



For nearly 5 years, Thad has worked to observe the ministry into which we have entered, articulate the needs, then define and cast a vision for how IT can increase the capacity of the ministry. “Increase capacity” is our way of saying help the ministry do more: more people or be more effective with what we already have.

Being an IT department of one, meant Thad was installing existing systems and handling the load alone. One person can only do so much and the vision of IT helping the ministry requires more. As we mentioned in a previous letter, Jon Vellacott is the answer to that prayer and will be joining Thad’s team from the UK ministry in January 2012.

In Thad’s time working with Jon over the last few years, the UK ministry has continually encouraged Thad to move to Birmingham and work in the UK national office (continuing in his current job responsibilities, just in a different location). For 2 years, we laughed but were content in Kandern and enjoyed ministry and life here. However, in the last 6 months, we feel that we should look at this opportunity more seriously, particularly related to accelerating Thad’s work within the ministry.

In the times Thad and Jon worked side-by-side together, they designed programs, and wrote a few of them; generally encouraged each other to greater things. While Jon cannot move to Kandern for health reasons, we are now considering a move to Birmingham to enable them to work more closely.

The UK ministry invited us as a family to attend their annual staff conference, which is held at the end of August. So on August 10, we will hop on a train (actually 3!) to spend 20 days with the ministry there, evaluating the potential of moving to Birmingham, England. This is a huge step for us to consider, so please pray for our time there to bring clarity to where the Lord is leading us in ministry and as a family.

From top left, clockwise

- Eating gelato in the Kandern Marktplatz
- Oliver splashing in the Freiburg water canals
- Jana performing with her ballet class at the Burghof theatre in Lörrach (she’s 2nd from the left)
- A selection of crafts and jams that Jana’s mom’s group made for a fundraiser



A few prayer requests for this decision: good fit for Thad in the UK office, clarity in how he—being in a job that stretches to all of W. Europe and globally—would work within an office geared specifically to the UK; opportunities for us to be more connected and aware of happenings in local ministry; good fit for us within the local, existing team; opportunities for Jana to connect with young moms (in and out of the ministry); mentors; cost of living.

We have a few personal requests to look for in England as well: ballet for Jana; bilingual opportunities for all of us; pedestrian lifestyle.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR information on meeting Totalization requirements, LOL Moment, more photos, and Campus Crusade’s name change.



Oliver's ready for an afternoon at the Kandern pool
Thad's desk at the office
Sunday afternoon walk to the pool

LOL MOMENT...

One day, Oliver entertained the whole grocery store by laughing out loud the ENTIRE time we were there... we're talking giggling, belly laughing, guffawing, you name it!

We walked past a worker restocking eggs, he pointed, said "eggs!!" and began laughing. The worker was tickled and said something about him making her job fun. At the cashier, the long line of impatient customers, turned to watch the show. He laughed, pointed at things, and jabbered as if everyone understood him. One older man got so caught up that he failed to bag his groceries quickly (that NEVER happens!).

It was a fun moment, and I was thankful he made so much noise through laughter. I found myself smiling the whole walk home.



As recently announced, in January 2012, the US ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ will officially change its name to Cru. It was a decision made after years of prayer, research, staff input, and help from a professional branding company. The ministry's mission, vision, and boldness remain the same to win, build, and send in the power of the holy spirit, helping to build spiritual movements everywhere so everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus Christ.

The name Cru is a nickname that began on campuses in the mid-90's and grew in popularity so much that it is known and accepted amongst college students.

While the name will change in the US, the names of the ministry around the world will remain. In Western Europe, we are known as Agape Europe and will continue to be known under that name.

If you have more questions, you can either ask us or visit this website: <http://www.cci.org/>

In previous letters, we have mentioned the ministry being made aware of requirements regarding a treaty between the US and several countries. The treaty, or Totalization, between the US and Germany says that after 5 years of living in Germany, we can either enter the German social system or leave Germany for one year. Our family was granted a one year extension, which means that before the end of 2012 (what?! we've been here 5 years?!), we need to move outside of Germany for 366 days in order to stay within the guidelines of the treaty.

What does this mean for our ministry work and our family? We have reserved housing in Fort Worth, Texas from August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013 which works perfectly with this timing. Praise the Lord! Thad will continue working as the IT Director for Agape Europe, but he will work from remote for the year.

Our need of ongoing monthly financial support will remain, and in fact, we hope to use the year to build a stronger foundation of support. If you have any questions, please let us know. We will be happy to clarify anything that is cloudy.

Join us in praying over these decisions, evaluations, and transitions. We are continually thankful for your partnership with our ministry. In everything that we do, wherever we are, may God be glorified.

Sincerely,

Thad and Jana