

Frohe Weihnachten! (Merry Christmas!)

From the Keith Creiglow Family
The Heidelberg Castle ♦♦ Heidelberg, Germany

December 1, 2001



Dear Friends and Family,

What a year it has been. We have now lived in Germany for almost 14 months. It has gone so quickly we can hardly believe it! So far we have been to: Austria, Switzerland, London, The Netherlands, Belgium (Amanda), Czech Republic (Amanda), and France. That sounds like a lot of traveling but we have so much to see! Check out our web page (www.creiglow.com) to see all of our pictures. I apologize for being out of touch the last couple of years. Here is an update on everybody:

Jeremiah: Now 15 and a sophomore in High School, Jeremiah is having a great time with theater and multiple band activities. He has been a student revolutionary in *Les Miserables* at the community theater and, most recently, he was *Will Parker* in *Oklahoma!* at the High School. He is a percussionist for the Jazz Band; sang in the Madrigals ensemble last year and has just been accepted in the International Honor Choir that will rehearse and perform in The Hague, Netherlands next spring. Jeremiah is also the singer for the band "Remnant" - a group of high schoolers that lead worship for the "Search" Youth Group and play at special functions (like the Homecoming pep rally at the High School.) He is learning guitar now too! Colleges are our new topic of discussion...(I am too young for this!)

Amanda: Now 14 and a freshman in High School, Amanda is a beautiful young woman of determination and independence. She was in the High School production of *Oklahoma!* and she is also in the community theater production of *Annie* that opens in a week. Amanda went on a mission trip to the Czech Republic last June where they built a playground for the children. She also helped care for some Czech children while she was there. Kids love her! One of her favorite activities here is shopping on the Hauptstrasse (main street). Well, shopping anywhere...but her favorite place to shop is Gap.com. She is working on her volleyball skills and hopes to make the High School team next Fall.

Keith: His job here is a pretty good mix between challenging and not too stressful. There are quite a few social functions that we go to so his tux is always ready but I need to get dance lessons in the schedule. He has been able to play golf quite frequently (knocked 10 strokes off his handicap) which makes him very happy. He plays bass sometimes for the worship teams at church, and he leads a Home Group (Hauskreis) for our church. He also co-leads with me the Community Group for the kids involved in the worship team for the "Search" Youth Group. And in his first year in Germany he has not gotten flashed once! (That's the photo radar here that will give you a speeding ticket.)

Me: I am making the transition to being a mom of independent teenagers. It's wonderful, but the transition can be difficult at times. Over here teenagers use public transportation to get around. So my kids have gotten good at riding the bus and the strassenbahn (streetcar). I still have to drive around town a lot, but not as much as I used to. I play tennis with German and American women usually 2 times a week. I was playing golf weekly but I'm a wimp when it's too cold. I lead worship often at church now and I am really enjoying getting to know some women at a deeper level. My German is coming along although I do need to take another class. I drive, shop and talk with German people confidently and it's strange how it all feels so normal. I need to get more aggressive about planning trips...time is flying by and we have much to see and do. Oh, and I do enjoy driving fast on the autobahn...

This will be the first Christmas in our house here in Germany. It is fun figuring out how to decorate. Here is a picture of our banner this year — we're not sure how our German neighbors will respond, they'll probably just think we're crazy Americans.

We hope that this Christmas finds you well. As this has been quite a year for the entire world please remember this: Jesus came so that we could know the love of the Father. There is no more secure place to be in this world but safe in the arms God.

Much love from Deutschland,
The Creiglow Family
Keith, Leah, Jeremiah & Amanda



P.S. **Remember** that the invitation to come and see us is ALWAYS there for you. Airfares are cheap right now...

P.P.S.S. We send out an e-mail update as to what we are doing over here and that let's you know when the webpage is updated. If you don't receive this and would like to, please e-mail us at us@creiglow.com.