

## **You give them something to eat**

Mark 6:37

„He answered, You give them something to eat.“

I was born in 1968 in a small town in South West Germany as the youngest of two sons. My parents loved me very much and called me „Knudelchen“ = „cuddlebear“. I never had to do the dishes or to work with my own hands. They even helped me to choose my major (Law) and to find an apartment when I moved to Bonn for my studies. But even if they did everything for me I was never truly satisfied. I withdrew into sexual and self-glorifying fantasies. However I only grew cold inside and was filled with inner fear. Sometimes I spend the whole day in my small room listening to Wagner operas for hours and hours. Or I took a long walk through the forest and tried to avoid meeting other people. When my parents filed for divorce I thought: Nothing really matters, and went on a long trip through Germany and even to Israel. I couldnt finish my studies. I felt like a maniac and was about to become a drop-out.

Our family were nominal Christians. Once I attended a semester course on the Sermon on the Mount but just for intellectual pleasure. In January 1992 I was adressed by a Korean man who invited me to a Bible Academy. His German was so poor that I felt deep pity. More than that, his personal invitation touched my heart. Bible study was new to me. But when M. Stephanus Park testified about Jesus the light in his life and when I heard Dr. Peters message on Philippians 3 and learned that Paul had a clear aim in his life, even while he was in prision, I accepted regular Bible study with the desire to know Christ personally. During four years of Bible study I was more and more encouraged. When Dr. Peter gave me John 11:40 „If you believe you will see gehe glory of God“ I could challenge the final exams and graduate in Law from Bonn University. I shared common life and even invited some students to SWS and Bible Conferences. However, I did not yet have a personal commitment and a personal relationship with Jesus. In 1996 through Romans Bible study I accepted Christ according to Romans 13:14: „Rather clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.“ I only thought about me and about how to gratify the desires of my sinful nature. But when I accepted Jesus as my Lord my inner being was changed. He died in my place and shed his blood for me on the cross and rose again and gave me new life as his dear child. I still am in a constant struggle with my selfishness but now I know the Lord Jesus himself is in charge and can be confident that he changes me into a loving and warm-hearted shepherd.

God began to mould me through the shepherd heart of Dr. Peter Chang and his practical encouragement. Especially God blessed me through daily bread and through message training. In 2000 by God's grace God established my house church with M. Debora who is supporting me like Deborah supported General Barak to defeat the Canaaites under Sisera. Our house church received God's promise to have spiritual descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. It was my prayer and practical challenge to raise disciples through one-to-one study. Until then several students came and left and those who remained did not change at all. I felt helpless. Then God comforted me with John 17:1 not to be full of expectation but to believe that God will be glorified through his work in the hearts of the students. Since then I could see God's work in Michael Frey, Simon Bavink and Wolfgang Kies. Through feeding his sheep I deeply accepted Jesus' command in Mark 6:37 : „You give them something to eat“. It was our Bonn UBF key verse for several

years and I saw how Dr. Peter Chang obeyed this word by faith, challenging the spiritual restoration of Germany and Europe UBF. Instead of giving up after the first try I started to look for „something“ to give to the sheep. It was not more than five loaves and two fish. However it opened Simons and Wolfgangs heart so they are seeking God and now are willing not just to attend ESBC but also to co-work in preparation in one way or the other. Last year Ursula Herbiniaux made a committment and became a co-worker in singalong and special song as well as testimony sharing on Firday evening.

Through this I grew in confidence to be used by God in a greater and wider context that I could imagine. I started to pray for World Mission with my heart. I witnessed Jesus' grace and preached the word of God on many occasions. With 5l2f me and my house church could support the spiritual struggle of M. Hannah Shin in Prague and many more co-workers and guests. God entrusted to me the ministry of Bonn II with New Generation missionaries and 11 a.m. worship service. I thought: This is too much. I can neither understand nor challenge those able and sharp-witted 2nd-generation Missionaries. However, God uses 5l2f and now blessed our New Generation to start to feed sheep and bring them to BS and SWS. The spiritual situation in Germany and Europe may not be good as it is influenced by humanism and relativism. But in 5l2f-ministry I see the Hope of God for Germany and Europe. Europe Mission is possible. As we prepare ESBC 2009 may God reveal his hope and make a new beginning with New Generation.

May he also use my house church as spiritual parents to New Generation and as a blessing for WM. May God bless Europe to be a missionary sending continent again

One Word: Europe Mission with five loaves and two fish