

2026 European Trip Report

In May and June of 2026, the Dawn was pleased to have Brother Robert Goodman visit many of our brethren in Europe, as well as attend and serve at the German General Convention in Korbach. While in Europe, in addition to the convention in Korbach, he had the privilege of meeting with brethren scattered in many parts of France, Germany, and Austria. We believe his report on the ensuing pages will be a blessing to our readers, as we consider the unity and fellowship of the brotherhood throughout the world. Included also are numerous photos taken by Brother Robert of brethren with whom he met in Europe. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”—Psalm 133:1

Northern France

We were greeted by brethren from northern France at the Paris airport. On the trip to their home, we drove through beautiful countryside and quaint French villages. We discussed Bible prophecy from

the perspective of current events. Just a few weeks earlier, the United States and Israel had attacked Iran, and there were concerns about fuel shortages affecting Europe. We arrived at their home in the village of Martin Rieux. Their home is a renovated Middle Ages stone barn, including stone walls and hand-hewn beams, but with modern furnishings.

The class in Martin Rieux is quite small. They normally meet on Zoom or in a building in the village. The brethren study the Bible and also have topical studies. During our evening discussion, we exchanged ideas on how to witness in today's world. One class member started a project to build video summaries of the chapters in the French *Studies in the Scriptures*. Within a week, he had created video summaries of all sixteen chapters of the French Volume 1. We plan to post these videos on the French home page of the Dawn website.

The next day we traveled from Martin Rieux to Lens near the Belgian border in northeastern France. This is an area with many coal mines. In the 20th century, Polish laborers were brought in to work the mines. For this reason, the majority of the brethren in this area are Polish. The number of brethren here, like many areas in Europe, is growing smaller due to aging. We were entertained by brethren with fellowship and a meal. Their class was studying I Corinthians. One of the brethren told a story of trying to witness about the resurrection at a funeral. They were laughed at and were told the Bible was full of fairy tales.

We continued from Lens to Chérenge, France. Some of the brethren there assist with the French Dawn magazine efforts. These brethren stressed

the importance of having both Bible and topical studies to provide a balanced spiritual diet. We had discussions about how politics is reshaping Europe and the rest of the world. France, like many European countries, is seeing a rise in both antisemitism and anti-Muslim sentiments. Today Europe is witnessing an exodus of professional Muslims leaving France to go to other countries where they are treated more favorably. Political instability and increasing polarization are occurring in France as the 2027 French elections loom on the horizon.

The following day we served the Chéreng class. They were studying Matthew chapter 24 and Volume 1 of *Studies in the Scriptures*. A discourse entitled “Spiritual Resilience” was given. This is an important topic to encourage spiritual strength in these uncertain times. The brethren there were interested in the work of the Dawn, so we gave them a virtual tour. There was also a discussion on the effects of climate change. Now, a few months later, we understand that many of Europe’s major rivers, including the Rhine and Danube, are at some of the lowest levels ever recorded. After the meeting in Chéreng, we enjoyed refreshments and a season of fellowship.

We then traveled a short distance to Leforest, France, where we had lunch and enjoyed fellowship and a discussion about Bible prophecy being fulfilled in our day. These brethren were very interested in the work of the Dawn and asked many questions. Because of age, they normally meet on Zoom.

Central France

We proceeded to Pontoise, France. There we were hosted by brethren who assist in putting together

the French *Dawn* magazine. We had discussions on the need of balancing Bible and topical studies. We discussed ways to streamline their publishing efforts. Later the focus shifted to the topic of Israel in prophecy and how Paul's last journey may illustrate the times in which we live. In many parts of Europe, Israel is being blamed for the war with Iran. The economy, crime, the Ukrainian war, and the oil crisis dominate the news in France.

We traveled from Pontoise to Lamorlaye to visit the class there. A young people's seminar was just ending, so we were treated to songs and skits from the children illustrating some of the lessons they learned. We answered questions about the *Dawn* and the American brethren. A talk entitled, "A Clear and Present Danger" was given. The class has many young people who are facing the dangers posed by social media. After the meeting, we were joined by a brother from Paris who drove us for the remainder of our trip. This brother had worked at the New Jersey *Dawn* facility years ago.

Eastern France

Our travels continued to Flaxlanden, France. There we had special fellowship with additional brethren involved with publishing the French *Dawn*. We shared insights about the printing and distribution process. Our collaboration resulted in sharing ideas for streamlining the publishing process. We stayed with these brethren for several days and had lively discussions each evening focusing on the church at the end of the age.

We next visited with the brethren in Hesingue, France, near the tri-country borders of France,

Germany, and Switzerland. The brethren served us a delightful lunch, and we had fellowship with them in their backyard garden. A mile from their home was the building where Theodor Herzl started the Zionist movement in the late nineteenth century. We discussed the many challenges of raising children in the Truth at the present time.

In the evening, we served the Soultz Class. The class is a mix of French and Polish brethren. Many of the Polish brethren came to the area to work in mines, which closed in the early 2000s. There were questions about the Dawn and the American brethren. A talk was given on “How Do You Know You Have the Truth?” The discussion afterwards focused on the wonderful assurances the Bible gives confirming our beliefs.

Central Germany

On our way to the German General Convention, we visited brethren in Bruchhausen, Germany. The village overlooks the railroad crossing over the Rhine River where the Allies crossed into central Germany during World War II. The Bruchhausen class has both Bible and topical studies. We appreciated their warm hospitality and had discussions on witnessing in today’s world. The brethren are known in their village as the “Bible people.” They are actively involved with the publication of the German *Dawn* magazine. Their dedication is evident in every issue.

The German General Convention in Korbach, Germany was held on May 23rd and 24th. It was scheduled on the weekend of the European Union Pentecost holiday. It draws brethren from all parts of

Germany for this annual event. Korbach is located in the middle of a forested resort area, and the hotel is a modern, comfortable venue. Brethren from Germany, Austria, Poland, and Romania all gathered at the convention for a season of study and fellowship. We were able to meet and fellowship with the brethren during meals and breaks. The program provided much spiritual food for everyone in attendance.

German General Convention Program Summary

Saturday, May 23rd

Discourse: "The End of All Things Is Near"

—focus on the urgency in these end times

Discourse: "The Final Step"

Study on Psalm 139:23

—the importance of self-examination

Sunday, May 24th

Panel on II Peter 3:11 and Hosea 6:1-3

—a sense of urgency necessary

Discourse: "We Are Ambassadors for Christ"

—what it means to be an ambassador

Public Witness on Zoom:

—"Why Does God Permit Evil?"

P - God's Perspective

L - Love Needs Freedom

A - Answers through Jesus

N - New Ending

Testimony Meeting based on Psalm 139:23

—"Search me, O God"

Discourse: "The Unworthy Vineyard Workers"

Discourse: "The Seven Churches in Asia Minor"

—a personal perspective from a recent trip to
Turkey

Northern Germany

From the convention, as we traveled from Korbach to Hamburg, a witness opportunity unfolded. There was a man with Bible in hand at a rest stop. The ensuing conversation between him and the brethren was in German, so we could only read their body language. It was interesting to watch the interaction between the brethren and the gentleman. It was amazing how the German brother skillfully listened, posed questions, and offered scriptures. Throughout the discussion, both men's Bibles remained open. The man listened attentively and remained fully engaged as the brother explained the plan of God. At the end, the gentleman accepted some Truth literature and thanked the brother for their discussion. We proceeded on to Hamburg where we were hosted by the brethren.

While in Hamburg we traveled to have a meeting and share a meal. We were treated to a delicious Sri Lankan dinner in a restaurant owned by brethren. They were interested in the workings of the Dawn, so we gave them a virtual Dawn plant tour and answered their questions. The discussion focused on things to watch in Israel, such as border expansion, losing their allies, antisemitism, and enemies in the final conflict.

The next day, on the way from Hamburg to Ober-Ramstadt, we stopped to visit a family of brethren in Dortmund, Germany. The family is made up of German, Greek, and Polish brethren. The class was currently studying Matthew chapter 13. A Greek sister told us the story of "John the Thief" from her father's experiences in Greece and America. It was a wonderful story of how forgiveness

(Continued on page 37)



Visiting Flaxlanden, France Brethren



Martin Rieux, France Brethren



Serving Chereng, France Class



Lamorlaye, France Class Meeting



Lamorlaye Children's Play



Serving Soultz, France Class



Witnessing at the Rest Stop



Vienna, Austria Class



Visiting Bruchhausen, Germany
Brethren



Visiting Hansestadt, Germany
Brethren



Ludwigshafen, Germany Brethren



Freinsheim, Germany Brethren



Visiting Brethren in Lens,
France



Visiting Bollwiller, France Brethren



Visiting Lens, France Brethren



Visiting Brethren in Feldkirch, Austria



German General Convention Choir



Brethren at a Vineyard Restaurant



German General Convention Lobby



German General Convention



Brethren in Pontoise, France



Staying with the Hamburg, Germany Brethren



Visiting the brethren in Hamburg, Germany



Meal at the Home of Brethren in Vienna, Austria



Meal with the Chereng, France Brethren



Lamorlaye, France Class Children



Visiting Hansestadt, Germany
Brethren



Holocaust Museum



Lunch at a Cafe in Korbach, Germany



Brethren at a Castle in Vienna, Austria

(Continued from page 28) and reconciliation led to a family with thirteen consecrated brethren.

Southern Germany

For several days we were hosted by brethren in Ober-Ramstadt. These brethren are involved in publishing the German *Dawn* magazine. We were able to share ideas on ways to streamline the production and translation processes. The brethren provided electronic versions of several books that were added to the Dawn website, and they were introduced to the idea of building German videos summarizing chapters of *Studies in the Scriptures*. During the week there were discussions about Israel's incursions into Lebanon, watching Israel's borders, the covenants, and the growing antisemitism and anti-Muslim sentiments in Germany. On the weekend, the brethren took us to the Jewish Holocaust Museum in Frankfurt, which is down the street from the home of Anne Frank.

We then visited brethren in Ludwigshafen and were greeted with a table of refreshments and a season of fellowship. The discussion quickly turned to Bible prophecies being fulfilled in our day. They are a part of the Ober-Ramstadt class and attend by Zoom.

Our last stop in Germany was Freinsheim. There we visited an isolated brother who is in his mid-nineties and still lives on his own. He has been in the Truth for many years and was well versed in the Scriptures and Bible chronology. We discussed many of the time prophecies being revealed in our day. He appreciated our visit and waved from his balcony as we drove away.

Vienna, Austria

Finally, we traveled from Germany to visit with the brethren in Vienna. There we had a wonderful season of fellowship and met with the local brethren and their families. There were several occasions for fellowship and getting to know our brethren from this area. A Saturday class meeting was called so that the German and American elders could serve the Vienna class. The first talk was entitled “How Do You Know You Have the Truth?” and it was translated into Polish. It turns out that the majority of brethren in Vienna speak Polish. The second talk was entitled, “When Fear Dresses Up Like Wisdom.” Afterwards, there was a wonderful meal followed by a season of sweet fellowship. On Sunday we departed Vienna to return to America.

Insights from Our Travels

We received numerous insights from our European travels. The trip reminded us of the obstacle that language poses. In America almost everyone speaks English. However, when you sit at a table with brethren speaking five different languages, as often happens in Europe, you realize the barrier the different languages pose. (Gen. 11:7,8) We look forward to the “pure language” promised in the kingdom.—Zeph. 3:9

Cultural diversity is embraced and celebrated in Europe. There is a rich heritage of customs and cultures. We were able to be immersed in cultural diversity we rarely experience in America. In our travels we were impressed by the oneness of the body of Christ. Brethren are rich and poor, educated, and uneducated, of different races, languages, and

cultures, but we are all called in the “one hope” of our calling and with one purpose. We are all “one in Christ Jesus.” (Eph. 4:4; Gal. 3:28) It is inspirational to see brethren from many different countries and cultures working toward one common goal.

Traveling in Europe one feels a constant connection with history. From the battlefields to the medieval villages, history surrounds you. We saw sites from the period of the Roman Empire to modern times. We drove by the church in Worms, where Martin Luther defended his teachings against charges of heresy before Emperor Charles V. This was a pivotal event of the Protestant Reformation. History strengthens our faith as we witness prophecy fulfilled and being fulfilled. We are admonished to learn from the lessons of history and to patiently watch and wait.—Mark 13:33

There was much discussion during the trip on current events from a European perspective. The messaging and concerns in Europe and America are at times similar but frequently different. We can glean insights from each other’s perspectives and reason together on them.—Isa. 1:18

As classes get smaller and the number of brethren continue to dwindle, it is important to use every avenue available to witness to the world. This was especially evident in the diligence of the brethren composing the French and German Dawn magazines. We are able to use technology and pool resources to collaborate and witness to the Truth. Using the web, social media, and printed publications, the brethren continue to reach out to all corners of the earth and proclaim the “gospel of the kingdom.” (Matt. 24:14) We thank the Heavenly

Father for their inspirational example in putting forth the Gospel message as they have opportunity.

Our sincere thanks go to all the European brethren whose warm hospitality not only made this trip possible but also made it a joy and a blessing. Special thanks also to the brethren who drove us more than 5,000 kilometers on this trip. Above all, we thank our Heavenly Father for his watch care and overruling in all our travels. We trust we were a blessing to all those we visited, as they were a blessing to us. ■

