A GRATEFUL RETROSPECTIVE

Traveling has become quite a routine to me. Nevertheless, sometimes waking up in the morning, I catch myself thinking: Where am I and what am I supposed to do today?

Let’s have a look at the past couple of months:

AN ORPHANAGE AND THEOLOGY STUDENTS
February I spent in Sudan. I had the privilege of speaking at a Valentine’s-Dinner for women. The room where we met was beautifully decorated and the whole afternoon was lovingly designed.

This year I was able to visit a Christian orphanage for boys. I am really thankful for the love that the local staff has for the boys. Even though the conditions are very poor, you can feel the care and loving respect for the children. Many of the boys are from the south of the country and have lost their parents due to the entanglements of war. Some of them lived on the streets of the capital for a while before they had the chance to come to the orphanage. Now they can go to the in-house school and live peacefully.

In March, I spoke at several evangelistic meetings in Germany and also visited Croatia. Like last year I was invited by Lidiya Gunjevic to speak at a conference for female theology students from different denominations. The theme of the conference was “models of faith”. Eva Gierse from the WINGS-Team accompanied me. The diversity of worship styles and living our faith did not separate us; on the contrary, it was most enriching to hear from Orthodox or Catholic sisters how they worship God.

LITTLE CARPATHIANS
April started with our annual church holiday of Christus-Treff in Cuxhaven. It is always a pleasure to go there, as many current and former church members from Christus-Treff gather for a week. Right after Easter, Roland and I spent a couple of days at the church holiday festival called “Spring” that took place in Ruhpolding. In my seminar on “Women – God’s better workers” there was a lively discussion amongst the participants. Some of their introductory statements were quite alarming: “I am not allowed to

In this issue
- A grateful retrospective
- Just a note - blog wise
- A glimpse on the finances
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- A good overview – the wings-homepage
- Katja’s insights

Dear friends and supporters of WINGS,
I am so thankful for your support in the past six months. Without your prayers and your financial support WINGS would not exist.

I am really thankful that God so far blessed the great experiment that we started in faith. The biggest change during the last months was the recruitment of Katja Bluthardt as my personal assistant (Katja works part-time). I have not the slightest idea how I was able to cope without her.

I pray that God will encourage many women, wherever they live, to truly use their gifts and serve God – that they will regain strength and that they “shall mount up with wings like eagles” (Isaiah 40:31).

God bless you,

Elke Werner
be part of the leadership team”, “I am not allowed to pray aloud in church”, “I am no longer allowed to work with the kids because some conservative German-Russian parents don’t want their sons to be taught by a woman”. I hope that the seminar was helpful and encouraging for them. The New Testament is full of affirmative statements about women and their involvement in ministry. If you are interested, I recommend the Lausanne Occasional Paper on “Empowering Women and Men to Utilize Their Gifts Together for the Spread of the Gospel” on www.lausanne.org.

**Hope for Europe**

Also in April Katja and I went to the Hope for Europe-Conference in Slovakia. Every two years there is such a European women’s conference. This time I was primarily responsible for the younger leaders who were especially invited this year. The goal was to network older and younger leaders. One of the main issues presented at the Hope for Europe-Conference was “Trafficking – modern slavery”. We as Christians in Germany have no inkling of what women go through in brothels (prostitution is legal in Germany). The media is presenting us the “happy prostitute” who is respected and working a regular job. That might be true for some women, but what about the huge number of women who are forced into prostitution against their will? The meeting in Slovakia shook me up. I was impressed by the initiatives taken by Christians to prevent trafficking and to help those who want to break out.

**Make me a blessing!**

*Make me a blessing – this was the motto of the “Hope for Europe”-Conference in late April that was held in Modra, Slovakia. Just about 100 women from more than 20 European countries attended the conference. I was deeply touched by the topic of human trafficking. It was shocking to realize that Germany functions as the linchpin of many of those schemings. Young women (prevalently from eastern European countries) are lured abroad by the prospect of lucrative jobs as models or au pairs. Then, they are taken against their will to various countries (as their passports have been taken away from them) and are bought, sold and transported into slavery for sexual exploitation.*

*At the conference Elke devoted herself to the young women. I can recall one of her speeches where she spoke about the importance of working together instead of working against one another. Another issue was also the networking of younger and older women. One afternoon Elke teamed the women up in teams of two (one younger and one older leader) and we spoke about major current challenges we experience. Seeing these teams of two in deep conversation made me again aware of the bond that is connecting us despite our differences – which is our faith in Christ. Elke told me afterwards that many of the older women approached her and thanked her for the time, feeling really blessed by the fact that the young women were truly interested in their lives. I also talked to some of the younger women and they were all enthusiastic about meeting older (and more experienced) women as they benefited from their experiences and had the chance of building relationships.*

- katja Bluthardt

**To the British Isles and Back again**

The month of May started with a short trip to London, where the program meeting for the Third Congress on World Evangelization took place (Roland and I are responsible for part of the morning program). If you want to know more about the congress in Cape Town, please have a look at www.lausanne.org or www.lausanne-worldpulse.org.

Beyond that, I spent May in Marburg. Part of my job as the Senior Associate for Women in Evangelism for the Lausanne Movement includes recommending women from all over the world for the participation in the congress in October 2010. Katja and I have been spending many hours in recommending women and feeding their names into the online-system. We pray and hope that many of them will be invited to attend the congress. The decision lies with the respective country committees.
The Rose of Sharon-Country
A short excursion in June brought me into a very different culture: For the consultation of the Lausanne Movement we flew to Seoul, Korea. I was very impressed by the hospitality of the Koreans. We lived in the “Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary” in Seoul and were invited to visit various churches on Sunday. We were also invited to receptions of the Presbyterian Church, the Theological Seminary and World Vision Korea. I was particularly glad to meet the leaders of World Vision Korea, as I am part of the German board of World Vision. Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, had been motivated to found World Vision as he encountered the need of orphans. The days in Korea were filled with work – lots of meetings and program planning.

The Top of the World
It was a very great pleasure for me to speak at the very first Austrian Prisca-Conference in Schladming in June. More than 15 years ago we started the Prisca-Conferences in Germany (for women in leadership within the “Ring Missionarischer Jugendbewegungen”). Meanwhile, the annual conferences have a fixed place in the schedule of many women in leadership in Germany. Monika Faes, a Swiss now living in Austria, works as a teacher and initiated the first Austrian Prisca-Conference. She witnessed a German conference during her sabbatical in Christus-Treff Marburg and Jerusalem and adopted the idea. Now the conferences are on cordial terms (as you can see in the common name) but are organizationally independent. The focus of the Austrian Prisca-Conference is slightly different from the German Prisca-Conferences. It was a great privilege to visit the first Austrian conference together with two other representatives from Prisca-Germany: Gerda Schaller and Gisela Stübner.

My personal highlight: Together with a group of women I went on the Dachstein (2995m) – though I admit that it was no athletic performance because we took the gondola both ways. At the foot of the Dachstein it was raining, but once we reached the summit, we could enjoy the sunshine watching a couple of snow boarders delighting in the snow. It was terrific!

From Poland...
In July Roland and I went to Dziegielew, Poland, where the Lutheran Church had an evangelization camp with Roland as their keynote speaker. We were very blessed by the hospitality we encountered there. I held two seminars in the morning, which were visited by about 90 people, mostly women. 1000 to 2000 people came to the actual evangelization event in the late afternoons. It was great to be part of that team and we really enjoyed the fellowship with our friends from Poland.

... to the Holy Land
Roland stayed for a total of 12 days, but I had to return earlier as I was flying to Israel with my mentoring group. We stayed in the Johanniter Hospiz of Christus-Treff. The Johanniter Hospiz is located in the Old City of Jerusalem directly at the 8th station of the Via Dolorosa. We spent wonderful days there, filled with personal sharing, sightseeing of the Holy Sights, good food and stimulating conversations just as intense encounters with local Christians.

On our first day we met Petra Heldt from the Ecumenical Fraternity who spoke about the Jewish-Christian dia-

Elke with Leaders of World Vision International and Korea

On the Dachstein

Elke and Anja (Translator) in Dziegielew

The mentoring group „the Pilgrims“ together with Palestinian Christians
Hello to you all.

I was repeatedly asked in the recent weeks: “Tell me, what exactly are you doing for WINGS? And what is WINGS all about?” This usually offers the great opportunity is doing in this world and how he is using women worldwide to change this world. makes me thankful and humble, as it is so fascinating to learn more about what God wings and learn how to fly is truly a blessing. To witness something like this really out. Connecting and networking women, supporting them when they spread their of sharing about the wonderful and precious work that Elke is doing day in, day marvel at God's goodness.

It is not always in the big things, but more often in the “small things” that make me hope that it is a way of getting to know you and your ministry and including you in you soon on www.wingshomepage.com. I am really looking forward to that and I feel blessed by my tasks and I look forward to all the encounters, travels and assignments in the coming part of this year. Thank you for all your support and prayers!

P.S.: I have also written a book on Stillness – meeting the one who can satisfy your longing. It is just made available for the German market.

Due to my involvement with the Lausanne Congress in Cape Town, I have written two articles on the Lausanne Blog in September.

It does not matter where in the world you ask people: almost all of them know what they did on that momentous day: 9/11. Whether I ask people in the United States or here in Germany: the events of that day have impacted our lives forever. That day changed our history and the shape of world mission. That day continues to define and shape our missionary efforts. On one single day not only the nation of America was attacked, but the free world was attacked and challenged to react.

If you are interested in reading more, please check on: http://www.lausanne.org/lausanne-blog
We were able to start with a little nest egg this year but it was obvious from the very beginning that this would be used up by the end of 2009. And so it is. As I wrote in the last newsletter there are about 600 Euro of regular monthly donations. Just for our salaries we need more than that, every month. At the very beginning of this year and occasionally throughout this year we have had some individual generous donations. We are very thankful for that! The entire honorarium I get for my speaking appointments also go to WINGS. Nevertheless, there remains an enormous gap, if WINGS should continue.

In 2010 I cannot accept so many speaking invitations as I will be quite involved in the preparation of the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Cape Town. This means that fewer fees will go to the account of WINGS.

Katja and I will continue to work in preparing for the Lausanne Congress. We are trying to develop and use good material that will portray God’s plan for women. We would like to contribute in calling to attention the hardships women endure worldwide by broadening the awareness of it in the minds of men and women in leadership positions.

We hope that this is a small contribution, so that the worldwide body of Christ starts to deal with these issues. We will need quite some time and wisdom to compile this material and develop it.

Please pray that we will be successful in making leaders aware of the hardships of women. Amongst those hardships are: domestic abuse, trafficking, genital mutilation, forced marriage, abortion of girls in China and India, forced prostitution, hardships of widows, discrimination of women in jobs and the church, and much more.

Currently we are looking for cooperation with international organizations in developing these materials. Besides this Roland and I are involved in the Program Committee for Cape Town 2010. Please pray for God’s guidance in all the planning.

Over the next few months I will be busy with speaking appointments and preaching (please check the appointment box for details). That means numerous hours in the car, getting to know new people and hopefully many lives given to our Lord.

Please pray that those meetings are not simply a nice diversion from everyday routine but that lives will truly be changed by God’s action.

We will need quite some time and wisdom to compile this material and develop it.

Will the donations sufficiently increase? We are hopeful and trust in God!

Some background information on traveling expenses:

Most of the travels to women’s conferences e.g. to Eastern Europe have to be financed by WINGS as the women from those countries cannot afford the flight costs or giving any money for the inputs. That is the status quo, but I believe that this should not prevent me from going there to encourage women in their valuable and important ministries.

My request is:

Please support WINGS!

We are really depending on financial support and we pray that God will put it on the hearts of men and women to support WINGS. Maybe you could be part of it.

Thank you very much, Katja and Elke A Glimpse on the Finances
### A GOOD OVERVIEW

It won’t be long – as we are working on it at full speed, and then it will be “born”: the WINGS homepage. The address will be quite simple:


It will display lots of information by and about women. Interesting interviews with women from different areas of this world will be included. We hope that www.wingshomepage.com will also be a basis for women who would like to publish something there. Please feel free to contact Katja or me if this is something you would like to do. We will have a look at your material and decide whether this fits onto our homepage. So participation is more than welcome!

Please e-mail your events (especially those that are primarily focused on women) to:

katja.bluthardt@christus-treff-marburg.de

Let us know about your concerns, your articles, good ideas, experiences, life stories, etc.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

### WINGS

**WINGS- Women in God’s Service**

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www.wingshomepage.com
www.lausanne.org

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### APPOINTMENTS

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Donations account:
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