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As some of you will know, a few weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the Global Gathering in Munich organized by David Demian and his team of international leaders.

If you don't know anything about the Gatherings, then let me give you a brief summary. David Demian who is an Egyptian living in Canada felt led to have the first Gathering in Canada about 20 years ago. They decided not to call it a conference but a Gathering, as there were no pre-determined speakers or pre-set teachings - rather it was a call to the body of Christ to come and seek the Lord together and to respond to what the Holy Spirit was saying.

Munich was the first Gathering I went to, and so there is a lot I don't know about them. But I have heard little bits of stories from previous Gatherings that have really impressed me. Maybe the most moving story was the Gathering in Winnipeg in July 1999 when a spirit of repentance came on everyone regarding the 1939 St. Louis ship. This was the ship of 908 Jewish refugees from Germany who were turned away by Canada (after being rejected by Cuba and the US). They had to return to Europe where many of them later died in concentration camps. I was deeply moved to see a video of this Gathering where everyone, young and old, were weeping before the Lord as they realised how they had offended God (if anyone wants to see this video, I can send you a link). This led to a formal apology to the families of the survivors and a commitment by the Canadian church to stand with Israel in the future. Many feel this act of repentance shifted something in the heavenlies which caused a sudden change in the Canadian government and led to Canada becoming one of Israel's strongest allies in recent years.

There have been many other Gatherings since then, for example in Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, etc. each with some amazing stories. This year the Holy Spirit spoke to the leaders and said he wanted them to have the first 'Global' Gathering, and that he wanted it in Europe, in Germany, in Munich. When a friend here on Kanaan first told me about it my heart burned with a desire to be there, but it seemed unlikely we would be able to go. To cut a very long story short, through prayer, each barrier that was preventing us from getting there was removed and God opened up the way for us to go. From the financial provision, to the incredibly cheap very nice hotel we managed to find (where everyone got their own bed!), to several times taking the very last parking space at the multistory car park, His blessing was so clearly on our trip. There were four of us from Kanaan who traveled together, two helpers and two Brothers. Two Sisters also went but they traveled separately.

The Gathering was held in the large hall which is part of the Olympic Park in Munich. There were so many profound things that God did and said during the Gathering, but I will try to give you some of the highlights.

Firstly the worship was amazing! Each session we had at least two hours of worship where we could really enter God's presence. There was a lot of joy, lots of dancing, banners waving, several conga lines! There was a dance team on stage doing spontaneous synchronised dancing which was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen. They had such a purity about them, so childlike, but so energetic! I cannot describe how much they added to the worship.

I think the theme for me at the Gathering was 'family'. Both on an individual level (especially bridging the generations), and on an international level, that the nations make up one big family in Christ. It was a very international group of people, with many especially from Asia.

One of the moments that touched my heart was when the Arab believers all got on stage and bowed down before the Jewish believers repenting for their pride, their hatred and especially their violence towards them. In particular they mentioned the terrorist attack in 1972 when the 11 Olympic athletes in Munich were held hostage and then murdered. The Jewish believers then turned to them and said, we forgive you, we love you. There is no people group on earth whom we feel closer to than you. Asher Intrater (who was representing the Jewish believers) even went as far as saying that the Jewish people are not complete without the Arabs. He said Abraham prayed for and blessed you before Isaac was even born, together we are the family of Abraham. After this moment we all faced Jerusalem and prayed against the current violence in the land, it was a powerful time of prayer.

Then the Jewish and Arab believers turned to face the rest of the nations and welcomed us also in to the family of Abraham. Asher than prayed for all the nations represented and said by faith we are also children of Abraham. He then asked God to bring his glory to our nations. He said, it has always been God's intention to bring his glory to all the nations. Then someone got up on stage and read the Hernhut allotted word for that day:

'Zur Herrlichkeit hat Gott uns berufen, nicht allein aus den Juden, sondern auch aus den Heiden.' (Rom 9:23-24)

'For glory God has called us, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles'

One of the main messages that came through the Gathering was that it's a new season - especially for Germany and the German speaking world. Several times it was mentioned that it has been 70 years since the war, and in the Bible 70 years represents a period of judgement. But after the 70 years is over, God brings restoration. The message that was coming was that God has forgiven Germany and has forgotten the past. When they first said this word 'forgotten', I was cautious. Can God really forget the horrors of the Holocaust? I'm sure in one sense God can never forget, but in another sense he can choose not to bring it to the table any more. I started pondering: how do you know when you've done enough repentance? This was something I wrestled with throughout the Gathering, but by the end of the week I had come to accept that this really was a word from the Lord.

There were several things that helped me embrace it. Firstly the fact that the same message was coming from so many prophetic voices from different nations outside Germany. Secondly I realised it's not contradicting the call to repentance. Repentance is not just about being sorry for the past, but also our commitment to continue doing the right thing in the future - and this message was clearly evident at the Gathering. And finally, seeing the immediate fruit of these words, especially in the lives of the young people from Germany. He was really breaking off what felt like a heavy blanket of shame. There was one young German guy in particular who shared how he was always afraid to speak up and give his opinion. He had fear of standing up, of rising up in to his identity because he knew as a German, people could always point the finger at him. Then there was a moment on stage where the Messianic believers from Israel turned to the Germans and said, 'we forgive and we forget'. He said that at that moment something broke in him and he felt completely liberated. The security and freedom of knowing that they were for him and standing by him. There were many other similar stories.

For me one of the most exciting things God was saying throughout the Gathering, was about the young people and especially about bringing the generations together. David Demian's daughter Anna shared a very powerful vision she had received about young people running through a forest searching for spiritual fathers and mothers crying out 'Where are you? Where are you?'. They were desperately looking for spiritual parents but couldn't find them anywhere. But at the same time she saw that the mothers and fathers were looking for the young people but couldn't find them either. Then in the vision, God fired out thousands of arrows which went all around the globe and dove in to the hearts of young people and pulled them back to the place they should be. She also mentioned about young people being pregnant with God's promises, desperately needing midwives but not able to find them.

There was a very special extra meeting one lunch time for the young people where we shared with each other what God had been saying and doing in each others nations. There was one story that moved me in particular. A group of young people had met in Canada beforehand in preparation for the Gathering in Munich. All the young people had felt led to bow down before their parents and the older generation and repent of their rebellion, of not honouring or obeying them. The parents responded by all bowing before the young people and repenting in return, confessing that they did not have the skills needed to parent them properly, that they didn't always take them seriously or know how to call out their strengths. The young people opened their eyes and saw all their parents weeping on the floor. In their eyes they were like their heroes, but seeing them exposing their weaknesses so vulnerably, they said they felt so overwhelmed they didn't know what to do. So they decided to do like Noah's sons - they took some blankets, walked backwards and covered them from behind. They didn't want to expose their nakedness. This story moved me so much to see the quality of young leaders that God is raising up right now.

There was then a very powerful time in the main meeting where the older generation prayed for the younger generation and sung a lullaby over them! An older German couple prayed for me and placed the sign of the cross on my forehead. The Holy Spirit really brought healing to my heart during this time and revealed something of the Father's heart to me.

Many of the leaders were sensing that at this time God wants to bring Germany and China together in a special way, so I think one of the main purposes for the Gathering was to bring the Chinese and German believers together. Three thousand Chinese believers registered for the Gathering, however many of them could not get a visa. There were stories of them begging on their knees weeping at the embassy to be granted a visa. If they were denied, they would come back the next day and do the same thing. Some of them received their visas at the very last minute of the last day before the embassy closed and they were jumping for joy! They just felt so strongly they wanted to come to Germany and stand with the believers at this time. It was deeply moving seeing their resolve. They said at the Gathering that they feel such a weight of indebtedness and gratitude towards Europe and Germany for bringing them the gospel, that they just want to give something in return. There was one session where they invited all the Chinese to come forward and pray for Germany, and boy did they pray! Such a strong spirit of travail came upon them as they cried out for Germany. Something really shifted in the Gathering after that prayer session and immediately afterwards a lady saw a very significant vision for Germany which I will explain later. Then the Chinese said they wanted to make a covenant with Germany. They promised to stand by them, to pray for them and they said that when the persecution and the hard times come to the Church in Germany, they would be there with them. To think that many of these believers have gone through intense persecution and some of them been to prison on multiple occasions, it was deeply moving. During this session someone got up and said that it was completely unplanned, but they had just discovered that Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel was on an unscheduled visit to China during the same exact days as the Gathering in Munich!

I since read some reports online of her visit. Some of the highlights: they mentioned that this was the first time China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang has ever invited a foreign leader to visit Anhui, his home province. The main goal of the visit was to "forge a comprehensively upgraded version of China-Germany cooperation". This included financial agreements (for example a €15.5bn contract to buy 130 Airbus aircraft from Germany), and what I consider to be most exciting of all, that 2016 would be a special "Year of Sino-Germany Youth and Student Exchange", where thousands and thousands of young people in schools and universities will spend time in each other's countries. This is really something to pray in to, that God would raise up his young people for this hour.

After the prayer time the vision that was received was of a graveyard. Then there was an earthquake and cracks appeared in the hard ground. The suddenly out of one of these cracks a wing came out of the ground, then another wing, then the head of a large eagle. A wind then came and blew the dust off the eagle. The eagle opened out it's wings and their were many eaglets sitting on it's wings, then the eagle took flight.

The interpretation was that the graveyard was 'God's Acre' a reference to the Moravians. That God wanted to awaken the Moravian spirit again in Germany. They said the two characteristics of the Moravians were 24-7 prayer and evangelism. The eaglets on the wings represented the younger generation who were lifted up by the older generation.

You can see videos of all the sessions here.
<http://livestream.com/accounts/10682374/events/4477228/>

Here is a video of some of the highlights of the Gathering.
<https://youtu.be/l1lYk2oYvC8>

Here is the video of the Chinese praying.
<http://livestream.com/accounts/10682374/events/4477228/videos/103632467>

Here is Anna's vision of the young people.
<http://livestream.com/accounts/10682374/events/4477228/videos/103702517>

Here is a taste of the worship.
<http://livestream.com/accounts/10682374/events/4477228/videos/103816242>

Here is a taste of the dancers.
<http://livestream.com/accounts/10682374/events/4477228/videos/103816145>

Hope it encourages you all,

Blessings, Alex.