in Germany.

Oberhausen, Jan. 17th. – Since my return from Hungary I have been more or less working here in the coal district. During November and December I laboured in the Mülheim neighbourhood, and had very good meetings at Saarn and at Styrum. Hundreds heard the truth and a good many yielded to Christ.

Before I came here the Lord encouraged me very much at Vohwinkel. We came together in a brother's house, some twenty minutes' distance from our meeting room, with the intention of having a prayer meeting, but when I found from twenty to twenty-five persons assembled, I gave them the gospel and afterwards four or five of us prayed. This was on the 2nd inst. From night to night the numbers increased, so that on the 12th we had more than 100 people. During that time twelve souls found peace in Christ, while more than double that number are anxious. I asked a brother to go and continue these meetings, as I could not alter my engagement here in Oberhausen, where I have two meetings daily. The Lord has already granted blessings, and each time the meetings get fuller and fuller. Next week I hope to re-visit Styrum, and a few Christian friends expect me the end of this or the beginning of next month at Budapest, where they have procured a little hall for gospel meetings for a fortnight or so. It has been my prayer and that of others for a long time that the Lord might open the capital of Hungary.

Max Springer.

Sundry notes from Eastern Europe and Germany.

{...}

A conference is to be held early in March in Clafeld (Germany), which will be on a larger scale than that held in Homburg in the closing days of October last, and will, it is hoped, take up and continue the work begun there, both of drawing together assemblies in Germany, and furthering the work of the gospel in South-East Europe.

North Featherstone, Pontefract.

E. H. Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 593 (March 1906, Part I)

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GERMANY.

A Continued Stream of Blessing.

Vohwinkel, Feb. 5th. – Though thankful that the door is open at Budapest, it is under great exercise of heart that I leave on Wednesday for the Hungarian capital. There has been a continual stream of blessing flowing here from our glorious Head above. Since Jan. 1st I have nearly every day had two meetings, and have often been kept dealing with souls, after the closing of the meetings, until midnight. But He gave power and strength to do it, and I don't feel in the least tired. A great number have believed the gospel here in *Vohwinkel*, but the need of *workers* is very great. Telling the people that the Lord's coming is drawing nigh, has been greatly blessed. Rooms and halls, places hired for the purpose, prove too small. There is a deep soul-hunger, which is the Lord's own working.

In *Mülheim-Styrum* I had a larger hall, but it proved too small during the last few days and was dangerously crowded. Though the weather was very bad, crowds came together, and many went home rejoicing in Christ. God's grace is visiting Germany. Oh, may there be hearts opening for it!

In *Oberhausen* believers have been blessed, and others have been convicted of sin. People ask and are waiting for another visit, and I am told they would hire a hall with more than 600 seats if I could go. All this, as well as the work of God here at Vohwinkel, where I have been labouring for so many years, causes me very much exercise as to going away just now; but again and again telegrams come in telling me that I must be at Budapest on the 10th of this month. I'll go in the Name of my Master, and if souls are brought to Him in that dark and sin-loving country the blessing will flow out and extend.

Max Springer.

Echoes of Service 596 (April 1906, Part II)

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Well-attended Meetings in Hungary.

Oberhausen, March 15th. – I returned last week from Hungary, and looking back on the time I spent there my heart is full of thankfulness. In spite of all the political troubles we had very good meetings, and God created a desire for the truth in many hearts. In one place I held two meetings daily for over a fortnight, and often an additional one in a private house for people of high rank. In all meetings we had officers, doctors, university professors and students, and many showed a deep interest in the Word. I have promised to revisit Hungary during September and October, if it be the Lord's will. It is a vast field of labour.

A few friends have arranged meetings for me at Oberhausen (our great mining district) from March 12th to 25th, in a hall holding seven or eight hundred, which yesterday was filled. This is a new opening, and needs special wisdom and grace. *Max Springer.*

Echoes of Service 598 (May 1906, Part II)

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GERMANY.

A conference of believers at Homburg last Autumn was found to be so helpful that it was decided to hold another at Clafeld. Mr. Broadbent, who was present, has kindly translated part of an article published in a German paper, of which he says that, "being written by a German believer who is thoroughly in touch with the religious movements going on in this country, it has more value than anything I could write on the subject." Though, through giving so fully the sad news from China, we could not insert this before, we do so with the hope that it will encourage prayer for all who are seeking to follow out the Word of God in that land where it has been so assailed.

Conference of Christians.

The Conference which was held from March 18th to 20th in Clafeld near Siegen was entirely on the ground of the unity and liberty of the children of God. Brethren and sisters from Clafeld, Siegen and the neighbourhood, as well as brethren from Homburg, Luedenscheid, Velbert, Hof, Leipzig, Berlin and other places, and from Pomerania and England, united at this conference to deepen and strengthen, to serve and instruct one another, and this all on the one safe and everlasting foundation of the unfailing and invincible written

Word of God, and under the one, only, competent guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit. And this ground and this guidance were manifested gloriously as realities at this conference. What was of special value was that questions were considered in brotherly candour and freedom and in Christian truth and love which usually are anxiously avoided among the children of God. Is such fear always born of a spirit of truth and love? If we still, according to 1 Cor. iii. 3, 4, "walk as men," where one says "I am of Paul," another "I am of Apollos," then we must exclude beforehand all scriptural truths of which it must be said, "Here all parties are not of one mind," or, "In this point not all who take part in the conference are ready to bow to the Word and will of God"; for strife and conflict might arise. We are glad to be able to give an account of a conference which ventured to break through the barrier which has been erected in these matters. This was the case in Clafeld, and the brethren who dared to do it, in confidence towards one another, and in absolute submission to the whole Word of God, had no reason to regret it.

There was no programme – long speeches could not be prepared beforehand. Every brother was at liberty to speak a word or ask a question, and ready use was made of this. Thus there came forward for consideration those questions which attach to the two outward ordinances taught in the New Testament, which cut so deeply into the assembly life of the children of God. The writer of these lines has never been at any conference where these God-given ordinances of Jesus, carried into practice by the apostles, have been considered in such a spirit of love for the truth and at the same time in a manner so large-hearted and loving as at Clafeld, nor where so harmonious a result has been arrived at. The brethren, through the untrammelled interchange of thought, drew nearer hour by hour to a unity of understanding of those ordinances which throughout centuries of error and misuse have been changed to that which is almost the very opposite of their origin. Where room is given to the Spirit of God and nothing is taken from or added to the Word of God, there the Spirit of truth is able to lead into all truth.

Of course the consideration of these questions was not the chief object of the conference. This was shown by the way in which the brethren opposed not only a false ignorance of these so-called "outward forms" and "non-essentials," but equally any undue prominence being given to them. It was shown how there is a dead legal bondage to the letter to be avoided, as well as a false spiritualizing away and careless treatment of certain truths. The Holy Spirit works, on the ground of the written Word, in the hearts of those children of God {186} who are subject to His authority and leading, both the will and the ability to do that which the written Word says. Thus the Spirit of God cannot and will not rest until the assembly of God acts in all things according to the apostolic example.

The chief subject of the conference was the ground, way and aim of the sanctification of the children of God, and the redemption of the body. The ground of sanctification – the accomplished work on Calvary; the way – the beholding of the glory of Jesus through the Spirit, who glorifies Him; the aim – to be like Him, when we see Him as He is. Here special stress was laid on the true and reasonable service which consists in presenting the body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.

The Biblical ideas were explained which are contained in such expressions as "Kingdom of heaven," "Kingdom of God," "Assembly of God," "Body of Christ." All were from the beginning agreed not to use the word "church" in describing the assembly of God, on account of the terribly erroneous meaning which has come to be attached to that word.

Truth and clearness, liberty and love, ruled the conference and cleansed, quickened and strengthened the assembled brethren and sisters. The Clafeld conference is for us one of the happiest signs that the Lord will soon come to His full rights among His people, and that

the assembly of God is moved to go courageously forward, or, let us rather say, return to apostolic teaching and practice, to discipline and purity, strength and unity. May the Holy Spirit as Overseer and Master Builder of the body of Christ continue to work mightily, until the body, this glorious temple of God, shall be completed, to the praise of the Lord of the assembly!

Echoes of Service 600 (June 1906, Part II)

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Falling Asleep of Fraulein von Blücher.

Mr. Rohrbach, of Berlin, kindly sends word of the departure, on May 18th, of this Christian lady (a relative of the well-known General Blücher of the early part of last century), who was for so many years a faithful follower of the Lord. At the burial, after Dr. Baedeker had given thanks to God, "for all His grace bestowed on the departed one and all she had been to the church," Mr. Rohrbach "gave a brief review of her life, through grace so fully consecrated to the Lord and therefore so very fruitful and blessed. General von Viebahn spoke of the good fight of faith and the crown of righteousness which the Lord will give to all who love His appearing. A long funeral cortège moved to the cemetery, where another brother spoke in connection with 1 Pet. i. 3, 8, on the living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The unity of the people of God was manifested in a remarkable way, victory was the key-note."

Echoes of Service 604 (August 1906, Part II)

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HUNGARY.

The Gospel spreading quietly.

Pressburg, July 4th. – Each one who professes to have found peace in Pressburg is either a Slovack or a Moravian, while those in the country are mostly German. We had the joy of baptizing three brethren and two sisters in the Danube on a holiday in June; the Lord gave us a good time, and there was no hindrance; afterwards we had a meeting at which several gave a simple word. There are several others who have spoken about baptism, but we do not press the matter, as it is necessary that each one should be fully persuaded from the Scriptures of truth.

{305} There is a great difference amongst the converted ones; some seem full of zeal, others are rather sluggish; but we are glad that most show real desire to grow, and to spread abroad the knowledge of His name. One brother employed in the large dynamite mills has been twice (even after working twenty-four hours at a stretch) to the village where he was brought up, to tell his friends something of the gospel. Each time he returned with joy, because some had been willing to listen to him. Last Sunday he went off in another direction to a small town some twelve miles distant with another brother, as a fellow workman had shown interest, and had invited him to come over and tell him the gospel.

Another man, working in the same mills, was so wild at his wife's conversion, that after using her badly he sent her off with her children and furniture to her mother's, some ten miles away. At home this woman was much persecuted, but she remained firm, and the

Lord honoured her faith by convicting her husband, and now he too confesses Christ; of course, he fetched his wife home at once. He used to be very stormy indeed when in one of his drinking fits.

F. Butcher.

Falsely accused for Christ's Sake.

Pressburg, July 4th. – There has been enquiry after the way of salvation both in Ratzersdorf and in Pressburg, and a fair number have during the last few months professed conversion, and had to suffer for it, though, in proportion to the multitude not touched it is but as a drop in the ocean.

The enemy is ever watchful to cause trouble. A brother in Ratzersdorf was accused of throwing stones at the Lutheran church and railing against it, and was sentenced to five days' imprisonment and a fine. We were with him at the time, and know he did nothing of the sort. He has appealed for a second hearing in order to bring witnesses to prove his innocence, and though we have not much hope that he will get justice, we can at least speak for him. If he is still pronounced guilty, it will be a great thing if he can take the punishment quietly and not say bitter things.

A young R.C. lady, being aroused to a sense of need, went, we are told, to a priest to ask if she could be converted. He said, "No, that was a most dangerous thing, and if she came to us (he knew us) she would go to hell." We wait to see if she will still come to us.

Hockstr 44, Pozsony.

Mary Kate Butcher.

Echoes of Service 605 (September 1906, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Good Gospel Meetings. – Suffering incurred by leaving the State Church. – M. Springer.

Vohwinkel, July 11th. – From May 27th to June 19th I was labouring at Oberhausen, a centre in our coal district, with great liberty. I had two meetings daily, at 4.0 and 8.30 p.m. I was able to help young believers and earnest seekers, in the afternoon meetings, in which I spoke on the Spirit's work. The evening gospel meetings were very well attended, from three to five hundred being present, and sometimes more. We counted over ninety who confessed Christ as their Saviour, and I hope the Lord will lead some to simply gather unto His name.

From July 1st to 8th I visited Holten, which is also a mining place, and rather out of the way. It has only a few thousand inhabitants, but close by there are what are called colonies with sixty or seventy thousand people of different nationalities, all connected with mining. I had two meetings each day, and felt very happy amongst our dear brethren there, who are going on very well in the truth.

It is painful to find that the pressure of persecution has been too much for some, and they have gone back. In our country when any one leaves the State church he has to appear before the judge, who writes down the protocol and then, according to law, has to give notice to the respective clergyman, who tries to persuade the person to remain in the church. After forty-five days he has again to appear before the judge to sign his name and to receive a document as a dissenter. Then his suffering commences, especially in the smaller towns and villages. He is announced from the pulpit as having given up the faith of the fathers. Business men have often much to suffer, being boycotted and even having to

leave the place altogether. Even our children have to suffer during their school-days, as the teachers point out to the other pupils that the parents of certain ones have left the church. Children of dissenters, however, {328} gifted and learned they may be, cannot become teachers in any of the State schools, and many other posts are closed to them. In quite a number of places where I hoped for a bright testimony for the Lord, dear souls found it too hard to stand and have given in, but, thank God, they have not given up the Saviour. On account of these sad experiences one needs special grace and help from day to day, so as to be able to toil on again. May we be faithful to Him, bearing His reproach! I shall be very thankful for the prayers of our brethren.

Max Springer.

Echoes of Service 608 (October 1906, Part 2)

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FALLING ASLEEP OF DR. F. W. BAEDEKER.

At his home at Weston-super-Mare.

This beloved servant of Christ was called to his rest on October 9th, after a short illness. Dr. Baedeker's name is well known in many countries of Europe, but especially in Germany and in Russia. His fervency of spirit in the gospel and his warmth of love to all children of God, wherever he met with them, were evident to all who knew him. In some Conferences in Germany his presence and ministry were much valued as, year after year, he sought to unfold the precious truths of Scripture, those foundation truths spoken of on page 384. In Conferences in this land he was known *chiefly* as one who endeavoured to stir up those who knew the Lord to heartiness in helping forward the gospel.

{...}

Echoes of Service 609 (November 1906, Part 1)

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CENTRAL EUROPE.

The following three extracts of letters were kindly translated by Mr. E. H. Broadbent, who has such full acquaintance with the brethren on the Continent and much interest in the work of the gospel there. Our brother has visited a good deal in Central and Eastern Europe and in South Russia, and we should be thankful to see him helped by the fellowship of the Lord's people to still more fully prosecute this valuable service. We know of no one else so fit for it now that Dr. Baedeker has been called to his rest.

Wolgast, Pomerania. – The work makes progress, especially in Swine Muende. Several brethren and sisters there have been baptized, and since Whitsuntide they have regularly broken bread together, so that their position has become more definite, and, as a natural consequence, they have met with increased opposition. Br. von der Kammer is back here, so this sets me free to visit other places.

In Berlin I made the acquaintance of the brethren Kuehn, Koehler, and Warns. I rejoice that the Lord has brought these brethren to Berlin, and that He has led them into a position of responsibility in the meeting where Fraulein von Blücher laboured until the time of her call home last spring. Their Bible school (for students from Russia especially) has made a good beginning. Br. Warns says there are more applicants than can be received.

We look forward to times of special blessing for Berlin, and for North Germany.

With the Lord's help I hope now to visit Silesia and Posen, and, later, East Prussia, where I trust the Lord will again give open doors.
Carl Geier.

Constantza, Roumania. – I have just returned from a visit to Germany, where I had much joy and encouragement in finding an increase of interest in the work in the near East. Two married brethren are coming from Westphalia, one of whom will come here for six or twelve months, and then probably go to Galatz. {...}
Hermann Koenig.

Echoes of Service 610 (November 1906, Part 2)

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GERMANY.

Gospel Work in Berlin. – *J. Rohrbach.*

Berlin, Oct. 23rd. – With much sorrow we received the news of the home-going of our well-beloved and fatherly friend Dr. Baedeker, and whilst we praise the Lord for all He has been able to accomplish through His servant, especially in Germany and Russia, we pray that a full measure of the Holy Spirit may be given to all who have been blest through his ministry. He has now reached the “for ever with the Lord,” and we desire to follow his example, as he followed Christ.

The Lord continues to bless the ministry of His Word to the saving and sanctifying of precious souls. Especially our Sunday evening services, from 6.0 to 7.30 p.m., and again from 8.15 to 9.30 p.m., are well attended and are spiritually fruitful; there is much encouragement in the work among young men and young women, and also among the children. Since the home {428} going of our dear sister in Christ, Miss von Blücher, her work is being carried on chiefly by our able brethren Köhler and Warns, whilst I help only occasionally, which sets me free to give more time to the work at Charlottenburg and also at Schmargendorf, a very neglected neighbourhood, where last spring we opened rooms and are much encouraged.

We often have the joy and privilege of seeing Christian friends from other countries with us, to whom we seek to be of service. The other Lord's-day morning at the breaking of bread there were present, besides German believers, several English friends, one brother from Russia, one from Japan (introduced by our brother Smith) and a sister from China (whose husband is Lector of Chinese at the Berlin University), all one in Christ.

28, *Krumme Str., Charlottenburg, Berlin.*

Julius Rohrbach.

Echoes of Service 611 (December 1906, Part 1)

{459} **Stuttgart.** – Mr. Eoll writes of the opening of a new meeting-room in Gablenberg, and says that a very good number of children attend Sunday-school, most of whom hear nothing of God in their homes, as their parents are Social Democrats.

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AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

Difficulty of work in Slavonia.

Semlin, Nov. 3rd. – For the second time during my present tour I am in Croatia, which, with Slavonia, has its own laws, and no liberty as in Hungary. I came into Slavonia last week, going by train to O’Pazua, and from thence in an open wagon to Uj-Pazua, where I was astonished to find about 200 believers from different places assembled for a conference. They were all farming people, and represented eight or ten different companies of Christians. Some had had to travel for twenty-four hours by train and steamer, or by wagon. Twenty or twenty-five came from Bosnia, and a few from Belgrade. Quite a number were in different Oriental costumes, but all understood German. Meetings were held on Sunday from 8.0 to 11.0, 2.0 to 4.30, and 7.0 to 9.0, and on Monday the same. One had hardly any time to oneself, for between the meetings the dear people were asking questions from morning to night. Some told me that they had not seen a brother able to minister to them for years. Having a cold, my voice broke down on Monday night, and I had to be in bed next day, but later on was able to travel to Franzfeld in Hungary, where I held three meetings, and from morning to night had conversations and Bible-readings with Christians. In Croatian territory only household meetings, not exceeding nineteen persons, are allowed, and at a hint from the clergy to the gendarmes one might get marched over the frontier, and never be allowed to enter the country again. The pastor in Uj-Pazua kindly took no notice, and we were happily together at Jesu’s feet. Oh, what privileges Christians in other countries have, and especially in blessed England!

Work is waiting for me at Budapest from Nov. 11th to 25th, and as far as I can see it will be December before I see my family again.

Max Springer.

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GERMANY.

The Joy of Reaping.

Berlin, Dec. 3rd. – After years of sowing, we are now privileged to reap, in seeing and hearing of precious souls being gathered in. The more we ourselves have been brought into a deeper and fuller understanding of the gracious purposes of God with His church, with Israel, and with the world at large, and been taught to obey in all things as revealed in the Scriptures, the more the Spirit of God has had room to work unhindered and ungrieved, and the result is, not only more inward peace, joy and power, but also outward flowing of rivers of living water.

At our new station at Schmargendorf some fifteen have quite lately been brought to a saving knowledge of Christ. There is on the whole a more general awakening among many of the people here, and believers, belonging outwardly to different sections of the church of Christ, are drawing nearer together for fellowship in prayer and service. At Charlottenburg I have been privileged to arrange a monthly prayer-meeting for believers from different quarters, and the spirit of unity and love leads us to expect great things from the Lord.

A fortnight ago I had the joy of baptizing fifteen believers on a profession of their faith, in whose conversion the Lord greatly used a Christian brother, formerly belonging to the Lutheran Church, whom last year I baptized, and somewhat instructed in the beautiful simplicity of meeting in the name of the Lord. Truths as to believers' baptism and the table of the Lord are becoming more and more understood and carried out, of course never without much opposition.

Last Monday I had the joy of a visit from Mr. Broadbent, and our fellowship with one another in the Lord was sincere and, I believe, mutually profitable.

Julius Rohrbach.

Echoes of Service 614 (January 1907, Part II)

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GERMANY.

The Bible-School in Berlin. – E. H. Broadbent.

Berlin, Dec. 11th. – Amidst all the need of a great city such as this, it is a cause of thanksgiving to see the Lord's compassion and power in raising up witnesses to His salvation in Christ and in acknowledging their testimony. There has been of late years much increase in religious activity of all kinds in Berlin; the great net has drawn in many fish, good and bad. Quite lately several brethren have been manifestly led of God to this city, and their testimony has been greatly blessed in drawing together scattered workers, in following up work which had long been carried on, and in greatly enlarging its scope; so that there are now several assemblies of believers in different quarters of the city from which an active gospel testimony goes forth, where those gathered in are instructed and cared for, and where, while the truths of God's Word are definitely taught and maintained, brotherly relations with other believers are diligently fostered.

The literary and poetic gifts of our {26} brother Bernhard Kuehn enable him with his ready pen to reach all parts of Germany with messages from the Word, expressed in such telling language as to command attention everywhere.

Our brethren Christoph Koehler (formerly a Lutheran pastor) and Johannes Warns (whose theological studies were interrupted by his conversion), having been associated in service with our sister Fraülein von Blücher, shortly before her call to be with Christ, are now able to take a most valuable part in guidance and ministry among their brethren and sisters in the assembly meeting in Hohenstaufen Strasse. The different steps by which these two brethren, with others, were led to begin the Bible-School, have manifested the Lord's guidance in an especial manner.

The desire of some Russian brethren for greater opportunity of instruction in the Word than they are able to obtain at home brought about the beginning of the "school" in a small way in Berlin. Now there are about twenty-five brethren, nearly half of them from Russia, and the rest from different parts of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria-Hungary. They spend if possible ten months together, and go through a regular course of Scripture exposition; they also study such languages as may be necessary and some other subjects, according to their needs. Berlin affords them a large field for practical work, which is beneficial alike to them and to the work here. They are all men who have already approved themselves as faithful in service in their own districts. Some of them anticipate giving themselves wholly to the work of the gospel; others hope by their stay here to render themselves

more efficient in ministry while still remaining in their present calling. Their zeal and interest have made the exposition of the Word among them very pleasant and profitable.

Frau Koehler manages the large household in such a manner as to make all feel themselves members of one family. Those who are able pay a fixed sum for their board, etc., but in the frequent cases where this is not possible approved men are received for less, or even without payment, so that this work is an adventure of faith on the part of our brethren. It has already given occasion for exhibiting the faithfulness of God and is made increasingly a means of blessing; some of the men who first came are already at work in Russia and elsewhere, and their labours are bearing good fruit.

A brief visit to the Baltic coast has shown that the little assemblies there, between Stettin and Stralsund, are maintained and increasing. A landowner in that district, who is a believer, has sold his farms and removed to an estate in another part of the country; but, instead of selling the large house and grounds which he occupied, he has given these in trust to a number of brethren to be used in the Lord's service. It is hoped that it may be possible to furnish this house and maintain the estate in proper order so that it may serve as a place where Christians may be able to come for rest at a very moderate cost, especially such as are engaged in the Lord's service and are in need of a change. There is a small assembly there, and a room in the house is used by them and for gospel meetings. The house might also serve for conference meetings sometimes. It is rather out of the way, but in a quiet, pleasant country part. Possibly some Christians from the British Isles might there make the acquaintance of German fellow-believers.

I expect to leave here in a few hours for Russia.

E. H. Broadbent.

Progress of the Gospel in Prussia.

Wolgast, Nov. 16th. – Having returned from my journey in the east and west of Prussia I rejoice to be able to tell you that it was truly blessed. In several places the work of the Lord appears to be making good progress, especially at Königsberg, where General von Viebahn has been preaching the gospel for a week with special blessing. Here at Wolgast, and in the neighbourhood, the Lord's work is going on happily, and there is much demand for the truth among the believers here, as well as in the north and east.

Karl Geier.

{39} **Fallen Asleep.** – Dec. 14th, at Stuttgart, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS EOLL. Our brother was well known in past years by those who went to the East. Residing with his family at Port Said, he sought to spread the gospel amongst the Arabs, and also amongst some of the many, of different nationalities, who passed through the Canal and stopped at that port. He was also ever ready to greet any servants of Christ in passing and welcome them on shore for refreshment. After many years there he left in feeble health and settled at Stuttgart in September, 1900, where his service has been much valued. Most, if not all, of his large family have confessed Christ, and some are engaged in active service in the gospel. They, as well as Mrs. Eoll, value the prayers of God's people.

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HUNGARY.

Threatened with Loss for attending Meetings.

Pressburg, Jan. – Some of those who professed conversion during the past year have rather severe trials, but these only tend to deepen the work in the soul, if it is really of God. One or two instances might be interesting. Last summer an old military comrade of one of our brethren from North Hungary was in Pressburg and confessed Christ; on his return his wife too was saved and also a brother-in-law, and they were very happy, he getting tracts and Bibles in various languages to circulate. Then his eyes gave out and he had to go some distance away into the hospital. It seemed as if he might lose the sight of one, and he wrote that he would spend a whole night in prayer, as the assurance of salvation seemed to have left him. The Lord restored to him this assurance, and last Saturday he was able to leave the hospital with his eyes much improved.

Another case was a teacher in a kindergarten on the other side of the Danube; measles broke out and her little school was closed, and during this time the parish authorities summoned her before them and ordered her to stop going to the “Baptists” (as people generally call us), saying that, if she did not, the parish would withdraw the donation to her school and she would have to quit the village. How the matter will turn out remains to be seen, but we trust she will remain true to Christ even if she loses all in this world.

On new year’s day I went to visit a few scattered believers near the Styrian frontier, a rather tedious railway journey and then a long walk in the snow. There are but few of them, and they still keep up their connection with the Lutheran church. Gratz being the nearest town of any great size, the young men of the district go there for work and the young women to service, and so they had got into connection with the work with which the late Mr. Reinmuth was associated, and this had an effect in their native villages, just over the frontier in Hungary. I trust that these scattered believers will be both light and salt in their neighbourhood; they appreciated a visit.

F. Butcher.

{160} **Germany.** – Mr. Max Springer, of Vohwinkel, has visited Berlin, where, he says, people assembled day after day and week after week for six weeks, in a hall taken for the meetings. In the afternoon Christians of all denominations came together and showed “a longing for the truth and a deep desire to know more of the Lord”; and in the evenings, the gospel was preached to large numbers, many of whom appeared to be truly led to Christ.

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HUNGARY.

Strong racial Antipathies.

Pressburg, March 26th. – We have been much interested and concerned in the arrest of one of the Slovack brethren, an evangelist. On visiting in North-east Hungary he was on the point of distributing some old garments to a gipsy colony when the gendarmes arrested him. He had held no meeting and done nothing contrary to the law; at first he was sentenced to three days' imprisonment and a fine, but the judge let that fall, and ordered him to be conducted home by gendarmes. That took ten days, and each night he was shut up with tramps and other unpleasant characters; he also suffered considerably from hunger and cold, the winter in North Hungary being intensely severe. Some influential friends have taken up the matter. Unfortunately it is almost a crime to be a Slovack. In a small town some sixteen miles distant we have had little meetings a few times at the house of a respectable citizen, who is interested but not converted. He has now been threatened that if he allows a meeting again he will be accused of being a Panslav, and then his son, who is studying at the training-school for teachers, will be expelled; as no school or college in Hungary would take him, he would be stranded, so the father is afraid to allow a meeting in his house. Two of his elder sons are converted, but they are not living at home.

F. Butcher.

{219} **Germany.** – Mr. Max Springer writes that several have been received into fellowship at Vohwinkel, amongst them a young Roman Catholic, a very bright example of God's grace. Last year his parents appeared suddenly, caught him in the street when leaving his work, and took him home, a journey of over twenty-four hours. At first they treated him kindly, the priest coming every day, but when they saw he did not give in, they beat him most fearfully for days and kept him like a prisoner. But the Lord upheld him, and early this year he returned; he is very bright and happy.

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ON THE WAY TO SOUTH RUSSIA.

Stuttgart, May 18th. – {...}

Coming here in the train to-day I had written the enclosed general notes on Belgium, which I thought might be of interest. I was happy in visiting most of the companies in that country. Since then I have been in Homburg. I hope to visit very rapidly a number of places in German and French Switzerland and to see M. Berney, who is just now there from Roumania. Then I think of going straight through to S. Russia, only breaking the journey to spend a brief time with Mr. Butcher.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

{226} After writing the above, Mr. Broadbent visited a number of places in Germany and Switzerland. He was hoping to spend June 2nd in Bienne, and the day after to meet Messrs. Aubert and Berney and other brethren for conferring together over various matters. He then hoped to leave for Russia, paying a few short visits in Austria and Hungary on the way.

Echoes of Service 626 (July 1907, Part II)

{279} Conflict between Romanism and Socialism in Austria.

Lemberg, June 20th. – In this country things seem ripening for a crisis. While the R.C. church is further restricting the very small measure of liberty which existed in matters of worship and ministry, the Socialists have just gained very important political successes; and there must soon come a trial of strength between these two powers, as we see in France and elsewhere. In Hungary I was glad to see the steady, durable progress made in Pressburg and the surrounding villages, among both Slovacks and Germans, and Mr. and Mrs. Butcher are encouraged. M. Widmer of Switzerland met me in Vienna, and we are going on together. In some villages among the Northern Carpathians we were afresh impressed by the state of sin in which the people live, but the saving power of the gospel is penetrating some parts. We expect to cross the Russian frontier this evening. I shall value prayer for this service, in which I feel our entire dependence on God.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 627 (August 1907, Part I)

{288} HUNGARY.

Carrying the Light to other Parts.

Pressburg, June 27th. – Last Sunday we had the privilege of baptizing four believers, and to-morrow (which is a holiday) a sister wishes to obey the Lord thus. Two of our Slovak families are moving away from the town. One of the brethren, Sadlow by name, is a colporteur of the B. and F. Bible Society, and has been a great help here the last three years, but he now feels that God is leading him to go to live in a county where he was working last winter. The Lord then granted blessing, and there are now believers in two or three villages there, whom he will seek to help, besides a number of interested souls. We shall miss him very much here, but can only wish him God's blessing in thus moving on. The second family were only converted last year; but the husband has been accepted by the Bible Society for a colporteur, and he will have the other half of the Slovak-speaking district of North Hungary. He is a nice, earnest man. Others of our Slovak brethren are also scattered, so our circle here in Pressburg is rather weakened; but we rejoice if they only bear light to the places whither they go.

F. Butcher.

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HUNGARY.

“A Cup of Cold Water.”

Rosenau, August 28th. – Through God’s grace I am again here, and hope to stay another fortnight. Last week when visiting the Roumanian quarter of the town with Miss Berney, who acts as my interpreter, my heart was greatly cheered. I cannot forget a dear, godly gipsy woman and her son, also converted. I was struck with how clean they keep their homestead. In another house we visited, a Christian woman (whose husband is really her enemy) asked us to take something, which we declined with thanks, as we had had tea, but she said, “I have read in the Book that the Lord Christ says He will not forget to bless a cup of cold water.” She was really pleased when we took a glass of water from her. The Lord has some bright, shining lights among these dark people. They think their houses sanctified by our visits, as they believe that we bring the Lord with us. Oh that this might always be the case! How holy our lips should be!

I am thankful to see a little work carried on at Concordia, eight or nine *kilometres* from here and four or five from Zeiden, and I hear that some six souls have lately found peace there.

Max Springer.

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GERMANY.

State of the Lord’s Work in Germany.

Charlottenburg, Sept. 14th. – Throughout this summer, with the exception of three weeks in July, it has been our privilege to be steadily engaged in the service of the Lord here, and He has graciously blessed our ministry to the strengthening and building up of believers, many of whom come from different parts of Berlin and neighbourhood on the Lord’s-day morning for spiritual instruction and worship, whilst the preaching of the good news to sinners has been owned again and again to the salvation of precious souls.

We are deeply thankful to find the Holy Spirit at work among us in the hearts of many children of God, who seek enlightenment as to God’s purposes with His Church in sanctifying and uniting true believers in waiting for the blessed hope of the coming of the Lord and in separating themselves from all worldly entanglements. It has also on several occasions been our blessed privilege to baptize believers on a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout Germany the Holy Spirit is at work, and prepares for Himself vessels and instruments, more than ever since the days of the Reformation. The many Christian Conferences held all over the land are well attended and spiritually fruitful to the gathering out of a people unto His name; believers of different sections of the Church of God are drawn closer to each other in fellowship and service. The last Conference in Blankenburg had a larger attendance than ever – about 2500 – and a deep work of grace was wrought in many a heart. Missionary interest has also been stirred up, chiefly in Hungary, the Balkan States and Russia. We rejoice in this the more, as we see therein the fruit of the faithful testimony of many servants of God, who for years quietly and patiently laboured on, some of whom

are already at rest with the Lord. We ourselves are frequently encouraged by meeting again some who twenty or more years ago were brought to Christ through our mission work, and who are now holding responsible posts in the Church of God. For this also we praise the Lord.

Julius Rohrbach.

Echoes of Service 633 (November 1907, Part I)

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HUNGARY.

Translations of Well-known Tracts – A new Worker.

Pressburg, Sept. 28th. – This week Herr and Frau Schmidt of Leipzig have been with us, this being their first visit to Hungary. Our brother helps much in the publication of gospel literature, and he has promised to pay for a Slovack edition of *God's Way of Salvation*, four thousand copies to be sent to America and six thousand for Hungary. *Safety, Certainty and Enjoyment* is also to be translated into Slovack. *God's Way of Salvation* is already translated into Hungarian, and is to be published immediately. Br. Schmidt has not promised to help with this, but I have a little towards it.

Two or three weeks ago I was in the town of Sopron (or Oedenburg) to visit our brother Herr Walter, who has lately taken up his residence there to make known the gospel, relying upon the Lord for supplies. Last winter he was in the Bible School at Berlin, and Herr Warns, of that institution, speaks well of him. Sopron is about sixty miles south of Pressburg, and contains 40,000 German inhabitants, besides some Hungarians. It is the capital of the county, which has a population of 260,000, and until now there has been no simple gospel work in that district. We trust Br. Walter's going there will be blessed of the Lord, and that he will be kept and his faith strengthened.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 637 (January 1908, Part I)

{5}

GERMANY.

Large Meetings and the Lord's Blessing.

Heringsdorf, Nov. 22nd. – From Oct. 4th to Nov. 8th I was at Charlottenburg, Berlin, having two meetings daily. The afternoon meetings in a large hall during the first half of the time were very well attended, hundreds coming together from different parts of Berlin. The evening meetings also were more or less for the instruction of Christians, but always connected with some gospel truth, and we often had seven or eight hundred hearers, and on Sundays over a thousand. Many times I had to deal with anxious souls after the meetings, but on Sunday evening, Oct. 20th, there was, quite unexpectedly, a great breaking down, so that we were obliged to divide the anxious ones in different rooms to deal with them. I had about sixty or seventy in one large room. It was most refreshing to see so many giving evidence of a real work of God's Spirit in their hearts.

From the following day till the close I was labouring in the west end of Charlottenburg and at Halensee. At the latter, the little room, with about sixty seats, was crowded every afternoon, when again we had instruction meetings. In the evenings the Lord helped me to

speak on the priesthood and the offerings in the large West-end Hall, and we had the great joy of seeing many coming to Christ. They are still under the influence of the State Church.

I returned home on Nov. 9th, but was off again on the 15th to the Isle of Usedom, where I now am. It is quite a new field to me. Heringsdorf is one of the first-class fashionable watering-places on the Baltic sea, but, of course, all the hotels are closed now, and it looks quite wintry. Special meetings were held from Sunday to Wednesday, at 9.30 a.m., 3.0, and 8.0 p.m., in an hotel belonging to Lutheran Christians, who had been at our Berlin meetings, and begged me to come. People came together from all the little villages of the Isle, and I don't know how often I heard them say, "Oh, we have been reading our Bibles wrong!"

Max Springer.

{20} **Germany.** – Mr. Karl Geier asks special prayer for the work at Soldin, where he has lately gone to live, and in the neighbourhood. He says there are many difficulties, but the meetings are now blessed. There are eighteen in fellowship.

Echoes of Service 641 (March 1908, Part I)

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GERMANY.

Present Condition of things in Berlin.

Charlottenburg, Jan. 14th. – Whilst for many years we stood almost alone at Charlottenburg as to a clear evangelical testimony and showing forth the simplicity of spiritual worship, now there are six or seven different meetings where the truth is clearly preached and prayer is wont to be made. Some of the believers from these come to us regularly for Bible instruction and occasionally for fellowship at the Lord's table, and some of them see their way more and more to full separation from all man-made religious observances. Very frequently we receive applications for baptism from those who, though attached to the State church, are gradually led into fuller light. Br. Springer's testimony among these *Gemeinschaften* {sic} has been much blessed. The work at Hohenstaufen Strasse, in the West of Berlin, continues also to be a centre of life and light. The meetings for prayer last week were on the whole well attended and proved seasons of refreshing to many children of God; they lead us to expect still greater things.

Last summer quite a number of earnest souls were led astray by a mistaken "gift of tongues," but most of the leaders of that fallacy have seen and publicly confessed their error, and some want to know the way of the Lord more perfectly. There is much unrest among the masses here, socially and politically; many men are out of work, and yet are kept in bondage by social democracy and its revolutionary tendencies; they do not want religion and they do not know Christ. The State Church has lost all hold on the masses; true, there are some able and evangelical preachers, but many preach elaborate sermons without the power of the Holy Spirit, and do not even mention the saving and sanctifying blood of Christ; yea, some deny the very divine revelation and direct people to look within their own consciousness to find God. There is therefore much and increased need of steady work and continued prayer; more than ever we realize our insufficiency, especially as we cannot go about as much as we would like in visiting, etc.; yet from His all-sufficiency we are invited to draw grace upon grace.

Julius Rohrbach.

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ROUMANIA.

Work among Jews and Gentiles in Bucarest.

H. Barnett, of London.

Berlin, Feb. 4th. – {...}

{108} In this city I have been since Friday, staying in the house of worthy Mr. and Mrs. Köhler. Among the thirty brethren preparing here for the mission field are three Jews, sent by Mr. Wilkinson to be prepared for work among Israel, probably in Russia. There is a burning zeal in all the teachers and students for Christ and His truth, and for the salvation of Jews and Gentiles. I am much enjoying their fellowship.

I expect to be in London on the 7th inst., and much need prayer for the work.

94, Malmesbury Road, Bow, E.

Henry Barnett.

{139} **Berlin.** – Mr. Max Springer writes: “Anyone acquainted with circumstances in Berlin will marvel at the fact that the Lord has in such a wonderful way opened for the telling of His truth places which have been closed hitherto. Some in high circles are becoming interested in the afternoon meetings, in which I am expounding different truths.

On March 1st I began to work in the thickly populated East of Berlin, where I have a good-sized hall at my disposal.

I dislike to speak of results, but the Master has encouraged me greatly, and I have had the joy of seeing many coming to Christ. He has also awakened the ears of many of His children, and it is for this my heart is most thankful.”

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HUNGARY.

Many and Interested Hearers.

Pressburg, March 5th. – Since I wrote to you in December two or three have confessed Christ, one being a young Roman Catholic girl, who is closely guarded and dare not attend a meeting.

I have twice within the last month been to Sopron to visit Br. Walter, and it is a cause for great thankfulness that the Lord has opened such a door to him in that town. His two small rooms are thronged with eager listeners, and one Sunday recently about 150 were standing by the window in the court. Our brother thinks about forty are thoroughly awakened, and a number seem to be converted. Many come an hour and a half before the meeting, so as to get inside. The civil authorities leave him in peace and the newspapers have comparatively friendly articles. Br. Walter has bought part of the house, with a little garden, and hopes to build a room on it for meetings, but must wait until the Lord supplies him with the means.

Next week I hope to pay Br. Chraska a visit at Laibach. He does not get the earnest listeners that are to be found at Sopron, but he, too, needs our prayers very much. Doors in South Austria open exceedingly slowly; it is truly most uphill work. *F. Butcher.*

Echoes of Service 646 (May 1908, Part II)

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NORTHERN EUROPE.

A Conference of Russian Workers. – E. H. Broadbent.

Stockholm, April. – There continues to be growth and progress in Berlin. The meetings held in Hohenstaufen Strasse are largely attended, the assembly there increases, and both the gospel meetings and those for believers are manifestly blessed. The work at the Bible-school continues to be most valuable. Our brethren Köhler and Warns and their helpers are untiring in their labours both there and in the assemblies, and many of the young men who have received help in the Scriptures and otherwise in the school, as they go out into the countries round about, are used in the testimony of Jesus Christ in needy places. It will become increasingly desirable to visit and strengthen the hands of these brethren in the parts of S.E. Europe and Russia where most of them are scattered. In other parts, in and around Berlin, assemblies are making progress, the Lord raising up helpers fitted to the need and circumstances.

In the university town of Halle the preaching of the gospel has led to the conversion of a number of people in various stations of life, who have now for the last couple of years been greatly helped in {185} understanding the will of God as revealed in His Word, and have been very faithful in their obedience to it, separating themselves from the world and attaching themselves to the Lord and to His saints. It is interesting to see in this town the great complex of buildings erected more than 200 years ago by Francke, as orphanages and schools, in the power of simple faith in God. The example of this man of faith was an important incentive and encouragement to George Müller in founding the Orphanages in Bristol.

In the little town of Soldin, near Cüstrin, our brother Geier is helpful in an assembly which has grown up there, and he is also well situated for visiting other gatherings which lie along the same line of railway.

I was just about to leave Berlin to travel by way of Warsaw to South Russia, when a message arrived telling of a conference of Russian brethren and others interested in work in that land, which was to be held in Stockholm, and saying that the brother with whom I was to travel would be there and hoped to meet me. This necessitated a change of plan, and Mr. Köhler decided to go with me to Stockholm. The new route thus indicated made it easy to visit Copenhagen on the way, and it was a pleasure to renew acquaintance with believers there after a long interval, and get to know others also. The assembly has grown. There is not as yet in Denmark that rapid expansion in Christian activity which has taken place of late years in Germany, but the beginnings of a similar movement are already there, so that there is every reason for expecting more rapid development. At present the stirring in Denmark is mostly within the limits of the Lutheran church, while in Germany and Sweden it spreads in all circles. {...}

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Special Meetings in Berlin.

Vohwinkel, May 12th. – The work I was privileged to do in Berlin I consider of a pioneer character, and hope the Lord will deepen the received blessing in souls. The afternoon meetings were especially for believers, and there were always a good number present of the very highest class, noblemen and ladies. In one place, in the centre of Berlin, a committee of noble ladies had arranged meetings at 11.0 a.m., which were well attended by that class, some being connected with our royal court. The Lord opened the hearts of many for His truth.

I had an invitation from Count Pückler to hold three meetings at his castle in Silesia, so I went there on April 16th, and held my first meeting in the large hall of the old Schedlau castle on Good Friday. Two hundred seats were arranged and, thank God, they were all occupied, and instead of three I had nine meetings.

From the 24th to the 30th of April I was again in Berlin. God ordered matters often very wonderfully. In the morning would be a meeting as mentioned above, at 4.0 p.m. one attended by the middle class, and at night I would be in the poor east of the city.

Max Springer.

{280} **Hungary.** – Mr. Butcher tells us of a brother who left Pressburg about nine months ago for a part further north, and who every Sunday visits one or more places where souls are ready to listen to the gospel. Another brother is also working in a northern district as a colporteur of the B. and F. B. Society, and feels his loneliness much when in parts where there are no believers. The work is not concentrated, Mr. Butcher says, but lies in many directions, and he reminds us of the need of prayer for these scattered believers.

{340} **Hungary.** – Mr. Butcher tells of baptisms in different parts of the country, north and south. Of five who thus obeyed the Lord at Pressburg, one sister was German, three Moravian (by nationality) and the only brother was a Slovak.

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GERMANY and BELGIUM.

A Conference in Rheinland.

Brussels, August 20th. – I send you a short account of the conference at Velbert, Germany, on Sunday, the 26th ulto. It was a busy day, and many had gathered from other

places, so that the hall was nicely full. The morning meeting lasted from 9.0 till 12.0, the whole time being taken up with ministry of the Word, with occasional prayers and hymns. Messrs. Rees (of Velbert), M. Springer, C. F. Hogg and Westerweel (of Zutphen) spoke. The afternoon meeting from 3.0 till 6.15 was a continuance, Messrs. Springer, Hogg, and Schatz taking part, and in the evening (8.15 to 9.45) the gospel was preached by Mr. Hogg and myself. I greatly missed an opportunity of showing forth the Lord's death, as the believers at Velbert and most other places in the district (Vohwinkel excepted) only break bread once a month. On the following Wednesday I went again to Velbert, and spoke on baptism and the Lord's Supper, bringing forward the foresight and goodness of the Lord in giving us baptism to show our union with Him in His death and resurrection, and the Supper as a means of continuing and strengthening our communion with Him in glory, in view of His return, and of communion with each other. There is very much to praise the Lord for in these believers in various places; they show much love and devotion to Christ's service, and I believe they live godly lives.

I visited believers in several places not far from Vohwinkel. For the following Sunday I went to Holten, a village near Oberhausen, where they are much in advance of many others, and observe believers' baptism. It was the Sunday for them to break bread, and it was truly a worship meeting. My knowledge of German is not very complete, but where no one could interpret the Lord helped me much, and the people said they understood all I said. It was encouraging to see so much spiritual life – so different from Belgium. The difference no doubt arises from the fact that there the Word of God is known, if only in a formal manner; here few know it and fewer desire it. Yet there is much to be thankful for regarding the Lord's work in Belgium, for in some respects we have more liberty than they have in Germany, and there are young men here who love and serve the Lord. **W. J. Nock.**

At the Yeovil and Exeter Conferences Mr. Hogg gave a brief, but very interesting, account of his visit to Velbert, as well as of visits to various assemblies in Holland and the Missionary Conference in Switzerland.

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RUSSIA.

Good Meetings. – God's Care of His own.

Neubad, Aug. 24th. – Through grace I am able to say the kindness of the Lord has been exceedingly great. I arrived at Riga by boat and went by train from there to Hintzenberg, where I had meetings from morning to night for over a fortnight. One evening we counted 180 persons; it was a Lettish meeting, and the Princess Lieven from Kremon came purposely to translate for me. The people listened with the greatest interest. If the burnt estates and woods did not bear witness to it one would hardly think that these simple-looking men and women had a hand in the last revolution.

On Sunday, Aug. 16th, I went to Kremon Castle, a beautiful old building, where we broke bread. Prince Lieven (the son) had come a distance of forty miles for the purpose. When mansions and estates round about, of great historical value, were burning, the whole princely family refused to flee, trusting that God would undertake for them, and it was not in vain. Several times crowds of revolutionists attempted to storm or take the castle, and, the old "Fürstin" being ill, the two princesses went out to meet the crowd, which went calmly away. It is a marvel of God's faithfulness, love, and care. It was very sweet to me to be in such a place, where God has been and is honoured. One of the princesses translated that morning into Russian, after which I had a children's meeting, and what I said had to be translated into Lettish.

At 3.0 p.m. we had a large gospel meeting in a big farm-building. I find that the gospel does touch hearts. May God bless His word! The same night I went back (twenty miles) to

Hintzenberg; I left that place on the 19th inst. for Neubad, where I have meetings nominally at 10.0 a.m. and 5.0 p.m., but in fact I have them from 10.0 a.m. to 10.0 p.m. I thought when I came here I should get a little rest, but He gives grace to forget oneself and to toil on.

On Tuesday (23rd) the pastor of the Lutheran Church made it known that there would be a gospel meeting in a certain villa. I was astonished when I reached there to find hundreds of Letts crowded together, and, though I spoke by interpretation, many souls seemed to be deeply touched. The pastor comes from a distance to my daily readings, and he thanked me to-day very heartily for the blessing he had received. To-morrow afternoon I shall have a children's meeting, but the parents and others will also be there.

On Thursday, D.V., I leave for Kremon, and on Saturday for Hintzenberg, and back to Germany next week.

Max Springer.

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HUNGARY.

Signs of Interest and Blessing.

Pressburg, Sept. 21st. – We are looking forward to getting into winter work soon, although until now we are having beautiful weather; in about a fortnight's time will be the vintage, and after that things settle down for the winter. It will be good to get out into the villages again, to spread abroad and sow the seed. Here in the town we are not without signs of blessing, and we know of some who are interested, but it takes much grace to break through all hindrances and definitely come to Christ. I don't know whether I mentioned a young law student who professed conversion in the spring; he has been home two or three months for the long vacation, and has sought to serve in tract distribution. One of our young sisters has gone to be cook in his family, which we hope may prove a blessing. His mother – a widow – is a woman of the world, but she kindly entertained me for a night when up that way, and listened to the gospel. In the same county a door has been opened in another village; Br. Sadlow writes of three souls having professed conversion, one being the brother-in-law of a Slovack who was baptized here in June. In five different places in that county there are now a few scattered believers; of course they are young and inexperienced, but if truly His, they will be led on to glorify His name.

I have again an invitation from South Hungary to go and baptize a few believers; they are also rather desirous of forming an assembly; but in this I wish to do nothing hurriedly, as hastily formed assemblies do not seem, as a rule, very satisfactory, and one would not desire them to break from their old connections in any spirit of fleshly zeal. In August I baptized thirteen believers in the North of Hungary, who seem in much the same condition as these I have mentioned in the south. Please help in prayer for these dear Slovack Christians.

F. Butcher.

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GERMANY.

Danger of Living on the Past. – *M. Springer.*

Herrnhut, *Nov. 28th.* – In Charlottenburg, where I laboured for six weeks, having two meetings daily, the Lord was good to us. At first the attendance was small, but numbers increased, and during the last few weeks we often had from four to seven hundred. I found some had really grown in the knowledge of the truth, and on most nights after we closed the meeting I had to deal with anxious seekers.

During the last week I had a letter from {6} a sister at Herrnhut, asking me if I could come here for a week or so to hold Bible-readings in the afternoons and gospel meetings in the evenings. I took it as a call from the Lord to come to this place, which was once so highly honoured and is still unlike any other. Every house here has its history. The sad present state amongst the dear Moravians – many of their pastors going with the “New Theology” – is deeply felt by a few. Last Wednesday at 8.0 p.m. a small number gathered for prayer in a little attic. At the afternoon Bible-reading next day this was crowded, as was also the staircase, and in the evening we had so many that the air became very bad. Yesterday afternoon so many came that we could not go on in the attic, and one of the pastors told the few brethren who had invited me to take a hall, so last night we had our first meeting in it, and I believe that nearly the whole of the adult population was present.

Thirty minutes from here is Berthelsdorf, the birth-place of Count Zinzendorf, and at a little distance you see the hills of Bohemia. Oh, that God’s Spirit might again sweep powerfully over this country! The people seem to live on old remembrances, keeping up good forms, but without life.

Max Springer.

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GERMANY.

Good Meetings in Eastern Prussia.

Koenigsberg, *Jan. 19th.* – I am here in the far east of Prussia, in the town where the kings of that country are crowned. For one or two years I had been in correspondence with Christians here, but coming personally makes a great difference. Everything is so entirely different here; most of the people are poor, living with their often large families in one room and a little kitchen, and many emigrate.

But I have remarkably good meetings; there is a deep, great interest. From the very beginning the meetings were well attended, but this week they are literally crowded.

Every morning I have a Bible-reading with two or three Christians who hold meetings in different circles. In Russia they would be called “Stundists.” Then at 3.0 p.m. comes the regular meeting for instruction, and this week we are seldom under 150 gathering every afternoon for nearly two hours. At 8.15 p.m. is the gospel meeting, which is actually crowded. God has been and is saving souls.

Last Lord’s-day we had the breaking of bread at 7.0 a.m., being eighteen altogether. From 9.30 to 11.0 was a Bible-reading, at 3.0 p.m. an address, at 7.30 a gospel meeting, and

from 9.15 to 9.45 a prayer meeting. It was the most occupied Sunday I have had for a long time.

20th. – I have just come from the afternoon meeting. It is simply marvellous to see how these people follow in the meeting in reading and finding passages of Scripture, and how a good many lose part of their wages in order to be present. Surely God has a great people here.

I am leaving here on Saturday for the east of Berlin, to have another week there.

Max Springer.

Echoes of Service 666 (March 1909, Part II)

{102} **Homburg v. d. Höhe, Germany.** – It is very pleasant to hear that the assembly of Christians known to us in this town is being kept in the path of simplicity, and that, while there has been increase in numbers, there is also a growing desire for a fuller understanding of the riches and the mind of Christ as unfolded in the Holy Scriptures. They have recently had ten days of gospel meetings, with good attendance and blessing to souls. They are hoping to hold their fourth Conference there early in April, particulars of which would gladly be furnished by Mr. Leonhardt to any who might be going that way and would like to attend. Of course, the German language is used in the meetings. Mr. Leonhardt's address is *Villa Else, Homburg v. d. Höhe.*

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TURKESTAN.

Extracts from Letters of German Brethren.

In sending the following letters, which he kindly translated, Mr. Broadbent spoke of a good time with the young men at the Bible-school in Berlin. He also said that an arrangement has been made to begin a paper in German, something after the style of *Echoes of Service*, but on quite a small scale, to promote interest in the Lord's work.

{...}

{119} **Hungary.** – We hear from Mr. Butcher that God continues to bless the work of Mr. Walter at Sopron, and also that of another German brother, Nies by name, who has made a beginning in a small town three hours by rail further on. In a Moravian village, several persons from which had been converted at Pozsony (Pressburg), there is a nice little company of believers, but they are young and inexperienced and, owing to distance and difference of language, it is difficult to care for them. In some parts of the country hindrances are put in the way of those wishing to commence work, and converts have, in some cases, a hard struggle, as is shown by the following extract from a letter from one in Buda-Pest, forwarded by Mr. Broadbent.

“I have not been able to get work yet in spite of all efforts. I should have had it long ago if I would have joined the union. It is terrible what a power Social Democracy is here. Whoever will not join the Union cannot have work; therefore many brethren have become members and have thus been compelled to support Satan's cause. In such cases there can be no question of a testimony for Jesus; they are rendered useless. But what are the few believers to do? They must work if they are not to starve. It is terrible, and is a sign of the times which reminds us of Rev. xiii. 16, 17.”

{160} **Germany.** – Mr. Rohrbach finds that outward need, through lack of work, has led not a few in Berlin to seek the Lord. He was much cheered by a visit from a brother from Eastern Prussia, whom he baptized nearly twenty years ago, and who tells him that many in his district are walking in the fear of the Lord.

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HUNGARY.

The Power of the Gospel, {sic}

Pozsony, April 20th. – The Lord has graciously granted blessing again this winter, allowing us to see some souls turning from darkness to light. In the little town of Modern, some eighteen miles distant, four members of an R.C. family have professed conversion, an elderly man, two grown-up sons and a daughter. They were deeply sunk in sin, and now we need to pray for and care for them. The elder son gave a testimony in the Slovack meeting last night. He told me afterwards that five years ago he lost his reason through heavy drinking; he is now only twenty-six years of age. The younger son had been caught as a tramp in Austria about two months ago and transported back home by the police. What a joy it is to see grace triumphant in such seemingly hopeless cases!

One of the Pozsony brethren had a little adventure lately: he would not allow his little girl, aged eleven, to go to confession and communion, and that caused friction. At last he burnt her R.C. catechism, and wrote to the priest saying we had liberty of conscience now, etc. The result was that he was summoned before the lawyer yesterday, who is also Member of Parliament for Pozsony, and there he maintained his ground, being able to testify for Christ. The manager of the school was also present. Evidently finding they could not intimidate him, they told him he must take his child away from the school, which he is quite willing to do. There is also a Lutheran school in Pozsony, so he will send her there after the summer holidays, though being of another confession, he will have to pay more for her.

We have heard that the authorities in Sopron have received orders from Govern- {209} ment to stop Br. Walter preaching the gospel, but he told them he refuses to be stopped; he is naturally a bold man. As he is a Hungarian citizen they cannot put him over the frontier, which they might otherwise be inclined to do. In a Vienna paper there was a notice of the dissolution of the work at Sopron. The present is a time of reaction in Hungary, the Minister of Religion and Education being a friend of the Jesuits; but in spite of that, if we go on in faith, praying without ceasing, we shall find that the gospel message – even if often hemmed in by human authorities – finds course and liberates souls from the power and domination of sin.

F. Butcher.

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HUNGARY.

Pozsony, Sept. 27th. – The little company here had been going on happily during our absence, and we think it was a good experience for them. Each Sunday since our return the Lord has given us a token of His blessing, thus rejoicing our hearts. The first Sunday a man broke out into violent weeping towards the close of the gospel meeting. He was only in the town on a visit to his sister, who is in fellowship. He refused to hear from her anything about spiritual matters on arrival, but, having injured his hand, he had to stay on, and so came to the meeting, where the Lord met him, and he returns to Vienna to-day happy in Christ. The second Sunday a man openly confessed Christ at the close of the meeting, while we were standing for prayer; and yesterday a young girl stayed behind after the Slovak meeting to be prayed with; time will show if these are real cases. **F. Butcher.**

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Proposed Conference in Germany.

Mr. Leonhardt writes from Homburg: – We purpose holding a special international conference next Easter, from March 26th to 29th, to give opportunity to brethren of {e}very country to meet for mutual help and fellowship, and particularly to get to know one another. This conference will be of great importance, and we shall have to make room for a goodly number; therefore an early knowledge of who may be coming is most desirable. Will you make this known and ask friends to give me an early answer?

I recommend to your attention and prayer the work in Transylvania, where I went with my wife last month, which offers great interest in the gospel and has resulted in much blessing. Our brother Schlosser at Volkany is an excellent worker and I commend him to your love, as he is unassisted by any church party or Institution. Address – *Herrn Jean E. Leonhardt, Homburg v. d. Höhe, Germany.*

Need for Steadfastness.

Charlottenburg, Oct. 12th. – The Lord is graciously helping from day to day, giving us much cheer in His service. On Saturday last a brother called on us who twenty years ago was brought to a saving knowledge of Christ and much helped of God by a message from the Word which we then ministered to him. After spending many years in Brazil, he had just returned home, and told us of the Lord's sustaining grace and goodness.

I was thankful to read in your letter of the great need of deep and constant meditation on the Word, for the neglect of it leads to a very superficial Christian life and service. Among many the heresy of "speaking in tongues," with a profession of absolute sinlessness and Holy Ghost baptism misunderstood and misapplied, is causing much havoc. There is a craving for novelties, for large success, which ruins many. A number of Christian workers had to take a decided stand against all this movement, and we need much prayerful humbling before God to be kept in the safe and right and lowly pathway. Several of our sober-minded leaders have lately been called home, some out of the very midst of service. Yet our Lord gives grace and victory and glory to those who fully submit themselves to Him.

Julius Rohrbach.

Echoes of Service 685 (January 1910, Part I)

{19} **Charlottenburg, Germany, Nov. 11th.** – I am busy here from morning till night, with two meetings daily, private conversations, visiting, etc., and have been so since Oct. 16th. The meetings are well attended, and on Sundays the large hall is crowded. Quite a number have accepted Christ, and the last fortnight there has been a deep flow of blessing reaching sinners and saints. The afternoon meetings are for teaching, and are continually increasing in attendance.

From Nov. 21st to Dec. 5th, I expect to be working in the East of Berlin in the Socialist and Anarchist quarter, and in January it is on my heart to visit Budapest and perhaps Transylvania.

Max Springer.

Echoes of Service 687 (February 1910, Part I)

{59} German workers in Transylvania were hoping Mr. Broadbent would be able to go and help them in some circumstances which have arisen, but as he cannot do so Mr. Warns, of the Bible School, Berlin, is visiting them. Mr. Ransome Cooper, of Highgate, who spent some time last summer in visiting assemblies on the Continent, accompanied by Mr. Humphreys, of Finchley, has arranged to spend about three weeks at the Bible School during the absence of Mr. Warns, for which he was to leave London, Jan. 21st.

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Conference at Homburg v. d. Höhe, Germany.

We would remind friends of this conference, which, as previously announced, has been arranged to be held from March 26th to 29th. The friends at Homburg are extending their invitations this time to those of other lands than Germany, and Mr. Jean E. Leonhardt (Homburg v. d. Höhe) would be glad to hear as soon as possible from any who purpose going.

Mr. A. Marshall has been invited by one who has translated his tracts to visit Russia and address meetings by interpretation. He was leaving for St. Petersburg, *viâ* Berlin, the third week in January.

Echoes of Service 690 (March 1910, Part II)

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CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

The Berlin Bible School. – Good Meetings in Russia.

A. Marshall.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9th. – I reached Berlin on January 28th and was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. Köhler at the Bible School during my brief stay in Germany's beautiful capital. At present there are twenty-five students attending the Bible School, including ten from Russia. Between eighty and one hundred young men are now preaching the gospel in Rus-

sia, Germany, Bohemia, and other European countries, who attended the two years' course of Bible study at the Institute. Mr. C. Köhler and Mr. Warns, from what I have been able to learn, are well equipped in every respect for this important work. Mrs. Köhler is a "mother in Israel," and takes a deep and untiring interest in the temporal and spiritual welfare of her large family. On the Lord's-day I broke bread with believers at 65 Hohenstaufen Str. West. From one hundred and fifty to two hundred united in showing forth the Lord's death, and much thanksgiving and praise ascended to Him. In the evening I preached in a hall in one of the {108} suburbs, Mr. R. W. Cooper kindly translating for me. A man at the close told Mr. Cooper that he desired to accept Christ before he left the building, and with deep emotion, the tears manifesting his anxiety, he left the hall professing to be a child of God.

I left Berlin on Monday morning for St. Petersburg, a tedious journey of thirty-four hours. I have had nightly meetings since my arrival, and four on Sunday. On week evenings, as well as on the Lord's-day, the meeting-rooms are crowded with men and women who listen for hours with bated breath to the proclamation of God's unmeasured wealth of love to a guilty world. The change that has taken place in Russia during the past four years is marvellous. "Off to Siberia" was the penalty of carrying out the Lord's marching orders; now there is liberty to preach Christ and Him crucified. At present the door is open, but it may be soon closed. Already I have spoken in six different halls in various parts of this city of 1,600,000 souls. On Monday night I spoke in the hall on Moskia, in Princess Lieven's mansion. The Princess is now at her country residence. One of my translators was once condemned to banishment for life for publicly destroying an *ikon* belonging to himself and for "perverting" forty-eight persons. But he escaped to the United States, and returned to his native land on the issue of the Czar's Manifesto. There are 150,000,000 persons in the Russian Empire. Siberia alone is nearly as large as Europe. Speaking by interpretation is vastly different from speaking in a language understood by those addressed. I have watched with intense interest the people drinking in the message as told out by one of themselves from a full heart with tenderness and earnestness. How they appreciate it! What a field of service is Russia to the evangelist and teacher!

A. Marshall.

A Visit to Berlin.

Feb. 15th. – After three of the happiest weeks' service I think I ever spent, I reached London safely on Saturday morning last. I found abundant opportunity for Bible-readings with the students at the Bible School, and for addresses to Christians and gospel meetings in various assemblies in Berlin. Everywhere there seemed an open ear. On Sunday, Feb. 6th, I learnt on my return, after preaching in a suburb, that eight souls had professed faith in Christ that evening after the gospel meeting conducted by Herr Köhler in the large Hall attached to the Bible School. Mr. A. Marshall seemed very pleased with the attention and attendance at the meetings he addressed.

My stay in Berlin has only deepened my desire to serve the Lord in Central Europe, {109} Russia, and Asia, for the reports of the Russian brethren in the Bible School showed what an enormous harvest-field there is waiting for more labourers. Thank God, there *are* devoted labourers, spending their all and being spent for Him, but what are they among so many? Since 1905 about a hundred have passed through the school, and most are now engaged in the Lord's work, chiefly in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Turkestan, twenty-five being in Russia. I had the privilege of meeting Herr von der Kammer, an elderly, experienced Christian. He remarked to me what a service for God and to the Church it would be if some of the *elder* brethren in England would visit the German assemblies and thus demonstrate the unity we have in Christ.

I had much happy fellowship with Mr. P. Wilson, of Arnhem, Holland, now at the Bible School, Berlin, for a time, to increase his knowledge of German.

51 Langdon Park Rd., Highgate, N.

Ransome W. Cooper.

Echoes of Service 691 (April 1910, Part I)

{139} **Hungary.** – Mr. Butcher writes of a ten days' visit to Upper Hungary, during which he was able to visit six places. In one little country town he found twenty gathered from four or five different places to remember the Lord, which was very encouraging in comparison with a few years ago, when he did not know of a single believer in that county. In the evening he was able to testify for Christ in a German R.C. village, two or three men from which have been converted. It is most difficult in Hungary to do anything in a purely R.C. village, but our brother adds that the Lord has ways and means of opening fastly shut doors. Our German brethren Walter, at Sopron, and Nies, at Koszeg, need our prayers much, as the authorities put difficulties in the way of their having meetings.

Roumania. – M. Berney has not yet received permission to return to Roumania, nor does there seem any prospect of his doing so. The little Assembly in the capital has been passing through a difficult time, but they have been helped of God, and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace has been preserved. Visits from M. Widmer, of Switzerland, and Herr Warns, of the Berlin Bible School, have been helpful and much appreciated. Mr. Aspin mentions that a resident brother to care for the work is, however, greatly needed, one who could teach and lead the people with love and kindness. The population of Bukarest is very mixed, including (besides Roumanians) Russians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Servians, Italians, Poles, Jews, Germans and French. A knowledge of French or German would be valuable to a worker, those being the principal tongues after Roumanian.

Echoes of Service 692 (April 1910, Part II)

{159} **Conference at Hömburg, Germany, March 27th to 29th.**

This was, so far as we know, the first attempt to hold a conference in Germany of an international character, but upon the simple lines of fellowship which we so much value and advocate.

The results were such as to encourage the repetition of it in due season. We are thankful to note the movement among God's people in Germany, leading many to more simplicity in gathering together for worship and sending the gospel to other lands. Some have been freed from bondage in the matter of fellowship, while others have been led into greater liberty and knowledge from the denominations around. There seems to be a spreading desire for the truth.

Many brethren from various parts of Germany, as well as from other countries, assembled, including Messrs. R. W. Cooper, A. W. Fisher, A. Marshall, and R. E. Sparks from the British Isles, Messrs. Squire and Widmer from Switzerland, Messrs. Berney, Schlosser and

Koenig, Mr. and Mrs. Butcher from Eastern Europe, Mr. Schatz, editor of the Missionary Paper "Open Doors," and Messrs. Köhler and Warns of the Bible-School, Berlin.

Much time was given to prayer and the ministry of the Word of God. Missionary work was a prominent feature, and several brethren spoke of the Lord's work in various lands.

It was a season of much brotherly intercourse, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonhardt and others spared no pains in arranging for the comfort of their guests.

Echoes of Service 695 (June 1910, Part I)

{207}

HUNGARY.

The Grace of Giving. – *F. Butcher.*

Pozsony, April 25th. – We have been pleased to see the grace of giving in activity in some of the Lord's people here. One sister, who has a little school in a neighbouring village, and lives in a most simple way, brought us forty *kronen* (about £1 13s. 4d.) for the Lord's work, which was divided between two brethren in other parts of Hungary. A young brother, who earns a little by boot-repairing, brought several shillings for Br. Nies, and another of the same calling slipped a ten *kronen* note into our letter-box. This went to the work in Upper Hungary, and since then we hear he has sent fifty *kronen* to an orphan-home. {208} Others have not yet learned the blessedness of giving, even out of poverty, but people here have a greater struggle than formerly, prices having risen very considerably in the last few years. Flour has almost doubled its price since we came here.

Sometimes we feel that things move very slowly with us, it seems so long before a soul gets at all interested, and then anxious, and further patience is needed before he is delivered from Satan's power. A fortnight ago we had such a case from a little town twelve miles off – a man we have known two or three years, who had been visited at times and had bought a Bible and read it. Three weeks ago he came to the meeting for the first time, and the following Sunday he did so again. I went to shake hands with him as he entered, and he took my hand, and then, to the surprise of every one, dropped on his knees crying for pardon. When he left to catch his train he fell on my neck weeping. *F. Butcher.*

Echoes of Service 697 (July 1910, Part I)

{259} **Holland.** – On "Ascension Day" (a holiday in many lands) a conference was held at Zutphen, which was, Mr. Westerweel writes, a very happy and blessed time. Many came from other places, including a few from Germany, so that more than a hundred and fifty were present. The Word was ministered by Mr. Peter Wilson, Mr. Westerweel and two German brethren, and at the close one of these, Herr Schatz, gave tidings of God's work in Roumania, Hungary, Transylvania and Russia.

Echoes of Service 700 (August 1910, Part II)

{319} **Pozsony, Hungary, July 2nd.** – The summer always seems especially quiet to us in the work, as the labour for the bread that perisheth claims so much time, especially amongst the small owners of land. Here in the town we have the week-night meetings at the usual hour, but in the country they have them at 9.0 p.m., and involuntarily their eyes close in sleep, having been in the open air since 3.0 or 4.0 in the morning.

Last Wednesday being a holiday, a meeting was arranged at Ratzersdorf, friends being present from five places. Five brethren ministered the Word, three in German and two in Slovack. After the meeting a letter was read from an old brother giving an account of his experiences in a walking tour to another county. In one village he was arrested, on giving away tracts, and shut up, being afterwards sent to the town of that district; but on examination there he was let go.

Recently we baptized two brethren and a sister here – all Slovacks, and one of these brethren is becoming quite a help in the meetings. *F. Butcher.*

Echoes of Service 702 (September 1910, Part II)

{347} Both in Switzerland and in Germany brethren have felt for some time that the rapid increase of missionary activity, with which they are connected, has been getting beyond their powers of adequate fellowship, and they have been led, independently of each other, to meet to seriously consider their responsibilities, and how they can best apply such powers for help as have been entrusted to them. They find that, {348} in some cases, they have become involved in enterprises of which they do not approve, and that, in other cases, work for which they feel a definite responsibility has suffered through inadequate support. These things are greatly exercising them in prayer and in a serious, united consideration of their position. It is indicative of a work of the Spirit in our days that, not only are more moved to go out with the Word into needy parts, but those who remain at home, in their different countries, are conscious of the leading of the same Spirit, inducing them to take as serious and earnest a view of their individual and united responsibilities for the testimony in other lands, and to apprehend how important is their part in it.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 705 (November 1910, Part I)

{410}

AUSTRIA.

Conversion of an Atheist.

Wisowitz, Sept. 22nd. – The Lord has been giving us times of blessing. There were ten or twelve young men who came to us only to disturb our meetings. One Sunday evening, as they were present, I was obliged to begin without prayer, singing, or the reading of Scripture. The next meeting they came again, and several were silent, only three or four still having something to say. Some of them came very regularly to the following meetings, and about four weeks ago one of them spoke to me as follows:

“I thank God that I came in contact with you. Do you remember our first visit? We intended to prove to you that there is no God, but on coming home from the second meeting I was on my knees. ... I observe the Lord’s seeking hand in all the events of these last days. I intended to spend only one week in Wisowitz, but my principal had a bad fall from a motor-car, and is confined to bed in a hospital, so I am obliged to stay here. If it were not so I should have no opportunity of coming to the meetings. I rejoice in Christ now.”

At the visit of Mr. Köhler from Berlin, this young man openly confessed Christ. He is twenty-four years of age, and his behaviour before his conversion was blameless. He left Wisowitz on the 12th inst., commended in our prayers to the Lord. At Opava, in Silesia, where he now is, we know of no Christians.

Mr. Köhler was with us over a Sunday, when at least thirteen of us gathered around the Lord’s table, one sister having walked ten miles to be present, and there were about fifty at the gospel meeting. The next day I went with Mr. Köhler to Prosenitz, and thence to other places, having meetings for believers and others. The Lord had prepared a new refreshing for me on my return home. A youth of nineteen accepted Christ just after we left Wisowitz, and during my absence he attended our prayer-meeting and thanked God for salvation.

F. J. Kresina.

Echoes of Service 706 (November 1910, Part II)

{428}

CENTRAL EUROPE.

Varied Difficulties in Service.

The following is translated from a letter written to a friend. It was not intended for publication, but Mr. Koehler, who was at the Devonshire House Meetings, kindly consents to our giving it. This we are glad to do, with the hope that it may lead those who read it to take greater interest in the work of which it speaks.

Berlin, Sept. 26th. – In the first days of August I left for Silesia and was for a few days the guest in a friendly Christian family in the country. Then I visited in Southern Silesia at Hansdorf amongst the brethren who have charge of the Missionary Home of the “Mission for South-East Europe,” who had invited me to give an address. As the Pharisees withstood the Lord, and as the Judaizers withstood Paul, so the officials of the State Church withstand those who want to be simply and faithfully obedient to the Word of God. Some of our brethren have in this respect great difficulties, but the Lord is over all, and these experiences will be a good school for them.

I next visited brother Mrosek, who met me at Teschen. There I was permitted to preach that very evening in the same assembly where brother Mrosek is not allowed to speak. Some months ago he married, and for conscience’ sake he could not have his wedding in the State Church; but in order to have a civil marriage he was obliged, according to the law, to withdraw from the State Church. This naturally roused a good deal of attention amongst the believers, and caused the above-mentioned prohibition. Hitherto he has been living in the neighbourhood of Teschen in the country with his wife’s parents, but he has just found work at Oderberg as a carpenter, and will endeavour to work amongst the Poles at Oderberg itself and in the neighbouring industrial town called Mährisch-Ostrau, as he himself is a Pole. I am very glad that he has found work, for it is very wholesome for the brethren to thus follow the example of the Apostle Paul, and the Lord can bless and multiply their

little service. Still, I hope that the Lord may sooner or later make him quite free for His service, as he is very useful in the Lord's work, and apart from Sundays he cannot do much as a factory workman with a ten hours' day.

Then I went on to Upper Hungary, where Br. Sitar met me at Russka. He is a Slovak, and so I got acquainted with a few assemblies amongst the Slovacs. I stayed with Br. Sitar's parents at Priekopa, a Slovak village. One sees at once that these people are on a lower scale of civilization than the Poles. Their houses are small; everything is more neglected and poverty-stricken. It appears that they are also mentally dull and indifferent. How much more must our brother's heart burn to make known amongst them the glad tidings! But for the present his hands are still tied. He is {429} also through his employment in an earthly calling, as an electrician, so absorbed that he is only free on Sundays for the Lord's service, so far as he still has any strength left, for his work tires him out very much. Nevertheless he is cheerful and waiting till the Lord's hour comes.

Perhaps you will have heard through Br. Butcher of the Bible Colporteur, Br. Sadlow who also works amongst the Slovacs. Unfortunately his Bible Society forbids him to preach at meetings. I visited him also, as he lives not far from Priekopa at Turocz St. Marton.

My way then took me across Hungary. One principal object of my journey was to minister to a brother what the Lord has allowed me to experience and to recognize. The Lord also gave abundant opportunity to perform this task, and I hope that it was not without result. Of course it is very hard for a pastor to recognize all the error and contradiction of Scripture in the State Church system, and still more difficult to turn away from it, because he thereby loses a guaranteed support. One must exercise much patience with these poor brothers. I know how much time the Lord required to set me free. But if a brother uprightly seeks the truth and is ready to obey it, the Lord will set him free through the truth.

At Brasso I visited our brother and sister Stückemann, who are working there amongst the Roumanians with Miss Eoll. They were on the point of moving into their new house, which, unfortunately, I could not see over, as I was suddenly taken ill, probably in consequence of the strain of the long journey, and I had to keep my bed a whole day. The Lord, however, strengthened me again so that I could continue my journey.

I then came to Br. Schlosser at Volkany. The Lord has greatly blessed our brother's work there. The Germans there are altogether estranged from God, and are enemies of the gospel. It is a rough and vicious and disreputable village. Nevertheless, a fairly large number of souls have been saved, and the Lord has been specially glorified in several of the most fallen people, who are now a testimony as to what grace can do. One observed in the believers that they have a yearning to penetrate deeper into the knowledge of Him, and to grow into Him, the Head. Of course the hostility against Br. Schlosser is very great. They would like to drive him out of the village. He has already had to change his abode often, and it is very uncertain whether he will be able to remain more than six months in his present dwelling, the only one which was still available for him. A sister in the Lord has now placed at his disposal a site for the building of a house, and Br. Bühler has drawn up a building plan which includes also a meeting-room. The building will cost about £560. However, up till now there is only about £120 available, which has been given for this purpose by friends in Germany and Switzerland. Brother and Sister Schlosser have already often proved the faithful care of the Lord, and are expecting in this matter, too, His leading and help.

From Volkany I visited also Br. and Sister Bühler at Feketehalom, who are likewise holding out faithfully and bravely under very difficult circumstances. There, too, there is a little band of saved souls, to whom I was permitted to minister the Word, and likewise in

Rosenau, where Br. Hamburg has now settled to carry on the work that was recently done there by Br. Stückemann and Br. Schlosser.

After a week's stay at Volkany, I went on to Holtau, near Hermanstadt. There our brother Kolle has made a very blessed beginning through the Lord's grace. Br. Kolle was formerly a colporteur in the service of the Baptists; he attended our school for one year. He was born in Hungary. Consequently he is very suited for this service. Holtau is a large German village with about 4,000 souls. There the Lord has opened a door for him. There are many seeking souls there. A few also are already converted. In the meeting there were perhaps more than 150 persons present, whilst the enemies were making much noise in front of the house in order to disturb us. It is a similar beginning to the one at Volkany, and the Lord will certainly gather out His flock here too. In external things Br. Kolle is often sore pressed, as only a few friends know him and support him; he and his family must often content themselves with merely the absolute necessities of life, but we are hoping that through these experiences he is being tested, and learning all the better the Lord's faithfulness.

From Holtau I visited a few more believers at Hermanstadt. who are longing for a brother to begin work there, as through Br. Kolle's service some have been converted there also. Then I went on to Budapest in the hope of seeing there Brethren Knop and Kuhs. The first was unfortunately not there. His illness had already broken out and hindered him from coming to Budapest. Subsequently they brought him on, but to our great grief he was then soon called away. His work and that of Br. Kuhs has, however, left traces of blessing at Budapest. In the "Blue Ribbon Union," in which they found an entrance, some twelve souls have little by little been converted, and these now come together Sunday after Sunday to break bread, and it appears that this will be the beginning of a scriptural assembly at Budapest. I was permitted there also to minister several times. However, the Lord gave us special joy, because the dear brother and sister whose guest I was have determined to be obedient to the truth and to join the above-mentioned little group, which is of course despised as a sect, and fought against by the "Church."

Then began my homeward journey, first *viâ* Pozsony, where, with dear Mr. and Mrs. Butcher and the assembly in their house, I was permitted to enjoy the riches of grace. It was {430} a matter of importance for me to converse with Br. Butcher about my experiences and the work of the individual brethren, as he exercises a blessed influence over the brethren, and, through his counsel and his visits, is of great use to the Lord's work in Austria-Hungary.

The conclusion of my journey consisted of a visit to our brother Kresina, at Wisowitz, in Moravia, and that was another real refreshment for me. To him, too, the Lord has granted certain souls as the fruit of his work, and they are taking their stand clearly and decidedly upon the ground of the Word. It is certainly not easy to begin a work alone without any connections in an almost entirely Roman Catholic place, where there is a settlement of monks which exercises a strong clerical influence. But Br. Kresina was himself formerly a Roman Catholic, and accordingly feels specially drawn to this service amongst his country people, and the Lord owns him. Through visits from house to house and distributing Scriptures, many have become interested, and it is just amongst the Roman Catholics that a great longing after the truth has been manifested. At the evening meeting in Wisowitz there were about fifty present who for the most part were all attention. A few young people who were awakened remained behind to hear more about the way of salvation. Br. Kresina then went on with me to a few places, including Brün, a large industrial town, where he interpreted for me at the meetings of the believers.

So much for my journey. All that I have seen and learned was strengthening and encouraging. It is true that there are only a few witnesses to the truth, and the beginnings are still small, but the Lord is blessing the brethren, and everywhere an advance is being made. I have also seen how necessary is intercession for these brethren, and what a help it may be to them to have a visit. They were very glad and thankful for one. **Chr. Koehler.**

Alliance Bible School, Hohenstaufenstrasse, 65, Berlin.

Echoes of Service 710 (January 1911, Part II)

{26}

GERMANY.

Seeing Fruit of Former Labours.

Altenuoerde, Dec. 5th. – I was five weeks at Stuttgart, having meetings every night for three weeks. Several came out brightly for the Lord, and the little assembly has been much encouraged. Two brethren were baptized, and there are four or five other believers considering the question.

The Lord also gave blessing in Homburg v. d. Höhe, Gross-Gerau, and Worms. At Bingen, where there is a *small* meeting, we had a full room, which much encouraged our brother Dehnen, who plods on alone. It was a great joy to get back for a couple of days to Beuel a/ Rhein, where I lived during 1903, and to find children, then converted, grown up into young men and women who give a good testimony by life and lip. One young woman is in service, and her mistress is imperious in her manners and difficult to get on with, but she has nothing but praise for this sister, her only complaint being that she *never answers back!* The Scripture Union Class, begun in 1903, has been a great blessing to many children, keeping them together and helping them on in the Christian life. A girl of fifteen, converted at the age of eight, and now attending the Girls' High School in Bonn, quite confounds her professor, who holds unorthodox views, by her keen, clear knowledge of the Word of God and its logical application.

I would mention for prayer a young, well-to-do Russian student at Bingen, interested in the gospel, who was formerly a materialist. We had a long conversation with him, but he held back, saying he felt at the moment no particular call to be saved; he would wait till he did. I much hope that God will save him and send him back to preach the gospel in his own tongue.

I find there are interested, hungry souls here in Altenuoerde, and doubtless the Lord will bless them. **Ransome W. Cooper.**

{39} **Germany.** – Mr. Max Springer is encouraged in the work he recently commenced in Berlin, and he also writes with deep thankfulness of a conference lately held at Posen (once the capital of Poland), in which he took part with other servants of God unknown to us. He says, "The Spirit of God has been the Leader throughout, and the truth brought before the believers has been instructive, and building and food for souls. We have been in peace together, though many questions came up and were dealt with."

Echoes of Service 714 (March 1911, Part II)

{120} **Conference at Homberg v. d. Höhe, Germany.**

The conference last spring was found to be so helpful that our friends have been encouraged to arrange to hold another from Lord's-day, April 16th, to Tuesday 18th, inclusive. For further particulars address Herrn J. E. Leonhardt, *Homburg v. d. Höhe, Germany*. An early intimation is requested from any who hope to be present in order that suitable accommodation may be provided. Mr. R. W. Cooper will be pleased to furnish information as to route, times of departure and expense of journey. Address: 51, *Langdon Park Road, Highgate, N*

Echoes of Service 716 (April 1911, Part II)

{142} *Mr. E. H. Broadbent* has left for the Continent, hoping, after a few visits in Belgium, to reach Homburg for the Conference, April 16th and following days; he will value prayer for help in these visits and further guidance.

Echoes of Service 718 (May 1911, Part II)

{185} **BELGIUM and GERMANY.**

Progress in Belgium. – The Homburg Conference.

{...}

A conference held from April 15th to 18th in the beautiful watering-place of Homburg v. d. Höhe, near Frankfort on the Main, in South Germany, has proved an occasion memorable for many blessings. There was need for such a gathering in Germany. For years past, in different parts of the country, assemblies of believers have been growing up in which there has been an earnest desire to be delivered from human tradition and to ascertain and obey the teaching of the Scriptures. These scattered companies have been too little acquainted with each other to be able to help one another as they might have done. This conference has brought many together from all parts of the Empire, and they have been able to consider, with entire liberty and in a spirit of grace, the divine principles revealed in the Word with regard to the church generally and the order and conduct of individual churches or assemblies. A large and generous hospitality was accorded to all comers by Mr. Leonhardt and other devoted helpers, and there can be no doubt that much blessing will result both from the Word ministered and also from the fact that many, like-minded, have for the first time become acquainted with one another.

The great prevalence of rationalism in the Lutheran church has caused several ministers of that body to leave it, and they have found congenial fellowship in the circles of assemblies seeking to put into practical force the teachings of the Scriptures. Their training and the experiences through which they have passed render them very helpful in the ministry of the Word. Other able helpers have been raised up also from all classes, so that there is much cause for thanksgiving that valuable gifts of the Spirit are being manifested in these

assemblies. Missionary matters were prominent, which is a wholesome sign. Labourers in the gospel were present and spoke of the testimony in Austria, Hungary, Roumania and other lands, and there was an evident stirring of desire for greater devotion in this work, which is already yielding such precious fruits.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

{199} **Austria-Hungary.** – {...}

While visiting with Mr. Sadlon in Upper Hungary, *Mr. Butcher* spent a day with a village blacksmith whose eldest son was converted at Pozsony two or three years ago. Now all the family confess Christ and are being persecuted by the authorities. Although there was only an informal talk with the family and a few neighbours, the father was summoned next day before the Notary and threatened with punishment if he had meetings in his house again. As he is getting on in years, it might be hard for him were he expelled from the village.

{...}

Echoes of Service 725 (September 1911, Part I)

{326}

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

A Journey through various Countries.

{...}

In Germany only a few brief visits could be made in passing. At Halle the assembly has greatly increased and the labours of Dr. Arnold are much blessed in all the neighbourhood. In Leipzig our brother {327} Steinert and others are cheered by seeing the coming together of some three or four groups of believers, formerly apart but now united. In and around Gera a few go on in faith, and in many places in this central part of Germany there is enquiry and a gathering together of people desirous of being instructed in the Word.

E. Hamer Broadbent.

Echoes of Service 726 (September 1911, Part II)

{347} I am much interested in the work our brother Emil Senkheil, of Stuttgart (Germany) does among Italian workmen and their families. Large numbers of these are working in Switzerland, Alsace-Lorraine, Rheinland, Westphalia, etc., as also in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, not far from here. I believe there are missions for them in Switzerland and some parts of Germany. Herr Senkheil edits a book for teaching German to Italians, and he sometimes travels with it and uses the occasions to make the gospel known to them. He holds meetings for them where he can.

W. J. Nock.

{...}

The Swiss Missionary Conference. – *J. Hunter.*

Vevey, August 12th. – I have been asked by M. Aubert to forward to English brethren a *resumé* of the meetings held at La Rogivue from Aug. 5th to 8th. {...}

It would be difficult to describe in detail the different meetings, but a few words concerning some of them may be of interest. On Sunday afternoon the mission-field was {348} represented by Sembat Bagdasarjanz, who spoke of the persecuted Christians of Russia; M. Widmer, who described a missionary tour in Roumania and Hungary, and Herr Warns, of Berlin, who told of an evangelistic tour in Hungary and also dwelt on the appalling ravages wrought throughout Germany by the Higher Criticism.

{...}

James Hunter.

Echoes of Service 727 (October 1911, Part I)

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HUNGARY.

A Lonely Christian.

Pozsony, August 28th. – At the end of June we had a baptism, when eight believers obeyed the Lord. A sister has been baptized since then, and now there are three or four young men who will, we think, soon take the same step. Mr. Sadlow wrote to me that a week ago twelve were baptized at a small town in Upper Hungary.

Yesterday a man from a small town, sixteen miles distant, was at the meeting. He seems to be a believer. As a journeyman blacksmith he was for two years and a half in Germany, where he met some Christians, but on returning home and setting up for himself he knew of no believers, there being none in his town of Somorja. A fortnight ago four young brethren were going by rail to a village and sang in the train “Come home, thou art weary at heart” in Hungarian. This man, being in the next open compartment, recognized the melody, and in this way he again got in touch with the Lord’s people. One young brother in fellowship lives about six miles from him.

Foreigners often have difficulties in this country. For example, Herr Hemmert, at Nagyszeben (Transylvania) has been forbidden by the authorities to take any active part in meetings, even to read the Bible.

We intend, D.V., to publish 2000 copies of *Safety, Certainty and Enjoyment* in Slovak.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 730 (November 1911, Part II)

{422} *Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Bromley* are visiting Germany; address (till the end of 1911) per *Adv. Herrn Faasch, Castenalsgasse 1 II, Cassel.*

{425} Mr. Nock sends us the translation of an interesting letter from M. Senkbeil, telling of the work among Italians, in which he has been engaged for more than nine years. There are at present an unusually large number of Italian workmen at Stuttgart, where he resides, but he also tells of recent labours in different places in Würtemberg, Rheinland and Westphalia, usually with the help of local Christians, some of whom regularly distribute Gospels and tracts among the Italians who are employed in lime-kilns, coal-mines, iron-works, etc., in their midst. Many will listen to nothing relating to religion, having tired of the fables of

the priests, but others have listened attentively. This work may well be remembered in prayer that the seed sown may bear fruit.

Echoes of Service 733 (January 1912, Part I)

{8}

HUNGARY.

“Here a Little and There a Little.”

Pozsony, Nov. 14th. – We rejoice over four or five young men, eighteen to twenty years of age, who have confessed Christ this year. Two are already taking their place in outward fellowship. These were all Roman Catholics, and not one of them can speak German, so I take three of them on Saturday evenings, before the prayer-meeting, and give them a little instruction in that language; they all speak Hungarian, although Slovack is the mother-tongue of three.

Br. Pesti, from Budapest, was with us for a Sunday ten days ago for the first time, and to-day we received a letter from him, telling us how the fellowship was blessed to his soul. They are still a most feeble company in Pest; he writes with joy that five of them remembered the Lord last Sunday in the breaking of bread.

Br. Sadlon, at Turocz S. Marton, has had rather a trying time for the last few weeks, as his wife has been very ill. He thought he should lose her, but the Lord had mercy upon them and she is better. He was able to get out again last week, staying over the Sunday in Zipson county amongst the believers. He has got into touch with a young Jewess, who was brought up as a child in England and went to a Sunday-school. She professes to be a Christian. She has been in Hungary nine years since her return from England, and only this year did she hear of believers through a young man in her village being converted at Turocz S. Marton.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 737 (March 1912, Part I)

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Four Hundred Miles to a Conference. – *F. Butcher.*

Pozsony, Jan. 24th. – At the new year I went to Turocz Szent Marton, where our {88} brother Sadlon lives. A small, informal conference had been arranged, which proved to be helpful. It was for the Slav-speaking believers, and they very much appreciated the two days spent together. About fifty, all told, were present, from fifteen places. Three Slovack brethren went from Pozsony, four from Moravia, and two brethren from the borders of Slavonia, a journey of perhaps four hundred miles. Mr. Kresina came from Prague, and was a great help. On my way home I went round by Buda-Pest to visit the few believers we know there. They have rented a large shop in a quiet street and furnished it nicely for meetings. Seven of us broke bread together in the morning, and at 5.0 p.m. an effort was made in the gospel. The brethren stood outside and invited the passers-by to come in, and the place was full. Here the Lord often gives us encouragement, mainly amongst the younger people. There are usually in the town some young men or women from other parts whom we get to know. Probably they would not go to a gospel meeting at their native place, even should there be one; but away from home, where they are not known, they come. We lose

sight of some of these after a while, but the Lord never loses sight of them, and that comforts our hearts.

F. Butcher.

Echoes of Service 741 (May 1912, Part I)

{179} **Missionary Conference at Homburg.** – *Mr. R. W. Cooper* writes, “The meetings were larger than ever, some hundred and fifty guests being {180} accommodated in the town, and the attention and interest were marked. We had for our consideration 2 Corinthians iii., iv. and v., and very profitable addresses were given. Missionaries from sixteen countries were present, and reports were given on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings. The brethren in Germany are alive to their responsibilities, and have just purchased a tent for evangelistic purposes. Two well-tried evangelists will work it, and we are confidently looking forward to much blessing.”

Echoes of Service 743 (June 1912, Part I)

{219} **Hungary.** – *Mr. Butcher* – “At the present time we seem to know quite a number of sick ones, several being in consumption, which is apparently on the increase in Hungary, where factory life is being more and more introduced. Yesterday afternoon I was visiting our blind friend in a village six miles distant. It is now about three years since he was suddenly struck with blindness, while a comparatively young man, but he sees God’s hand in it to bring him to repentance. He told me yesterday that since he knows Christ as his Saviour he can no longer pray to Mary or the saints, although I had never mentioned the matter to him. He has six little girls, ranging from eleven years to a few months, but he says he has no care now, as he can leave all that with the Lord. The count by whom he was employed grants him a small pension monthly, but now his only son, a youth of seventeen or eighteen, just out of his apprenticeship, is at home unwell. In spite of their poverty they pressed ten new-laid eggs upon me and some edible fungi.”

{...}

Echoes of Service 744 (June 1912, Part II)

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SWITZERLAND.

“**Life and Liberty**” in Different Languages.

Lausanne, April 30th. – We have lately had several demands from various workers for extra free grants of my little gospel monthly *Vie et Liberté*. About 16,000 copies in French are regularly subscribed for, and I send out about 15,000 gratuitously. The monthly output in French is 40,000. In Italian we issue 10,000, in Hungarian 5,000, in Greek 4,000, in German 13,000, and in Spanish 5,000. In these five latter languages the regular subscriptions are much smaller, and the giving must be larger in proportion. {...}

Samuel Squire.

BOHEMIA.

Visits to Different Places.

Prague, May 6th. – I have much joy in telling you that the Lord graciously blesses our testimony. He has opened new doors to two places in our country. One district is full of spiritualists, but there seems to be a real desire after the truth in several families. The preaching of the gospel, {231} which they had not before heard in its simplicity, left a deep impression on their minds. They heartily invite me to visit them as soon as possible.

In the other place there are several German believers, who a few years ago came together to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread, but had ceased to do so. A friend of mine, who resides there at present, now seeks to gather them together, and they are having Bible-readings. I had much pleasure and liberty when with them, and soon hope to go there again, as well as to Pilsen, where the little company makes good progress.

I spent nearly four weeks in visiting several places in Germany, having Bible-readings with believers and gospel meetings. A Roman Catholic lady, who had already been awakened, decided to follow Christ.

Our paper is eagerly expected in several places, and also makes its way to Bohemians in America. I am fully persuaded that this work will not be in vain in the Lord.

F. J. Kresina.

Echoes of Service 748 (August 1912, Part II)

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HUNGARY.

Visits in Northern Hungary.

Pozsony, June 19th. – Yesterday I returned from a journey in Upper Hungary, most of the time in company with our brother Sadlon. We visited various places, and the work seems to make progress, although there are various trials and difficulties, mainly perhaps amongst the young believers, there being no brethren of experience amongst them, and those converted being nearly all young in years. Amongst other places we were at a large timber-yard and saw-mill where a brother is employed as foreman, and we had a meeting in his room late in the evening. A fair number of his R.C. German friends were induced to come, all being from a large village some hours distant by rail. They listened very well, although inclined to laugh at first. Next morning the brother told us of some of their remarks: “Perhaps we committed a sin in listening”; “The priest would not allow us back into the village if he knew”; “The one who spoke [myself] was surely a Jew; his beard was like a Jew’s, and so was his voice!” On our going through the camp a few days later, some of them mockingly attempted to sing the chorus of “Come to the Saviour.”

Four friends at K. need our prayers; it is a strong R.C. place, and one brother, who has a large family, is much exercised, as in his official capacity he has to attend a yearly function in church; it would be a great relief if his superior would exempt him from this.

F. Butcher.

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DENMARK.

Two Fresh Workers.

Copenhagen, *Aug. 6th.* – {...} Then our brother Christian Jorgensen, who has been helping for some time in gospel work in Germany, has also returned to his native country and intends, God willing, to spend and be spent among the Danish people.

Duncan M. Campbell.

{365} **Europe.** – Last November we published an account of gospel efforts among Italian workmen in Switzerland by M. Demaria and his brother-in-law M. Senkbeil. The latter has been engaging in similar labours among Italian workmen in *N. Germany* this summer. {...}

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GERMANY.

Work among Italians.

(Translated by Mr. W. J. Nock.)

At the beginning of June the Lord permitted my wife and me to respond to a repeated invitation to take the gospel to the many Italian workmen in North Germany. In Rheinland and Westphalia there are many thousands of Italians working as navvies, and others in lime-works and blast furnaces. Far from their country and families, they mostly live together, and the sins of cursing and drunkenness find in them an easy prey, for they live without God. It is extremely rare to find one of them possessing a Bible or Testament, and most of them have never seen one nor heard the gospel. During our journey I was able to hold thirty-five meetings for Italians in twenty-seven places, with a total attendance of about 1,100 hearers. Often the children of God lent us their meeting-rooms, but sometimes we were compelled to hire a dancing-room in a public-house, in which case we regaled the Italians with coffee and cakes. Often I preached the Word in sheds where the workmen eat their meals; when it was very warm they sat about in some near meadow in the shade of trees. Once we arranged a gospel meeting in a new barn, and another time I spoke to a good number of Italians in a tent of the German Tent Mission. With few exceptions we found attentive hearers, and in many meetings we could perceive that the Holy Spirit was at work in their hearts. Many bought Bibles and Testaments, and numbers gave us a hearty shake of the hand with “many thanks.”

It was a special joy to us to visit Italian believers in three places, and a great comfort to them also. One of them works in a colour factory, another in a stone quarry, and the third is an ordinary labourer. This last was converted about two years ago through a German labourer with whom he worked. He found my address on a tract, and wrote to me for Bibles and other books in Italian, at the same time telling me that his wife had found peace. Later on one of his countrymen, who had often mocked and persecuted him on account of his faith, was converted through reading the Scriptures. It was a great joy to these believers to hear the Word of God explained in their own language for the first time. We have several

weeks' work before us, and hope at the end of August to return to Stuttgart; perhaps later on the Lord will permit us to visit the Italians in Alsace with the gospel.

Emil Senkbeil.

{379} **Hungary.** – *Mr. Butcher* – “Last Tuesday was the National Holiday, and a nice number, mostly believers, came together at Recsa, when three spoke in German and three in Slovak. This year again a few soldiers are coming regularly to the meetings; two or three have already confessed Christ and another seems much interested, attending both the German and Slovak meetings. A young brother, who is about to leave for the Bible School, Berlin, has usually spoken a few words in Hungarian at the gospel meeting, as there are generally two or three present who only understand that language. One of these, a young man, walks in six miles, and is now converted.”

Echoes of Service 754 (November 1912, Part II)

{440} **Europe.** – *Mr. E. H. Broadbent* has visited Berlin and Switzerland, and is making his way to Eastern Europe. His aim is to help children of God there and in South Russia, if he can get as far. One special object he had before him was to arrange for the distribution of copies of the Scriptures amongst those engaged in the solemn business of war, thus spreading the message of heavenly peace amidst the strife of men. The Scriptures are kindly supplied by the B. & F. Bible Society.

Echoes of Service 758 (January 1913, Part II)

{39} **Germany.** – *M. Senkbeil* found help from the Lord during the latter part of his gospel tour among Italian workmen. Instead of four to six weeks the time extended to three months, during which 79 meetings were held in 50 localities, and about 2350 Italians heard the gospel. Many of them asked for Bibles. A little permanent work among Italians has been begun in two places, besides that under M. Senkbeil's care at Würtemberg, Stuttgart, etc.

Echoes of Service 764 (April 1913, Part II)

{142} **Germany.** – *Mr. Broadbent.* – “We look back on the Homburg Conference with much thankfulness. The number present exceeded all previous occasions and there was an evident growth in unity. The principal subject was the Lord's return, the consideration of which has been a blessing to many souls. We also heard much from the south-east of Europe and other parts which was encouraging and an incentive to continued prayer and further effort. The conference gave an opportunity to believers from many assemblies scattered throughout Germany to become acquainted with one another, and this will lead, we trust, to further help of these assemblies by visits from the Lord's servants. The presence of brethren from Switzerland, France, Holland, Belgium, England, Denmark, Russia, Austria

and Hungary was an evidence of the way in which the bond of a common faith and hope unites our German brethren with all their neighbours. The hospitality of our Homburg friends is well known, and the increase of guests only exhibited the more the largeness of their affection for the saints.”

Mr. Ransome W. Cooper kindly sends us a brief account of this conference which of course is much like Mr. Broadbent’s, but we are glad to quote extracts. “The quality of the ministry was distinctly better this year than ever before and there was a much greater feeling of unity among those present.” The following shows the rigid rule over the conscience in Germany: “An ex-army officer was also present to whom God has given the gift of an evangelist. As he refused, on conscientious grounds, to have his children baptized, he was asked to resign his commission.” Mr. Cooper also mentions the loving hospitality, “about 180 guests having to be accommodated.”

Echoes of Service 766 (May 1913, Part II)

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SERVIA.

Open Doors at Last. – J. W. Wiles.

Though I had had the Balkan Countries in heart and mind for nearly seven years, I hardly expected when I left England for Homburg vor der Höhe, on March 20th, that my real destination would be Servia. It was not without many prayers, and the heartiest and most generous fellowship, that I left Homburg for Belgrade.

{...}

Echoes of Service 771 (August 1913, Part I)

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HUNGARY.

Visits to Scattered Christians.

Pozsony, June 24th. – I returned home last night from a journey in Upper Hungary and Austrian Silesia. The first night I stayed at the little town of P—, to visit a young English sister, who lives with her father, a born Jew. She wished me to go with her to see the Lutheran clergyman, who had not been long in that, his first parish, and had some idea of a deeper and better life than many of his colleagues have. He was most friendly, but I could not find out if he had really experienced the new birth.

Thence the way led through the Carpathians into Silesia, where in a lonely farm-house, six or seven miles from Teschen, {291} we remembered our Lord in the breaking of bread, and had a good gospel meeting in the afternoon. After this we hurried to reach Oderberg for another meeting at 8 p.m., attended by Poles, Bohemians and Germans, though all understood the last tongue. Mr. Mrozek, a Pole, seeks to care for this work, but finds it rather much, as he earns his daily bread as a carpenter in a factory at Oderberg.

On Monday the return journey was made to Hungary, and opportunity was given to preach the gospel at the house of a brother who is employed in a large timber yard; a dozen men and two or three woman were present. Tuesday was devoted to the believers in the

village of P—, who seemed to enjoy the Word in the evening. The next halt was at the town of T—, four miles distant, where also a meeting was held. The chief official physician of that county wished for a visit, being desirous of knowing what it was all about. I went to see him with a brother known to him, but patients were waiting, so our time was limited. He asked to be informed when any brother visited the place again, and said he would come to the meeting.

The journey was then continued to S—, where our tailor brother K— and his family much appreciate a visit. He accompanied me to the next place, where there are a few believers, and Br. Sadlon came there to meet me; we had two meetings there, at 5.0 and 9.0 p.m. On Saturday we went on to Beszterczebanya, where he lives, and had a meeting in the evening. On Sunday morning we went to Zolyom (a railway journey of nearly an hour for fivepence) to remember our Lord. The little room was full, and again in the afternoon. Then we returned to B— for an evening meeting. At Zolyom the Lord has given much blessing, but at B— things remain stationary. *F. Butcher.*

Echoes of Service 773 (September 1913, Part I)

{325} **Europe.** – We trust that Mr. Broadbent’s account of a work of God in *Germany* may lead to prayer for brethren there, especially for those of the Berlin Bible School, the missionary activity and influence of which are extending, and are particularly important as regards S.E. Europe and Russia. {...}

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GERMANY.

The Work of God in Different Parts. – *E. H. Broadbent.*

A journey in Germany makes it evident that there are there at present numerous circles where a desire exists to hear the Word of God. If those of our brethren there who are spiritual and capable could have much more liberty to travel and minister the Word than they at present possess, there would certainly be rapid increase in both the number and size of assemblies of believers.

Many States, whose peoples are of diverse histories, manners and dialects, are welded together to form modern, united Germany.

A few notes here and there may illustrate a work going on in the country, but must fall far short of being an adequate description. We may begin with a local conference at Gross Gerau, a small place in Hesse-Darmstadt, where a State official, outside his many business occupations, by his vigorous preaching and writing has taken a leading part in gathering together believers. They came to the conference by road or rail from many places round about, starting early on a Sunday morning, and were encouraged as they joined together in the breaking of bread and listened to the ministry of the Word. The presence of Mr. Leonhardt from Homburg reminds us of links with England, where he was so long associated with Mr. Holiday in the work in Bradford. Others came from Darmstadt, where the tent has recently been at work; from Worms, famous for Luther’s testimony, and others from obscure villages where their stand for the truth incurs bearing reproach for Christ’s sake.

In the Principality of Reuss, from Gera southward and over the border into Bavaria, is a district where a number have lately {327} confessed Christ. There are now about thirty towns and villages there where there are some associated with assemblies of believers

known to us. A brother named Schleif, in the town of Triebes, a mechanic by training, but having the gift and doing the work of an evangelist, is very active in all those parts. His conversion was through a comrade who went to London and served as a waiter there. He led a wicked life, but was laid hold of by one of the many missions in London, and when he was converted he wrote a letter to his former companion in Triebes, which so affected mechanic Schleif that he too found salvation. Several other young men were soon added, among them our brother Vollrath, now serving the Lord in Turkestan. At first these young men, who felt a necessity laid upon them to tell the good news to others, worked under the protection of the Lutheran Church, but as they searched the Scriptures, and taught the truths they found there, they soon incurred much clerical wrath, zealous for the forms and traditions of the church, and were cast out. Since then souls have been saved, many out of sinful surroundings, and instructed in the Scriptures. Some of the most striking instances of conversion have been in the adjoining parts of Bavaria. In one village the blacksmith (whose wife was already a believer, and praying for her husband) was sitting in the public house engaged in a beer-drinking contest, in which he had already gained a cap which signified his prowess as a drinker, when he was seized with a sense of the folly and danger of his condition. Snatching the cap from his head and casting it from him, he went out and prayed for mercy. It was not long before he was able to go to his wife and tell her that he was a saved man, which his changed life from that time has proved to be true. The laws of Bavaria (where Romanists are in the majority) prohibit meetings, especially where there is prayer. Evidently the framers of those laws perceived that there is a power in prayer which they wished to avoid coming in conflict with. This makes the gatherings of those believers difficult. The map of that part of Germany is a medley of irregular frontiers, and it happens that a small island of Prussian territory is surrounded by a number of these Bavarian villages, so that just there the believers can come into a Prussian village and pray and preach unhindered, and then walk back to their Bavarian homes. One Sunday we made a long tour on foot, visiting a number of Bavarian villages. Our company was {328} swelled, as we went along, by those who joined us on the way. It was a moving sight to look over the beautiful country and see little bands of peasants and artizans, with wives and children, coming from their villages among the corn-fields, and from lonely hill-side farms, to join in the meetings held from point to point in the still, solemn pine-forest, which stretches over all the mountains. The last and largest gathering closed with remembrance of the Lord's death in the breaking of bread. Then the long homeward journey began, lasting for some until midnight, but lightened by an added memory of the presence of the Lord. We may remember here that our sister Miss de Paoli, now serving Christ in Central Africa, is from this country of Bavaria.

In Saxony there are many large towns, and growing manufacturing districts. In Leipzig a considerable assembly profits much from the teaching of our brother Steinert, who, though in business, finds time for diligent ministry of the Word. In Halle, too, the assembly is large, and though sickness and removals have lately prevented several of the brethren from continuing their service there, yet others are taking up in faith added responsibility. In smaller places in the same country there are gatherings, and abundant opportunities for preaching and teaching the Word further afield. Also in Dresden, the capital, and the neighbourhood, there is increase. The journeys of our brother von der Kammer from this centre are very valuable. He and our brother Koch have begun a monthly journal which seems likely to be a help for many. Questions on Scriptural subjects are received and published, and answers given. Usually several answers come in to each question.

All this progress is not made without much to hinder. At present much grief is caused by some who seek to press personal differences to the point of division. In such cases it is usual, after hearts are estranged, to seek some doctrinal difference which will give an appearance of zeal for truth. In this instance the practice of breaking bread each first day of the week is being attacked as being a danger to true spirituality.

While these disruptive activities are at work within, without there are great forces which are changing the character of the people. Social democracy now dominates the working classes, and, while their material position has greatly improved, an anti-Christian sentiment is very prevalent.

Visits further East, and then in the West, on returning, exhibit the wide difference between those two parts of Germany. The eastern provinces are, in every way, newer than the western, and, while in the former brethren and sisters are breaking up new ground in the borderland where the Teuton and Slav elements meet, those in Westfalia, Rhineland, and the adjoining parts labour in a dense population, where centuries of Christian testimony have resulted in there being large and various circles of believers, with much activity.

In Berlin our brethren Koehler and Warns have passed through many trials of different kinds, but are encouraged in seeing growth in the assembly in Hohenstaufen Str. and blessing elsewhere. The applications for reception into the Bible School for the coming term are sufficient to fill all the available room. Such as are able, pay for their board and lodging, but many are not in a position to do this. A large proportion come from Russia. The importance of the work in Germany is very great, not only on its own account, but also as affecting the spread of the gospel in the south-east of Europe and in Russia. *E. H. Broadbent.*

Echoes of Service 774 (September 1913, Part II)

{344} **Europe.** – In reference to Mr. Nock's mention of gospel work in *Switzerland*, we in England are apt to regard that country as Protestant and able to send the gospel to other lands, but it is needful to remember that while, at the time of the Reformation, certain Cantons, chiefly French-speaking, received the truth, in others it was stamped out, and not only the Italian, but some of the German and even a few French-speaking parts of Switzerland are still in the darkness of Romanism. We are thankful for the effort being made by our Swiss brethren, by means of a tent, to spread the gospel among their R.C. neighbours, and they may well be remembered in prayer, as well as the parts where so far no effort is being made to preach Christ. {...}

Echoes of Service 775 (October 1913, Part I)

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HUNGARY.

A Healthy Mode of Advance.

Pozsony, Aug. 26th. – We have moved on a step lately in taking for meetings an extra flat in this house, consisting of a large room and kitchen, at a yearly rental of £12 10s., which we expect the little company of believers here will get together all right, besides the incidental expenses, although they also seek to help a brother in another part of Hungary

with his rent, usually sending him £2 10s. a quarter. The furnishing of the room proved interesting, each of the believers presenting some article, and so all necessary things have come wonderfully together. The room holds forty or fifty people, and for two Sundays the meetings have been held in it.

Last Saturday a brother, my wife, and I, went down by boat to Budapest, and enjoyed fellowship with the believers there, reaching home again this morning, the return journey having lasted fifteen hours. We visited Mr. Schwarz in his reading-room, and prayed there with him, especially for Israel. Our brother Csia, who is a pure Magyar, ministers mainly in the little meeting. He was a curate in the Reformed State Church, but last year severed his connection with it, and for several months he has been helping in the Bible-school in Berlin. His mother-in-law lives with him and his wife, and her heart also is wholly in the work.

Last Wednesday being the National Hungarian holiday, our friends were nearly all at liberty; so in the morning we had a baptism, when three brethren (a Magyar, a German, and a Slovak) were baptized, and also a Slovak sister. *F. Butcher.*

Echoes of Service 779 (December 1913, Part I)

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SERVIA.

Openings by the Wayside.

Belgrade, Nov. 3rd. – It is a month to-day since my wife and I reached this city. We broke the journey at Homburg one night, and had the unexpected pleasure of travelling as far as Vienna with Mr. J. E. Leonhardt and Mr. F. Kleemann, who are known to several of our English brethren; also at Buda-Pest, where we spent a very happy Lord's-day in the assembly, which is now held at the house of Mr. Pesti Janos, who, with his dear wife, showed us no little love and kindness. {...} *J. W. Wiles.*

Echoes of Service 781 (January 1914, Part I)

{18} **Austria-Hungary.** – *Mr. Butcher* tells us that a few brethren in Vienna have hired an old workshop for meetings, which is a direct answer to prayer. He adds, “A sister's meeting is in progress, and a Slovak man and lad walked in four miles to be present, so I suggested they should come in to me, which they did. The light seems to be gradually dawning upon this man, and when we got down on our knees his heart seemed to go out to Christ as he opened his mouth for the first time in prayer, but we know that the enemy will not let any go without a struggle.”

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AUSTRIA.

Work among Poles and Others.

Mr. Warns, of the Berlin Bible School, has recently visited Austrian Silesia, and sends us some account of the country and of work there, which a friend has kindly translated.

{...}

My visit this time was to the brethren at Oderberg and at Trzanowitz, near Teschen. A few years ago our brother Joseph Mrozek began to preach the gospel amongst his Polish fellow-countrymen. Hitherto he has only been able to utilize his few hours of leisure from his earthly calling, but a nice group of faithful brethren has already been gathered. He has decided to devote his entire time in future to the service of the gospel, and it is the conviction of many brethren acquainted with the local circumstances that it is now necessary to go forward in faith, and to encourage him in this step. The Lord in whom he trusts will not allow him to be put to shame. We would ask readers of these lines to think of the work in Austrian Silesia in intercession and loving aid.

Of course, in Austria one cannot work exclusively amongst one nationality, for one daily comes in contact with many. At the meetings are to be found Poles, Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, Jews, and others; and they often sing the same hymns in two or three different languages. How precious are these hours when believers of different nationalities testify to their oneness at the Lord's table! In Christ all national, social and linguistic differences are overcome.

The dear brethren are in touch with Brn. Butcher at Pozsony, Kresina at Prague, and Zebrovski at Warsaw. The last-named was, until a few years ago, a Romish priest; but now, through God's grace, he has not only himself obtained life from God and freedom through the Son, but has already been permitted to point the way to many of his Polish fellow-countrymen. We Germans, too, cling to neighbourly association with these beloved brethren, and may these lines likewise turn the attention of English brethren to this corner of the world, and form a plea for fellowship and intercession on behalf of the Polish people and the numerous other nationalities of Austria!

Johannes Warns.

{139} **Eastern Europe.** – Mr. Warns, of the Bible-school, Berlin, recently visited Austria-Hungary and Servia; and *Mr. Kresina* writes of visits with him to various places. At Pozsony some Bohemian free-thinkers came for the first time to the Sunday evening gospel meeting in Slovack, and listened very attentively. Some splendid meetings were held at a German village where there is a large group of Christians. Two of these, who had learned that the baptism of believers only is according to the Word of God, were having a trying time from the others, but the visit of our brethren was used of God to lead several to the truth in this respect. A hearty invitation was given them to come again. At Petrocz Mr. Warns gave addresses to Christians on 1 Thessalonians, Mr. Kresina translating. After one meeting a woman with tears confessed her sins and said in prayer, "Lord, I know that Thou hast still pardon and grace for me." A few days later she said she was happy in Christ.

The brethren were able to visit Mr. and Mrs. Wiles in Belgrade, and to hold one meeting there, at the close of which a widow said, "Today I shall accept the Lord and live a new life with Him." Thence Mr. Warns went to Burzenland (Transylvania), and Mr. Kresina returned to Petrocz, and held a meeting in a brother's house at a village some miles off. {...}

Echoes of Service 788 (April 1914, Part II)

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HUNGARY.

A Time of Blessing.

Nagyszeben, March 6th. – {...}

Mr. Warns, of the Berlin Bible-School, has been visiting us, and on Feb. 20th we went to Leschkirch. That evening and the next morning twelve souls gave themselves to the Lord, among them two married couples. The next day we had our usual prayer-meeting here, and on Sunday morning we gathered around the Lord's table, having blessed hours. At the gospel meeting in the afternoon the room was crowded, over eighty being present. Mr. Warns spoke with great joy, and the same evening he spoke at Nagydisznod to about thirty souls. His visit was much blessed to all of us. Last Sunday a young widow found peace in the Lord.

{...}

F. Hemmert.

Echoes of Service 790 (May 1914, Part II)

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GERMANY.

A Happy Conference.

The annual conference just held at Homburg v. d. Höhe, in South Germany, has been described by many present as the best that has been held there. There was an increased sense of unity among those gathered together, and the ministry of the Word was helpful, while the accounts of work in Germany and surrounding countries gave occasion for thanksgiving, though at the same time revealing the great need of the gospel. The value of such a conference cannot be estimated: many have received there influences that will affect their whole after life, directing them in the path of obedience to the Word of God. It is also a great encouragement to scattered saints, from lonely posts, to meet so many who show their sympathetic fellowship with them. All were most kindly entertained by the Homburg assembly, of whom Mr. Leonhardt is well known in Britain, where we have also been visited, more recently, by Mr. Kleemann and Mr. Halbach. Many parts of Germany were of course represented, as, for instance, Berlin by our brethren Koehler, Warns and Braun, active in the Bible-school there, and Dresden by Brn. von der Kammer and Koch, editors of a useful journal for believers. Evangelists also were present, as Br. Kuhs from Baden and Br. Schleif from Bavaria, with others equally diligent in their various spheres, and many besides, both brethren and sisters, helpers in the testimony of Jesus Christ. From other lands, the presence and ministry of our English brethren, R. E. Sparks, H. Payne (of Spain) and R. W. Cooper, were greatly appreciated. Messrs. Berney and Squire, with others, came from

Switzerland. Mr. Nock spoke of Belgium, Mr. Zinder of an interesting work in France, and our two brethren Westerweel and Schreuder were with us from Holland. Br. Kresina told of Bohemia and other parts of Austria, while Br. Koenig reminded us of the continued faithfulness of God in sustaining and increasing the testimony in Roumania, and of the exceedingly pressing need of timely help being given there. It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Wiles, fresh from conflicts and {186} blessings in Servia, and with him Mr. and Mrs. Jonke of Belgrade. Poland was represented by Mr. Zebrovsky, a number were present from Russia, and Africa sent Mr. Brinke. We may well give thanks for the raising up of assemblies in Germany and South-Eastern Europe, and seek to be their helpers in the testimony they maintain in dark and difficult surroundings.

E. H. Broadbent.

{200} **Arrived.** – {...} Mr. V. Nagel, of India, has also reached England, with his two elder sons, but is going for the summer to Germany, expecting to return here in September. His address is – *c/o Mr. W. Liermann, 42 Fahrgasse, Frankfurt a/m, Germany.*

Echoes of Service 792 (June 1914, Part II)

{227} **Europe.** – Writing concerning the Homburg Conference, which he attended, Mr. H. Payne, of Barcelona, Spain, says, “There were those present who for conscience’ sake have suffered the loss of earthly things, and who, instead of reckoning up their losses, take their place with joy outside the camp, counting it an honour to bear reproach for their Lord.” On his return journey Mr. Payne visited Göppingen, in Würtemberg, to strengthen the hands of a Spanish brother there, and subsequently spent several days in Switzerland.

Echoes of Service 793 (July 1914, Part I)

{244} **Europe.** – {...} We also commend for remembrance at the throne of grace the new work in Vienna, *Austria*. Miss Mohsler, an Austrian sister who recently went to Argentina to serve the Lord, writes that since her conversion, while living in England, she has prayed that God would open a door for the gospel in Vienna, which is a city of two and a half million people. She now rejoices in the answer to her prayer, though there is still great need for labourers. We learn that after the interest aroused on the opening of the meeting-room (the address of which is given on page 247) had subsided, the attendance diminished until one Wednesday evening only three persons were present. These gave themselves to prayer to know the mind of the Lord as to the continuance of the work, with the result that the following Sunday over twenty appeared, and after the meeting several thanked Mr. Parnham for his address.

{247}

AUSTRIA.

Beginning of a New Work.

The following letter is from a young brother in business in Vienna, who was formerly in fellowship at Nottingham. We may add that the address of the meeting room is *Seidengasse 16, Tür 3, Vienna, vii.*, and we are informed that meetings are held on Sunday at 6.0 p.m. and on Wednesday at 8.0 p.m.

Vienna, May 25th. – Prior to November, 1913, two or three believers and myself had been having weekly Bible-readings in my room; but, as I was lodging with strangers, we became aware of the advisability of obtaining a suitable room where we could gather as often as we wanted, under no restraint, and where there would be more likelihood of outsiders coming to hear the Word. Landlords looked upon us with suspicion, and refused point-blank to have anything to do with religious meetings, but after considerable trouble we succeeded in finding a suitable hall, conveniently situated, though at present rather too large. We had this put in order and simply furnished, in which the Lord remembered us wonderfully. We had some encouraging meetings at the beginning, until the first difficulty appeared, which threatened to wreck our little bark entirely; but we thank our Lord that He did not suffer the evil one to triumph over us. Since that incident we have been enabled to hold our meetings in peace and quietness, and, although we cannot record any definite cases of conversion, we have observed some where the Word has visibly gone home. Our meetings were held in German and Bohemian, but those in the latter language have been dropped for the present, though we are hoping to recommence them in the autumn. The attendance has dwindled somewhat during the last few weeks, several being away, and it is extremely difficult to induce strangers to come while the fine, warm weather lasts. We are not allowed to distribute invitations or tracts in public. Our meetings had to be reported to the police before we could commence, and the police authorities send a detective at intervals, who is authorized to attend the meetings and to satisfy himself that nothing is said hostile to the State.

Francis S. Parnham.

Linke Wienzeile 56, Tür 9, Vienna, vi.

Echoes of Service 794 (July 1914, Part II)

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HUNGARY.

A Conference in Transylvania.

We are indebted to Mrs. Koehler, of Berlin, for the following account.

A conference for believers took place at Volkány, in Transylvania, from May 31st to June 2nd, at which from a hundred and fifty to two hundred brethren and sisters were present, including Mr. and Mrs. Koehler, of the Bible-school, Berlin. In addition to these, the following brethren attended: Stückemann, Hamburg, Hemmert, Schorr, Bühner, Kuhs, Labujik, who labour in Brassó, Rosenau, Nagy Szeben, Sofalva, Ploesti (Roumania), and elsewhere in Hungary.

The subject under discussion was, “The Lack of Power in Spiritual Life and in Service, and the Fulness which is in Christ.”

At the breaking of bread on Sunday morning – with which the conference began – the hearts were brought into close communion with one another, and with Christ, and the ensuing discussion was carried on in the spirit of brotherly love, those present being deeply bowed under the Word.

The Holy Spirit laid bare, through the Word, the causes of this “lack” of power, which were, caring too much for self, and not living out the fact that we are buried in Christ. He also led us to consider that it is not only a source of unhappiness to the individual, but that it is dishonouring to Christ, when we demonstrate to the brethren, and the unsaved, a lack

of faith, self-denial, humility, willingness for service, joy in suffering, courage in giving testimony, patience, peace and happiness.

If a glance at our condition caused us to be ashamed, equally so the light, in which the Holy Ghost reveals to us the fulness of {269} Christ, would reanimate and encourage us. His Person would be more and more the centre of our thoughts. We should learn to look away from ourselves and to occupy ourselves with Him from whom we receive all things.

We came to the conclusion with the Psalmist, that, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,” and that, trusting in Him, we should persevere till He has finished His work in us, and has transformed us into His own image.

The conference, however, was not only a refreshing and encouragement for those who took part, but also a witness of the victorious power of the gospel for the inhabitants. When one considers that ten years ago hardly a handful of believers were present in this district, one must wonder at what the Lord has done. He has sent out the bright shining light into the darkness, and many who were deeply sunken slaves to sin now rejoice in redeeming grace.

The house which the Lord has given at Volkány is a centre of blessing. A heavy debt, indeed, rests on the house, and our brethren and sisters must, besides their work for the Lord, work in the sweat of their brows to meet the necessities. But we are assured that the Lord will not forsake them, and that His work in Transylvania will be further blessed to the glory of His name.

Echoes of Service 796 (August 1914, Part II)

{305} **Europe.** – Much prayer is doubtless ascending at this time throughout our land for those in authority that they may be led to act rightly and wisely in the present terrible crisis, and also for the Lord’s servants and their families in those countries where war has already begun. Although we have no direct tidings, there seems little doubt that Mr. Kolle, Mr. Kresina and other Austrian subjects who have been engaged in the Lord’s work have now been obliged to leave it to serve in the army of their country, and we fear that Mr. Hemmert, Mr. Stückemann, Mr. Hempert, Mr. König and other German brethren labouring in Austria and Roumania may have been recalled to Germany for the same purpose. We commend them for prayer that they may be preserved and used in blessing to their fellow-soldiers (of whom the majority in the Austrian armies have never heard the gospel), as was the case with our brother Zafiropoulos in the Greco-Turkish war. Mr. Butcher says he thinks Mr. Schlosser and Mr. Sadlon are free from military service. We also ask special prayer for German brethren in Russian Turkestan, whose position must be exceedingly difficult, whether they are allowed to remain or are expelled from the country. In the Lord’s gracious ordering almost the only English friends with whom we are in touch who have been labouring in Austria-Hungary or in Servia had reached this country before war broke out, namely Mr. and Mrs. Wiles and Mr. and Mrs. Butcher, but as they only expected to be here a short time their household goods were of course left behind, and may be lost. {...}

Echoes of Service 798 (September 1914, Part II)

{345} **Europe.** – Some friends have enquired as to how communication with missionaries has been affected by the war. Letters reach us from almost all countries from which we are accustomed to hear, though of course not from Germany and Austria. {...}

Echoes of Service 799 (October 1914, Part I)

{365} **Europe.** – {...} We have received news of some of our brethren on the Continent about whom we had been much concerned. Mr. Parnham had been detained by the authorities at Vienna, but was well treated and efforts were being made for his release. Mr. and Mrs. Stückemann are in Germany; his physical state disqualified him for military service. Mr. Hemmert is in the German army. {...}

Echoes of Service 800 (October 1914, Part II)

{384} **Europe.** – {...} We are glad to hear of the safety of Mr. Nagel, but Mr. Stückemann is, after all, obliged to serve. {...}

{386}

GREECE.

Distributing Gospels among Peasants.

London, Sept. 16th. – I arrived a fortnight ago by one of the special trains arranged for British subjects. The French authorities sent us through, *viâ* Lyons and Paris, with {387} every precaution and great rapidity, giving us much cause for gratitude, and we met with an enthusiastic reception all along the route. During the waiting time at Zürich I had been able to do a little visiting.

A wonderful leading of the Lord had sent me to Germany just before the outbreak of war. The time at my disposal was very short, but I felt unaccountably impelled not to put off the visit. The fortnight spent in Stuttgart and other places in Würtemberg was filled with conversations, often lasting until midnight. “The Lord brought you here to-day,” was said again and again, and some who said it are in the war now, if they have not already fallen.

{...}

57, Alexandra Road, Gipsy Hill, S.E.

Hettie A. Eoll.

Echoes of Service 801 (November 1914, Part I)

{418} **Hungary.** – Mr. Stückemann has been permitted to return to his work at Brasso, and sent us a post-card from Switzerland on his way back. His wife remains for the present in Germany.

Echoes of Service 804 (December 1914, Part II)

{470} **Hungary.** – We have heard from Switzerland that our sister, *Mrs. Stückemann*, has been able to rejoin her husband in Transylvania. We learn that God has also freed Messrs. *Hemmert* and *Hempert* from military service, and they have been enabled to return to their labours for Him. We gather that, of workers in Austria-Hungary with whom we have been in touch, only Mr. Kolle is now engaged in military service, and for so remarkable a deliverance we may well praise God, while praying that they may not be again called on. {...}

Echoes of Service 805 (January 1915, Part I)

{5} **Europe.** – {...} Mr. Koenig wrote most cheerfully of the work in Bukarest, *Roumania*. There is a good spirit among the brethren and they are confident of blessing. The meetings were never so well attended. “It seems as if these serious times had awakened many souls.” Four converts were baptized recently. Our brother, who is a German, has since been banished from Roumania. Mr. Butcher has been allowed, with Mr. Cockrem of the Open-Air Mission, to visit one of the German concentration camps in England. Their literature was eagerly taken, and the addresses listened to most attentively. Many Jews were present, and there were also Poles, Ruthenians and one Magyar.

Echoes of Service 808 (February 1915, Part II)

{64} **Europe.** – {...} Mr. Nagel writes from *Switzerland* that the Lord has opened doors to him for gospel meetings in several places and has blessed His Word. He had feared the cold of a continental winter for his health, but the Lord has not allowed him to suffer. {...}

Echoes of Service 811 (April 1915, Part I)

{137}

A Visit to a Hospital.

Catamarca, Feb. 5th. – The last news I had from Vienna is very sad indeed. My brother writes that the war does not seem to have had much effect on the people; they are amusing themselves and seeking pleasure just as before. The city is very gay night and day. Mr. Parnham is keeping well, and is well treated.

{...}

Marie Mohsler.

{205}

BELGIUM.

The Lord's Work Progressing.

{...}

Mr. Nock also sends us a translation of a long letter from a Belgian brother, from which we give the following extracts: –

{...}

{206} I think also of our German brethren, what they must suffer, for I cannot imagine that they approve of what their soldiers have done in Belgium. I try to believe they have been mistaught, misguided and deceived. What sufferings! What tears! What sorrow! But soon the Lord will come and call His own to the heavenly city, where He will wipe away all tears from our faces.

{...}

{279} **Switzerland.** – *Mr. V. Nagel* – “How often the heart has been gladdened and comforted by reports from Germany of men confessing that they had turned or returned to God and His Son! Over such turnings the Socialistic press got quite alarmed, and exhorted its members ‘to cling to the principles they held when leaving for the front, and not to get pious in an hour of weakness.’ Many a one who would flatly have said ‘No’ to the pleading Saviour in times of peace, has gladly accepted His outstretched arms, His blood and His paradise, after everything on earth had been smashed and gone from him for ever.

“I am thankful for precious opportunities for service, which the Lord continues giving me here and there. For three weeks I was helping at this Home of Rest (at Remismühle) in the place of one of the leading brethren, who had gone for a holiday. Ministry of the Word and visiting the guests was my work. Amongst the latter there are some with various troubles of soul and body, *i.e.* sufferers from *Schwermut* {sic} (melancholy depression of soul), and to enter into such cases with one's whole heart needs special grace and strength from the Lord, otherwise one might easily get sick oneself.”

{305} **Europe.** – {...} Mr. Stückemann has been at length forced to join the German army, but his work in Transylvania is being cared for by Mr. Koenig, who was expelled from Roumania.

{2} **Mr. Butcher's** visits to the camps of German prisoners have been considerably curtailed by the authorities, but he trusts that the visits already paid and the much literature distributed will not be in vain. He learns that the Christians at Pozsony have been turned out of the room in which they met, and he does not know whether they have found another. Two or three of the leading brethren are with their regiments, which makes it difficult for those left to maintain the testimony. The last letter from Mr. Sadlon took three months to come, and some of it was inked over by the Hungarian censor. Two converted Slovaks write to Mr. and Mrs. Butcher from America, where one is soon entering the Moody Bible Institute, to help to train young Poles, Bohemians and Slovaks for evangelistic work. He was formerly a Romanist.

{6}

SWITZERLAND.

An Interesting People.

Mollis, Nov. 15th. – Lately I had an eight days' tour amongst the Mennonites on the Bernese Jura mountains. The history of their forefathers drew out my heart in deep sympathy towards them. They had to pass through fierce persecution, and quite a number were executed by the Protestant government of Berne. Many others had to forsake everything and leave their country. Very interesting and surprising is the fact that a R.C. archbishop in those days permitted many of these refugees to settle within his dominions on the above-mentioned mountains. The well-informed brother who told me this thinks he did it in order to improve those then uninhabited regions. However, he *may* have done it from nobler motives, for in former centuries we find more than one really godly Romanist who was evidently in favour of the true gospel, yet never broke away from the awful system of Rome.

Now these dear Mennonites are in rather a poor condition as concerns their spiritual life. I fear many of them rest on those points which distinguish them from other Christians, rather than on the person of Christ and a Spirit-wrought heart-fellowship with Him. They are not the only ones who are tempted in this direction. This inclination follows almost every true revival amongst God's people. It is one of the most subtle forms of backsliding of the heart, because it is clothed in the pious garb of zeal for the truth.

An aged brother of seventy-seven, one of their chief elders, accompanied me. We went to a fresh place every day and had a meeting in the evening. As their homesteads are scattered all over those mountains, some have to walk nearly two hours to reach their chapel. For their preachers they formally elect brethren in whom a gift for ministering the Word is manifest. These do not receive a salary, nor is there a training institution for them. Being so secluded as they are, I fear their ministry is usually very poor. Thus the dear brother who accompanied me still lacked a joyful assurance of salvation, and one day, when I was singing a hymn, the theme of which was the glad and longing expectation of our Saviour's return, he turned to me with {7} groanings and sighings, saying, "Oh happy heart which is thus ready to meet the Lord!" In prayer together he very humbly thanked the Lord for a word of great comfort and encouragement which was given to him through my simple gospel message the preceding evening.

At one place two well-to-do farmers, with about twenty children in the house, gave me a hearty invitation to come and stay with them for weeks, or as long as I liked, whenever I

was at a loss where to go. This token of tender care from my Master greatly cheered my soul.

Just now I have finished a week's special meetings in Mollis. The assembly which invited me is very small, the people of this district are hard, and there is evidently very little desire after God. Still, a number came under the sound of His Word, and there were signs of blessing.

V. Nagel.

Echoes of Service 832 (February 1916, Part II)

{78} **Switzerland.** – Mons. S. Squire – “I have been very busy lately supplying French prisoners in Germany with tracts, which they receive gladly. I have been able to forward them 32,000 copies of *Vie et Liberté*, and many thousands of other tracts, such as Mauro's *Testimony*, *Charlie Coulson*, *The Traveller's Guide*, *God's Way of Salvation*, etc. It is very precious to be able to give the glorious good news in such special circumstances, which may bring a rich harvest for eternity. Now the great need of the mass of Russian prisoners in Germany has been laid on my heart, and at the same time a Russian Christian woman at Geneva has been led to translate *Vie et Liberté* into Russian. It may be a very special opportunity to reach these thousands of Russians. The daughter of our friend Mr. Warns is employed in the Government office of help to prisoners in Berlin, so that through this channel I am able to reach all the prisoners' camps with the gospel. *Vie et Liberté* has passed the censor, and is accepted, 'as long as it does not speak of war,' which I am careful not to do.”

Echoes of Service 842 (July 1916, Part II)

{264} **Europe.** – {...} In *Switzerland*, Mr. Nagel is helping to shepherd an assembly at Wil, with six branches in the district. The elders are diligent and hearty in cooperating. {...}

Echoes of Service 843 (August 1916, Part I)

{291} **Hungary.** – Mr. Butcher has learned that, amid much trial, Mr. Sadlon recently had the joy of seeing two or three souls saved. His eldest son, only about seventeen, had had to join the Austrian army; everything was increasing in price, and no boots were to be had. A young Slovak brother wrote recently to Mr. Butcher from Chicago, where he is holding gospel meetings amongst the 40,000 Slovaks living there. Mr. Butcher hears that the meetings at Pozsony continue, and things are well in the assembly. Gospel meetings are also being held fortnightly in the house of a sister at a place within reach of Pozsony, and a large room had been more than full.

Echoes of Service 845 (September 1916, Part I)

{310} We hear, *viâ* Switzerland, that several hundred Russian prisoners in Germany have been led to Christ; at one place sixty were baptized on one day, and at another fifty-one.

Echoes of Service 850 (November 1916, Part II)

{392} **Europe.** – *Mr. Broadbent* hears that since *Roumania* entered the war the meetings at Bukarest have been closed, but it was hoped to receive permission to re-open at least that on Sunday morning. Most of the brethren have been mobilized, some for the army, but the greater number are employed on munitions or railway work. *Mlle. Vuille* is working in a Red Cross hospital. In view of the capture of Constantza by the enemy, our brethren there and in the surrounding villages need special remembrance in prayer, as they must be in great distress. *Mr. Butcher* recently had an interesting letter from *Pozsony, Hungary*, where thirteen believers have been baptized this summer. *Mr. Sadlon* tells him of another baptism in Upper Hungary, where seven have professed Christ, including his two eldest daughters. *Mr. Hemmert* and family have fled from Transylvania. He had had the joy of baptizing one believer lately.

Echoes of Service 855 (February 1917, Part I)

{40}

SWITZERLAND.

Oerlikon, Zurich, Nov. 28th. – I have received calls to help in the gospel and edification of believers in places where little groups of Christians seek to meet in simplicity untrammelled by human traditions. One such {41} small centre is at Nieder Wemingen, where a family from the Jura have come to live. I go there twice a month on Sundays and we are much encouraged. Last Sunday evening *Mr. Nagel* and I went together, and we enjoyed his account as to the power of the gospel amongst the people of Malabar; the room was full. With regard to the Jura it is interesting to note that there are descendants there of Christians who in times of persecution fled from the Bernese Oberland. They found a refuge on the Jura, and preserved their language (German) and customs. God has cared for their descendants by means of such brethren as Messrs. Steinberger, Widmer and Stadel.

Through a dear brother at Winterthur I have become acquainted with a group of believers who need all the help they can get, and here too I was happy to arrange with *Mr. Nagel* to help together. This little group is one of the many examples in these parts of true life and light being sought, while on the other hand there is great need of evangelical teachers and preachers. There are many Protestant churches with fairly simple forms, but whose pastors are either “liberal” or even free-thinking. There are also small companies of believers who were drawn aside with others through a desire for outward signs, such as speaking with tongues, but who have since become sober and evince real life and love.

{...}

It is the ardent desire of Mr. and Mrs. Zafiropoulos that we should join them in the work in Greece, but the time does not seem to have come. The present unsettled state of things might make it impossible for English people to work freely except in Macedonia and on the islands. It seems probable that we shall stay here until the end of the war.

Adolphus F. Eoll.

Echoes of Service 857 (March 1917, Part I)

{82} **Hungary.** – Mr. Butcher has received tidings that of the brethren at one place only two are now left, and one of these has to work seven days a week at the dynamite mills, so that the meetings fall entirely on the other, who is also working very hard. Five brethren at least have been captured by the Russians, and of these one is now coachman to a Russian general and another is working in a factory. Mr. Butcher is able to correspond with them. He has also heard from Mr. Sadlon, who in December took a journey to visit the believers in three or four counties and seek quietly to instruct and encourage them. A brother from Pozsony had also been able to visit some of the friends in Upper Hungary.

Echoes of Service 866 (July 1917, Part II)

{224} **Europe.** – {...} In *Switzerland*, M. Gaudibert writes that some friends who had been deported from Belgium have been sent back. Others are still in Germany, one in Berlin, another in Mecklenburg; these two are working in a railway station. Of some who were at Guben he has no news. {...}

{225} **Bangalore, May 3rd.** – {...}

{226} I get letters very regularly from my dear husband. He has many open doors for work in Switzerland, but his heart is in India, and he is longing for the time when he can return to the work he loves.

Harriet S. Nagel.

Echoes of Service 871 (October 1917, Part I)

{304}

SWITZERLAND.

Lausanne, Aug. 13th. – {...}

I am privileged to send monthly many thousands of our gospel magazine, *Vie et Liberté*, for soldiers in France, others interned in Holland, and prisoners in Germany, besides distributing to those wounded passing through our territory. The Lord has graciously used this means for the salvation of many a poor darkened soul. A soldier wrote home of his having found peace through the precious blood of Christ, in reading this paper. The day after writing home he was struck down by a bullet. The soldiers willingly receive and read *Vie et Liberté*, and colporteurs, evangelists, pastors, and others distributing are very grateful for

the parcels sent to them. Especially amongst the wounded in hospitals is there good opportunity.

My little tract is also being published in Italian, Greek, Spanish, Russian, and Hungarian. A few numbers have been published for the Russian soldiers in Germany, where a special work of grace has been going on through the instrumentality of the Russian prisoners themselves.

Samuel Squire.

Echoes of Service 873 (November 1917, Part I)

{344} Switzerland. – {...}

Mr. Nagel says that, after a time of hard struggle at Olten, the Lord is greatly encouraging him in his service there, bringing him in touch with four earnest seekers, one of them the invalid wife of an Austrian soldier. She is a Protestant, but, as her husband is a Romanist, the five children are being brought up in the latter religion. As some of the children are quite young, she is greatly burdened at the thought of not recovering from her illness, but tribulation is fulfilling its heavenly purpose, and she drinks in the Word like thirsty soil the rain. For the first time since *Mr. Nagel* went there in June, a little group of believers recently showed forth the Lord's death at Olten.

{...}

Echoes of Service 882 (June 1918)

{145} Europe. – {...} We hear from *Mr. Parnham*, who is interned in *Austria*, that the Lord has used him to the conversion of three people, who are desirous of obeying Him in baptism. Others have become interested.

Echoes of Service 883 (July 1918)

{189} Austria. – *Mr. F. S. Parnham*, interned at Katzenau, writes to his father that he is able to hold two Bible-readings daily, one for believers and the other for unconverted fellow-prisoners, and on the evening of the Lord's day he and the seven who have been converted and baptized are able to break bread. All but one of these converts are Italians.

Echoes of Service 887 (October 1918)

{263} Fallen Asleep. – August 24th, *JEAN E. LEONHARDT*, of Homburg. Our brother was well known to many in this land, and his departure will be a heavy loss to the work of the gospel and testimony of assemblies in all the countries of Central and S.E Europe, in which for more than thirty years he has been a most diligent, able and generous helper.

{283} **Switzerland.** – *Mr. Nagel* – “I spent part of August with friends at Basle. The little assembly there has always caused me great joy, apart from evangelistic effort, in which they have been slow. Now the conviction has laid hold of some of them that there must be a move in this direction, and they are going to seek a meeting-room in a suitable locality. Hitherto they have met in a private room. I have promised to help them when they make a beginning. My two sons at Greenwich were given the choice between internment and military service (non-combatant) and chose the latter. Theodore has already sailed for France, and Samuel was soon to follow. My first desire is that they may be kept from all sin, prove loyal soldiers to Christ in word and walk, and thus be found meet for God’s eternal kingdom of glory. I would be thankful if friends in England would join me in this prayer. As to their bodily life, that I leave to the wisdom and gracious will of my God, who gave them to me.”