

Calvary Chapel FREIBURG

Story and photos by Tom Price



Oliver and Denise Roming lead worship.



Adults and children begin worship services with songs in the sanctuary before children are dismissed for Sunday school. Senior Pastor Falk Scissek, front right, believes it is important for children to know the joy one can have worshipping God. The fellowship of believers, established 15 years ago, meets in a former movie theater located in a historic part of the city.



During the worship service toddlers crawl toward the stage, allowing their parents to participate. There were 15 births in the fellowship last year.



Falk greets a couple who attended CC Freiburg when he was a youth pastor.

Hydrologist Shares Living Water

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Bicyclers and pedestrians made their way to Sunday morning church, unimpeded by the remnants of the previous night's revelry.

Calvary Chapel Freiburg is situated in the city's historic district where vehicular traffic is banned. Freiburg is located near the French and Swiss border in the southwest corner of Germany, on the edge of the Black Forest. It is sunnier and warmer than the rest of the country. The structure the church currently rents was built in the 50s after Allied bombing in WW2; the building was previously used as a cabaret, gambling

casino, and movie theater. It is surrounded by intricately designed baroque buildings, pubs, art galleries, and all-night discos.

The service began exactly on time, with the entire congregation ready and in their seats. "Germans like to be punctual," one man joked to an international visitor who was unaccustomed to the promptness of the service's start. "Contrary to common opinion,

however, you will observe that the German Christians here are very friendly."

As the worship music began, children cloistered together up front to join in. Toddlers crawled on the red carpet in front of the pulpit, some mesmerized by the music and drawn forward. Calvary Chapel Freiburg's senior pastor, Falk Scissek, said, "We like the children to be in the service for the first

several songs so they sense the joy one has in worshipping God." Many of the songs have hand motions that the children learn and the adults join in. After a few songs, the children follow their leaders to their own classes.

After worship time, Falk called forward the parents of a baby who was to be dedicated. Falk said, "This is the 15th baby born from the congregation this year. If this keeps

up, we will soon need another facility," he added, jokingly.

When the service ended, many came to the front for prayer. Several prayed while laying hands upon a woman confined to a wheelchair. Others stayed in their seats and lifted up requests of those seated close by. A man prayed with a church leader beside the huge wooden cross on the stage. Afterward,



University students, who are active in the church, listen to the teaching.



Church members greet one another as the service begins.



An historic cathedral is a few blocks from CC Freiburg. The city is near the French and Swiss border, on the edge of the Black Forest.

Photo by Taylor Hart



An elder directs a visitor to infant care. About 120 people ride bikes to church. Freiburg is a “green city” because of its preservation of the natural environment.

the ladies served strudel and coffee cake. Falk observed, “There is a joy here since the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached for almost 15 years.”

Young Man Takes the Lead

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers ...

1 Timothy 4:12

Falk began attending Calvary Chapel Freiburg in 1998 and got saved through CC Freiburg in 1999 while completing the equivalent of a master’s degree in the science of water—its cycle from rain to the seas, its management, human impact, and corrective measures to combat its misuse. The 32-year-old hydrologist is a good match for a university town. “I teach with a scientific mentality,” said Falk. “I find the science behind the Bible fascinating.

Students appreciate learning that the Bible is the best science book ever written.

“Solomon said that it was the honor of God to conceal things and the honor of kings to search out a matter,” said Falk. “My goal is to be prepared to have a scientific answer to those who refute the Bible’s truths.” He admits needing 35 to 40 hours of preparatory study a week to dig out the science. He continued, “Students appreciate that you don’t have to ‘hang up’ your brain in order to be an ardent Bible student.” Falk continued, “When the Lord said in Isaiah 43:16 that He makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters, the ancients must have been puzzled. Now we understand the Scripture must have been referring to gulf streams in the oceans. Job 26:7 says that God stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. Scientists now understand that our planet is in a gravitational orbit around the sun.”

Two Missionary Pastors

CC Freiburg was planted and previously led by American missionary pastors. Steven Caligiuri had begun the church on the top floor of a gas station in 1995. Then David Pham had ministered there for seven years, at the end of which he sensed that the Lord was calling Falk to lead the congregation.

“I had been seeking a relationship with God since I was a little boy,” stated Falk. “When I heard the Gospel, understood and responded and discovered the verse-by-verse teaching at Calvary Chapel, I began to flourish spiritually as I understood the importance of studying the Word to get to

know God and understand His character.” Falk began serving in the church as a janitor and then became an elder, youth pastor, and eventually administrative pastor.

Besides the month-long summer camp (see the following article), the church has a ministry to incarcerated men. Participating families pick up an incarcerated man, bring him to breakfast at their home, and then on to church before returning him to the prison. Those involved said the program has benefitted both the men and the families.

Because of the maturity of the believers at the church and the solid Bible teaching through the years, Falk found his mentors at CC Freiburg to be his most ardent supporters when he was given the role of senior pastor. “Those that had been my mentors through the years have been very gracious since I became the pastor over a year ago,” said Falk. “They have really shown my wife, Irina, and me the love of Christ through their encouragement and prayers.”

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

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Prayer team leader Wolfgang Leng, right, prays for a man after the Sunday service. Serving others is an integral part of the fellowship.

Germany