

LEC at 20

investing for growth

LEC is in a good place as we approach our 20th anniversary in October. We had a particularly good Church Weekend Away over Pentecost - any who were at LEC during our first decade would have hardly recognised what we have become, by God's grace.

At the morning service, we are usually about 70 adults, with 30-40 children - mostly 10 years old and younger, with 10 babies expected within the current 12 months! Along with this growth, the turnover has decreased - many of the families are bi-national and expect to be in Leipzig long-term. It's already quite a stretch running the children's ministry, and over the next few years we will have the added challenge of establishing and expanding our youth ministry as those children grow up.

At 4pm, we now run a German service, started 2 years ago under the leadership of Klaus Hickel, who trained for ministry in Australia and is supported (for now) by an Australian mission society. It is proving hard work getting this established, but we believe the Lord has led us into it and will provide, step by step. At the moment there are 25 or so adults and 5-10 children

attending, but two key families move on this summer, so the challenge is considerable.

The evening service, now at 6.30pm, continues to attract younger people and students, though numbers are down a bit since we moved back to the Andreas Church, at about 40-50. We would love to keep building on the solid foundation that has been laid. An obvious way to do this would be to appoint a minister to take charge of the evening service and invest in those attending.

The Lord has generously provided for us up to now, the necessary resources always appearing where they were needed. The same is true in this case - He has provided the person, but not yet the funding. In fact, He has provided a couple, both of whom have gifts which correspond very closely with the main areas where we need to invest: youth and student ministry. Martin also needs someone with whom he can share the pastoral and preaching load, so that he has more time to invest in future leaders.

Martin met Larry Norman through the Evangelium21 network of evangelical pastors in Germany. (For those in the USA, this is modelled on The Gospel Coalition.) He is an Englishman studying at a German theological seminary

(Freie Theologische Hochschule Giessen), committed to ministry in Germany in the long-term, and finishing this summer.

Martin believes that it is the Lord who has led their paths to cross, and Larry and Sinead feel the same. Council has agreed in principle to bring them here for 3 years from this October, but after a steep increase in our rental payments this year, LEC is not in a position to fund this from local giving.



This is where you come in! We are launching a 20th Anniversary Appeal to former members and other supporters. Do you feel led to help us raise the necessary funds for 3 years?

For details on how you can help, please turn to the next page ...

We are Larry and Sinead Norman! We are both English and have been married for just under a year. We met many years ago during our time at the University of Warwick in the UK where we both served on the leadership of the Christian Union. We became firm friends and after several years of friendship living in separate countries, we became an "item"! We dated long distance between Germany and the UK before our wedding in August 2014.

I (Larry) have been in Germany for five years now, first as an English and Ethics teacher and for the last three years studying at the Freie Theologische Hochschule (FTH) in Gießen. Before that, I studied French and German as an undergraduate in England. I have loved Germany, the people, language and the country since I started learning it at school. (Love at first sight...) This love, combined with the great need for gos-

pel teaching churches in Germany led me to train for full time ministry. I long for people in Germany to hear and believe the gospel, discover Jesus and be delighted with Him. And then to go to tell others about our great Saviour.

I (Sinead) studied BioMedical Chemistry before deciding a career in science wasn't for me, and so did another two years studying Theology & World Mission at Oak Hill College in London. Afterwards I worked with the Universities & Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) for three years with students in Nottingham. I've always been passionate about mission, however I didn't think I would end up in Germany! It has been a big change for me, but I'm so excited about being part of God's plan for Europe. I love discipleship and teaching: walking through life with people, helping them understand God's word and see just how beautiful Jesus is. Since moving to Germany I have been learning the language (slowly!) and for the last few months working part time with IFES Europe as an administrator for the InterAction missions programme.

In our spare time when we are not writing blurbs about ourselves, we both love to read, cook, (OK, more honestly, eat), hike, watch a good film and relax with friends. I (Larry) also like playing squash. I (Sinead) also like knitting. (Sinead knits better than Larry can play squash.)

We are really looking forward to moving to Leipzig to work with LEC. It is a church that holds the gospel at the centre of all they do and keeps God's Word as the priority. We love the focus on expositional preaching - equipping and caring for people with God's word.

We are convinced that people in Leipzig, like all people everywhere, need to hear the good news about Jesus Christ. It is wonderful to see God at work through LEC, drawing people into fellowship with Him and we are eager to get involved in this.

The Bible tells us that God's people come from every tribe, tongue and nation, and international churches are a great opportunity to demonstrate this to the watching world. It shows the beauty of unity in the gospel, and so we are excited about being a part of the global family at LEC in a city full of all sorts of people from all the ends of the earth.



Donations to the 20th Anniversary Appeal.

If you are setting up a standing order or plan to give regularly some other way, then it would help our planning if you could let us know by sending an email to:

pledge@leipzig-english-church.de

We will assume that all other gifts are one-off or occasional gifts.

Here is how you can make your donation tax-efficiently:

German residents

Please transfer money to the Leipzig English Church bank account, putting 'anniversary appeal' as the 'Verwendungszweck':

Bank: Volksbank Leipzig

IBAN: DE08 8609 5604 0307 1566 52

BIC: GENODEF1LVB

UK residents

Please make your donation to Intercontinental Church Society, earmarking it for 'Leipzig'. All such gifts will be credited to the appeal fund.

Details on how to donate to ICS can be found at their website:

<http://ics-uk.org/supporting-ics/donate/>

American residents

Please make your donation to International Church Ministries, indicating that it is for Leipzig. You can find out all you need at their website:

<http://www.internationalchurchministries.org>

If none of these methods work for you, then please get in touch with us and we will try to help:
pledge@leipzig-english-church.de

