



INSPIRE

# Newsletter

2015/01

Almost three years ago a small team of volunteers and visionaries came together to dream about how God could use us to be a blessing to the Brühl quarter in Chemnitz city. Before we had our premises on the Brühl, we met once a week in team members' homes to pray, discuss, share and plan. Over the months new members joined the team, while some original team members moved on to other pastures. At the moment there are eight members of the INSPIRE team. All of us are volunteers with busy lives outside of INSPIRE, but with a calling to serve the Brühl however and whenever we can.



Last July we had an amazing week of social outreach on the Brühl with a group of young people from the Irish Methodist church. This was INSPIRE's first activity on the Brühl, and it was the perfect start! The young people helped us run a street festival for the neighborhood. They also helped make Brühl better by planting flowers all along the Brühl. In the evenings we had live music on the boulevard at our mobile cafe bus. The Irish week opened many doors for us into the community, enabling us to make good contact with our neighbors, many of whom have now become our friends.



One month later we got the keys of our premises situated in a perfect location on the Brühl. We had been praying and negotiating with the city council for over one year and we are delighted that our prayers were finally answered. We were able to rent the rooms at a reduced price if we did all the renovations and modernizing ourselves. The next six months our small team spent almost every free hour getting the rooms into shape for the grand opening. We up-cycled almost all our furniture, making tables out of old sewing machines; building sofas and a serving counter out of old wooden pallets; rescuing old chairs from the rubbish tip and refurbishing them with new upholstery and a trendy shabby chic look; painting decorative signs with inspirational texts for the walls. Our prayers were answered when some skilled professionals came on board to help us build a kitchen, do some electrical refitting and lay 100m<sup>2</sup> of tiles... charging us only for the price of the materials!



On the 17th January 2015 we celebrated the official opening of INSPIRE. Hallelujah! The band „Green Island“ played Irish folk music and many of our friends and neighbors were present - over 100 people in total were squeezed into INSPIRE, creating a wonderful atmosphere. We also had the opportunity to share our vision for INSPIRE, which is pretty much summed up in our name and our motto: with God's help we hope to inspire people, touching their hearts and motivating them to get themselves involved in the rejuvenation of their neighborhood. We want to help build community on the Brühl, be good neighbors, be a blessing to others - socially, spiritually, holistically. The INSPIRE logo illustrates this beautifully - dandelion seeds being carried by the wind to bring new life to the concrete jungle that is the Brühl.



Since the opening we have continued to listen and seek to understand where and how we can be of service. We currently have the following activities on offer in INSPIRE: English language classes for senior citizens; kids' and teens' club; bring and share breakfasts; English language church; Soul Sunday house group; conversation club; training for hospice workers; special events (Whiskey-tasting, etc.). In the coming weeks we have plans to start a handcrafts group (Wednesday evenings), an acoustic cafe (Monday evenings). We are also exploring collaborating with the local Brühlaffe cafe to co-host international culinary evenings.

The next months will be exciting for us... and probably exhausting too! We are looking forward to welcoming a group of volunteers from Urban Village United Methodist Church in Chicago in August. They will help us run a community festival as well as get involved in an urban gardening project.

Please continue to pray for our project. We value your prayers and your support. We have monthly overheads and costs which are presently covered by donations through our circle of friends and through the regular giving of all team members. We are grateful too that Chemnitz City Council granted us funding of €4000 to get our project off the ground. The income from the English language courses for senior citizens and the profits from the sale of the book „Pilgern auf Irisch“ both go to help finance INSPIRE. We are actively looking for new team members, partners and supporters. If you are able to help us in any way, your support would be very much appreciated.

Wishing you all the joy of Easter as we celebrate the One who makes all things new!

Team INSPIRE



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