

Über die Mauer – daily report

DAY 1, Wednesday 1st of July (sent 10.22 p.m.)

Dear parents,

here our daily short report like promised..

Everything is ok! The weather is very hot, 35°C during the day, getting warmer on Saturday. Temperature is like Palestine...

The airplane left Amman with 3 hours delay, the group from Amman arrived at 9:00 a.m. in Frankfurt international Airport, Grace and Majd arrived at 8:05 a.m. – the German group had arrived at 6:00 a.m. in the Airport and waited for all ...

After the arrival in Kronberg there was time to take a shower, then the program started with lunch... not exact everybody's taste, but it was very ok.

Then our first rehearsal: Feeling: 40 °C (like Jericho) in the room, no wind... all were very tired, but tried to give their best. Two students were sleeping very deep, we couldn't get them awake !

Afternoon we continued openair with funny games, especially to get to know to each other. It worked; students of both countries mixed up very good – and had a lot fun together. Wiebke and Carolin prepared nice games and intercultural challenges.

Dinner with a lot fresh vegetable was fine.. and it seems, that everybody is now lucky and tired. Me too!

And please just note: we will collect the mobiles during the day but don't worry about your children! We take good care of them.

Greetings!

Yours, Monika and team

DAY 2, Thursday 2nd of July (sent 10.11 p.m.)

Dear parents

here the second day report...

In the morning: everybody would have liked to sleep little longer, but Wiebke, Carolin and Eberhard did a wake-up-call with their brass instruments. ... and everybody started with good mood into the day!

This morning we started with intensive rehearsals. The temperature is very high, even the Palestinian students feel to hot... in the room it's about 40°C But no air condition. After one hour you have the feeling, that you can't breath any more – but there is no fresh air, no wind. Nevertheless we practiced very hard until lunch – and everybody was very concentrated. Just great.

Lunch was fine: chicken and french fries, everybody enjoyed it. Good food = good mood!

In the afternoon we made a little walk into the old city of Kronberg, we also had a view to the skyline of Frankfurt/Main... it was like in the desert... hot temperature. We filled our water bottles for drinking, but it wasn't enough, so we had to buy much more water. Back in the hostel: of course the next rehearsal.

Dinner was fine: Brezel! Famous salty bakery from Bavaria, and lots of salads. Everybody was happy, the kids were laughing and joking. Now the team gave a command: Every table has 6 chairs: this time the students had to mix Palestinian and German students. And believe or not: they started to speak with each other, like friends.

While I'm writing (nearby 10.00p.m.), they have the next rehearsal, the temperature is still 30°C (outside, inside warmer).

Tomorrow we leave to Offenburg, a city in the Southwest of Germany. And the temperature is expected to climb up to 40°C. So while shopping some students have to buy a hat against the sun and also shorts and flipflop.

Tomorrow in the evening we will listen to a concert, I'm not sure, if Internet is available in the night, the same on Saturday... so maybe the next report will reach you on Sunday or Monday.

I would like you to see, how much fun your children have...

Greetings to all!

Monika and the team

DAY 3 and 4, Friday and Saturday, 3rd and 4th of July (sent Sunday 5th of July 1.26 a.m.)

Dear parents

Here the short report about day three and four.

Yesterday we left our hostel in Kronberg to go to Offenburg. Starting in Kronberg there was a delay of one hour: some students were too late (we work on being in time more and more), and a car blocked the parking of the bus. While trying moving the bus the electronics of the bus stopped to work... but Matthias, the bus driver managed it. We had to travel about 300 kilometers, and there were many traffic jams... So we decided to take a rest for lunch in a restaurant near the highway. It took much more time to leave, than planned... one of the students forgot his rucksack and he realized it just in the moment we wanted to leave.... But thanks god we found it.

Next traffic jam ... and the temperature outside got warmer and warmer, up to 39 °C. At first we had planned to do shopping in Offenburg, but we had to cancel, because of the delay.

At the youth hostel in Offenburg (old castle high on the mountain) they told us shortly before our arrival, that the bus can't drive to the youth hostel because this bus is too long, so the students had to walk up to the mountain, but without luggage. This would be far too heavy. So we ordered a taxi and got delayed again.

In the evening we visited a brass concert in Offenburg, in an old, big church. There were many visitors, but we found places, one hour before beginning... it was hot and sticky air, so during the concert many of the students went outside... it was a great concert, maybe a little strange for the Palestinian students.

Today (Saturday) it was a power day for everybody. After starting with a short rehearsal we drove to Offenburg, old city to participate on the festival opening of the brass-meeting, with round about 2000 (expected) other brass musicians. It was great, but because some students were too late, we didn't get a place in the shadow. So we had to stand in the sun.

Later we had our first performance on the main stage of the event. 40 °C in the shadow, unfortunately some of the students had to sit in the sun – it was terrible hot. The same feeling I had last time in Egypt at the red sea in August. But they did a great performance! The audience gave a big applause. You can really be proud of your children!

After the concert they were chilling, shopping, listening to other concerts etc... now they hopefully asleep. Because tomorrow we have to leave at 7.50 a.m...

Look here for some impressions:

<http://www.uberdiemauer.com/en/diary> (English version)

<http://www.uberdiemauer.com/de/tagebuch> (German version)

<https://www.facebook.com/brassforpeace>

Greetings to you all!

Monika

DAY 5, Sunday 5th of July (sent Monday 6th of July 0.16 a.m.)

Sunday was the day, which brought our group to the limit!

Starting at 8.05 a.m. to Offenburg, Rehearsal 9 a.m. in the open area "Platz der Verfassungsfreunde". Together with almost one thousand other brass musicians. There was only less shadow, but we had good luck: because of leaving at hostel early in the morning and being nearby in time we had the possibility to find a place to sit in the shadow.

All the musicians played together. It was a great sound, a strange feeling for especially the Palestinian, because they never saw or heard something like this. At 10a.m. the service started, with great music. And we were part of it. We mixed our group, so that the German could help the Palestinian with music sheets and translation. It was a very important moment for all, even if it was 40°C in the shadow.

After lunch we had our next performance (concert) at 1 p.m. in "Reithalle", part of the festival. And thanks God: there was air condition – all our students were very happy. Big concert hall, and Brass for Peace on the stage. 20 minutes before the concert should start we were not sure, if people will come to listen – but at the beginning the hall was full; about 500 people came to listen to Brass for Peace. Moments before the beginning, one of our students went behind the stage, to take her water bottle... And after the first song the valves of one of the trumpet players blocked, so we had to oil it inbetween the music and moderation.

I'm sad that you couldn't listen. It was a great, great concert! Concentrated and with esprit! Eberhard and me explained a little bit about the background of Brass for Peace and the Projekt "Über die Mauer" and the audience was astonished, how the students played their songs.

In this moment I would have liked to see Fridtjof and Stefan (the volunteers in Bethlehem) on the stage, together with Wiebke, Carolin and me. Because it was also their work and not only ours! We just had the "harvest", but they cared and prepared all for and with the Palestine group. Thank you, Fridtjof and Stefan!!! We miss you very much on our tour!

In the afternoon there was a next brass meeting, but some of the students were crocky. Their lips and themselves were very tired. But some of the students stayed with us between the musicians, some in the sun, some in the shadow (still 40°C)!

Everybody was happy after the blessing and the last song... Back in our accommodation Ortenburg the students enjoyed free time, especially to climb up to the tower of the castle. Unfortunately the door to leave the area around the tower was locked on our way back and we couldn't get out of this area. Some students were puzzled, some were afraid. After looking for other ways to leave we found a hidden door which was still open.

We expected a thunderstorm, but nothing happened till now – it's still nearby 35 degree... the rooms are sticky... we can't sleep...

Hopefully it will be "cooler" tomorrow!

Greetings from our team!

Monika

DAY 6, Monday, 6th of July (sent Tuesday 7th of July, 1.08 a.m.)

Dear parents, dear friends

Today we had to travel from Offenburg to Möhnesee. It means, 6 hours with the bus. In the morning the students were perfect in time! So it was very relaxed, even the rest at the highway was in time. Also no traffic jam, and it was about 14 degrees colder than in the last days – a very good feeling! Still sun, but we didn't sweat any more. Sometimes in the bus it seems that everybody was sleeping, another time it was very noisy, but happy voices: the kids played different games together.

So we arrived at 4.45 p.m.. Even if we prepared how to spread the rooms it took much time. In this hostel we tried to do something new: to separate all the siblings and mix the rooms with Palestinians and Germans. In the first moment the students were not really happy, but it was their job to discuss, how it will work. And it seems to work. Everybody accepted the ultimate solution without any discussion.

After dinner there was the highlight of the day: Möhnesee is a big artificial lake, and near the hostel is a private beach! So many of the students went to swim. Some of them run into the water, but came out very soon: the water feels too cold... Some others did a nice walk along the bank, until we reached a small harbor. And we spontaneously rented two pedalboats. And everybody enjoyed a relaxed evening with the sunset over lake Möhnesee.

No rehearsal, no performance... just relaxing! It was absolutely necessary and right.

Later we had a meeting to repeat all the names of the students, it was very funny. Wiebke and Carolin prepared some questions: what did you like most till now? In which situation did you realize, that there is a difference between Palestinian and German youth, what's the differences? What's your wish for the next 9 days together?

The answers were very interesting: “to be here in reality to find new friends”, “that the German students will come to visit the Palestinian students in their home”. Some noticed differences: “Germans are always in time”, “Palestinians speak loud”. (quotes of answers of the students)

Late in the night, we just wanted to sing our last song, the maintenance man came and asked us to be quiet. We should be quiet in the house at 10 p.m. and it was 11 p.m.... oh... We told the students, that they really have to be quiet, otherwise we tomorrow will get the order to leave at once. I just checked the rooms: it was working!

So somehow things are changing: to ask for silence and keep quiet in the rooms and to be in time is a little bit easier... today the boys helped the girls to take their luggage down to the bus, we could get more structure for checking in, and we sang together some songs. That's great!

Many greetings

Monika

DAY 7, Tuesday 7th of July (sent Wednesday 8th of July, 0.56 a.m.)

Dear parents,

here the report of day seven.

In the morning we started with a rehearsal, with our new teamer Uli. I had the feeling, that the students enjoyed it after one day without music. They all were curious to the seven new students of Westfalia. They arrived at 10.30 a.m. and afterwards Wiebke and Carolin guided some games to know more about each other. Now we are 34 students and it is difficult for each student, to remember all the names – even if Wiebke and Carolin repeated it with different games. In another game everybody had to define and write down two rules he wishes for the group.

After lunch there was free time, sunny and hot (30°C). Most of the students went to swim or to rent pedal boats. But some of them started to play music by themselves. First a group of Palestinians, then a mixed group,... it seemed that we had to do more rehearsals. In the afternoon a thunderstorm was estimated ... and it came. We had washed some shirts, hanging in the sun for drying. The rain came so suddenly, that the shirts were wet again. But the air was very fresh after the rain and some of the students – especially Palestinian - went out to stay in the rain. The German wondered about this. So in one of the next day we will speak about the weather and the water-issue in Palestine.

In our meeting before dinner Wiebke divided the students in different groups: they had to do a little role-playing game to show the others our common rules. It was funny and serious in the same time.

After dinner we started with the rehearsal, now in three ensembles with students from both countries. Wiebke observed that somehow the Palestinian tend to play more emphatic, the German more correct. It's very interesting to see how the different students deal with their mistakes and the mistakes of others. Exciting how this will go on! On Friday we will do our next concert.

Today we spoke with many students, they told us one thing: it seems, that students of each country will stay together in their leisure time. So for tomorrow we will have more focus to

intercultural issues. One of the consequences will be that we will ask students to give us their mobile. So please notice that your children will use their mobile only before 9.15 a.m, between 1.00 - 1.30 p.m. and after 10 p.m.

That's it for today!

Many greetings from all!

Monika

DAY 8, Wednesday, 8th of July (sent 11.47 p.m.)

Dear parents, dear friends!

Today it's halftime! Like walking to the top of a mountain, stay on top and going down again. Today we stand on the top: Behind our hostel there is a little mountain, we walked on top of this mountain. There was a look out (tower, 40 m high) and after climbing up 206 steps everybody enjoyed the beautiful sight: on one side the Möhnesee (a big lake, 10 km long and 1 km wide), on the other side little hills and forest. It was funny to do some balance-games in the forest. We also did a game in the wood: the two groups tried to catch the treasure of the other group. After coming back to our hostel it started to rain – so the air smells really fresh.

In the morning we had very concentrated rehearsals, and also before dinner. During the day every students who share the same room had to make small interviews to introduce themselves to each other. And they had to present the results to the complete group after dinner. Afterwards Wiebke explained the water problem in Palestine and some issues about the occupation. In the next days we will speak about the wall. We ended with a short rehearsal and sang together some English and Arabic songs, today the text of this song were the Lords prayer. For German students it's not easy to sing "Abana Lathi Fissama", but we tried it.

Without their mobiles the students talked much more to each other and did more games together. So in the next days we will also collect the mobiles like today. Please don't worry, everything is going well! And tomorrow we will ask them to remind the group every time to talk in English if there people of both countries are standing together. Maybe it will help the German students to be less shy in talking in English.

Many and happy greetings from Möhnesee!

Monika

DAY 9, Thursday, 9th of July (sent Friday, 10th of July, 0.27 a.m.)

Dear parents, dear friends!

Today it was our last day for preparing the next concert tomorrow. We play a different program then in Offenburg, so we had to practice very hard in the morning and also in the late afternoon and in the evening. We split the group into two Ensembles, every group prepared some songs. Both groups have nearby the same level, that's fine! But we play also all together, that means 34 students plus 4 teachers playing in the same time. We will see how it will work tomorrow.

In the early afternoon we made a walk over the bridge to the north side of the Lake, to go shopping in "Aldi", a huge supermarket. One of the students bought some chips. When he was outside he offered to all people around him. Also to some other German who didn't belong to our group. They were a little bit confused about this offer...

On the way back there was a Porsche Cabrio parked on the street. Two of the students took pictures and stand beside the Porsche, just looking around very interested. In the shop on the other side of the street one women observed the students very intense. Maybe she was afraid, that the students will damage something. After one or two minutes the owner of the Porsche came back and I told him, that one of the students would be very happy to sit in the Porsche only once. And the owner allowed! The other student took pictures, very clever! And we were very proud!

Between the rehearsals we discussed in the group, which student will stay in which family. Everybody had some ideas, and in the end we found a good solution. Even if it's not the ideal solution everybody looked satisfied.

The weather: still cold and sometimes rainy, in the night temperature shell be between 4 -10 degree, from tomorrow on we expect again more sun. But also the rain is good, because German fields need the rain.

Our feeling: it's good! But some of the students seemed not to sleep early or long, they are little bit tired. But the teamers too !

Greetings from all to all of you!

Monika

DAY 10, Friday, 10th of July (sent Saturday, 11th of July, 0.35 a.m.)

Dear parents, dear friends

Today in the morning we started with the last rehearsal for the concert in the evening. For the concert today we chose a nearby new program, so everybody was a little nervous, how it will work. The rehearsal wasn't good like we wished. But it worked somehow.

After rehearsal Mr. Hani and Mrs. Nancy told something about the wall and showed some pictures. Later Carolin and Wiebke did some interviews with some students. They felt, that at least the German students felt very sad about this situation. Now they understood the meaning of "Ueber die Mauer"-

After lunch there was time to relax or make games together. At 3:00 p.m. we started to prepare for leaving to the concert. Nearby everybody was ready for leaving at 3:00 p.m., even if we told that we want to leave at 3.30 p.m. Also the rehearsal was very concentrated. And the students played a very good concert! Everybody was deeply impressed.

On our way back to the hostel they started to sing English and Arabic songs together in the bus, so they had really fun. There was also time to play outside, table tennis or football and everybody enjoyed the relaxed evening after concert.

In our daily team meeting some of us mentioned, that there is a big development since last week, belonging issues like in being in time, concentration and communication. That's good! We also don't shout to get silence, one simple sign with one hand is enough (thank you, scouts!) – and it's working.

So you see, everything is well.

Greetings to you all!

Yours Monika and team

Day 11, Saturday, 11th of July (sent Sunday 12th of July, 0.16 a.m.))

Dear Parents, dear friends

I'm just sitting in the hostel, everybody is sleeping. Hopefully. It's our last evening in Möhnesee, tomorrow we will leave to Herford. Therefore we had a nice barbecue and a campfire, with singing and having fun.

It was a good party after our concert today. We had the performance in Bible Village Rietberg. It was a very good concert and we had to add some more music pieces because of the applause of the audience. The bible village is a kind of museum to show people how the biblical places might have looked like 2000 years ago. In our group arose an important discussion about how to present maps of Israel and Palestine in public. It was a good example for the German members to get more sensibility for the situation in Palestine. Many of them today understood this very well and started to ask more questions about the wall and occupation.

In the morning we visited another wall: the large water wall of the Möhnesee (lake). It was a impressive sight, even if the students heard about the story from second world war: the British army bombed the wall and the valley below was flooded, more than 1500 people lost their lives. The students enjoyed the walk along the wall today.

Although we had to start at 9 a.m. the day was very relaxed, maybe also because we are used to travel a lot.

Many greetings to you all

Monika and Carolin

DAY 12, Sunday, 12th of July (sent 10.33 p.m.)

Dear parents, dear friends

Today it's Sunday. And Sunday without a service is no Sunday. So we started our last day in Möhnesee with a small service for our group. The tenor of the service was the wall. Especially the biblical story of the wall in Jericho. But Eberhard spoke also about a wall in peoples mind or a wall blocking communication between cultures. ... Every participant of "Über die Mauer" ("beyond the wall") maybe had an own kind of wall with him during the first days of our trip. And that is normal, because nobody knew what will happen in the next days – but the wall fell down. That's what we wanted to achieve during our trip.

After leaving Möhnesee we had a great time in fun park Schloss Holte. Our bus was driving between lions and tigers, elephants and antilopes and we were sitting in our bus like in a cage, the animals walked around our bus. Crazy world. In the fun park itself we had a lot of fun. There were many attractions, e.g. looping roller coaster. And a giraffe tower: your seat

was pulled 40 m high and after releasing the break you suddenly just fall down with your seat. Of course you at least had this feeling of falling down. Thanks god there was a break in the end which worked. Some of the students enjoyed big water guns, they were totally wet and looked like swimming with clothes. Anyway it was raining, so it didn't matter!

Now the Palestine students stay in the families of the German students. Hopefully they don't feel strangers because students made friends together in the last day. Probably the Palestine parents just now know more than me about the families.

Tomorrow we meet again, in the morning with a common program and in afternoon for our last concert in Hagedorn.

Have a nice evening!

Greetings to you

Monika

—

DAY 13, Monday, 13th of July (sent Tuesday, 14th of July, 0.02 p.m.)

Today was fun day!

At least until the afternoon. Many students were sleeping about 11 hours, it was necessary. Later all students met in the morning in Bad Oeynhausen in a climbing "garden" (high wire crag). Long ropes are tied between the trees and everybody has to climb up and then to go through the parcours. (here you get an imagination: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKRVSZMFJTg> it's NOT our group!). Most of the students did it, also the girls! And it's not really easy, you need concentration, body tension and you have to work up the courage to go up between the trees. And you need teamwork. They had fun although it was raining.

At 5.30 p.m. we had rehearsal for our last performance. But some of the German parents were surprised by a new construction site on the street – me too. So it took long time to reach the church, rehearsal started after 6 p.m., concert at 7 p.m. So there was no time for practicing, just have a look to every music piece. The problem: In the last concerts on Friday and Saturday we played a very different program. It means, that we didn't practice some of our music pieces since last weekend in Offenburg. It was a little bit lacking in concentration, everybody was hungry and wanted to have some pizza... but in the concert itself it was very good! The church was really full with people, and that motivated the students. They were very concentrated and the audience brimmed over enthusiastically for the students and their concert. I'm a little sad: it was the last concert. ...

Tomorrow we have to leave at 7 a.m., our last day together.

Many greetings to you all!

Monika

—

DAY 14, Tuesday, 14th of July (sent Wednesday, 15th of July, 0.49 a.m.)

Today it was the last complete day for our Palestine-German-group. And it started very early in the morning: most of the students had to leave the house between 6.40 a.m. and 7 a.m.

The reason: we had a performance in Bielefeld Landeskirchenamt (Westphalia Church head office with 280 persons staff). Every Tuesday there is a morning prayer for the staff and we wanted to do some music there.

Meeting at 8 a.m. in Bielefeld. That was our plan. But it didn't work because of traffic jams everywhere in the morning. So the last members of our group arrived at 8.25 a.m.. Only 5 minutes left for warm up and short rehearsal, it was a hectic rush, even because there were many listeners in the room. Until this morning we had no chance to practice the hymns before. And all the students were very tired. One of them forgot to bring his trumpet, so he had to listen. Another one was ill... Maybe because they needed more sleep. The responsible person excused himself shortly before beginning that maybe only few members of the staff will attend the morning prayer – because of holidays. But at the end there were at least 80 persons, sitting and standing every where in the room. Much more than normal.

Just as we started to play, the students switched suddenly: woke up, were very concentrated, no nonsense, just playing what they should play. And with esprit and power. Like professionals. The audience applauded very long time. It was a kind of thank-you-gift for getting up very early in the morning.

And then: shopping time! But the prices are very high in Bielefeld (and almost everywhere in big cities). One of them bought a lot of chocolate for his family, another new sneakers. Some of them bought nothing, because it was too expensive. The trip back was by train, a new experience for all. Especially that you have to be in time 100%. German time!

In the evening Konstantin (Volunteer for Brass for Peace (2010/2011) did an evaluation workshop, it's a kind of feed back. And in the end there was a big barbecue with all the host families. It was a beautiful good bye party. Thanks to Kai and his wife and all others who prepared the party and the wonderful food!

Just now the students are writing in facebook... they will miss each other. Tomorrow we have to say good bye.

Many greetings from our last evening!

Yours Monika

–

DAY 15, Wednesday, 15th of July (sent 9.48 p.m.)

Dear parents, dear friends

Our last day. Time to say good bye...

In the morning Konstantin continued with his evaluation, even the part of evaluation looking to the future. Maybe there will be an exchange next year? What could the Palestinian show to their German friends? What do the German students would like to see in Bethlehem? Everybody found answers to this questions...

Most of the German students would like to visit the Palestinian friends next year. What they didn't know until today: it was our plan since January to make this trip to Bethlehem. But we didn't tell that to the German members, we just wanted to see how "ueber die Mauer" is working. If they wouldn't have asked, we wouldn't have told them about this idea for summer 2016. But they asked! Of course! Because they are friends now. And therefore we will start working on this exchange project. Inshallah it will work.

After the evaluation we prepared all the luggage, some had over weight, some too less. So we started to pack things from one suitcase to another. And suddenly the bus arrived, so we had to say good bye in reality – it wasn't easy for us all. There were long and cordially hugs, tears came up in the eyes. Suddenly the church bells started to ring like at their arrival on Sunday. Then the bus closes the door and started. Really a sad moment...

Just in the moment I'm writing (3 hours more early then usual!) the flight to Amman took off, in one hour the flight to Tel Aviv hopefully too. Have a safe trip!

Many of the students chatted until entering the airplane in facebook. So sometimes it's helpful to have a smartphone!

THE END

But I'll not miss to say special thanks to many, many people. Hopefully I didn't forget somebody!

In Palestine:

- Stefan and Fridtjof: without YOU the complete trip wouldn't have been possible! You worked really very, very hard in rehearsals, concerts, but also in organization. And you supported the students to feel comfortable in the group, talked to them in the moments they get anxious. You did a great job! And sorry that it was impossible to take you too to Germany.
- Salameh Bishara, you were working hard on the parents meetings, the Visa application and transportation. The parents could ask you any questions and you gave them the feeling, that we really will take care of their kids!
- Nancy, Grace and Hani: it was so good to have you three with us all the time! It was not necessary to tell you, what we expected you to do during the trip. You already just did it and it was very very helpful to us. Also you started to get in contact with the students since last autumn, that was great! Thanks a lot! Hope, you enjoyed it!
- All parents in Bethlehem: thanks that you gave us the confidence to take care about your kids!
- Did I forget somebody??? Hopefully not! If yes: please sorry...!

In Germany

- Eberhard: thanks for ALL! It's too much to write all details. But without you we never could do this project!
- Konstantin, thanks for helping us to get all the funding – it was really much time and work for you! And you helped to make the trip possible and very successful. And thanks for the nice green bag, shirt and bottle! Longlasting souvenir.
- Wiebke and Carolin, thanks for being with us! The students (and me!!) enjoyed your rehearsals and all the wonderful games. So the trip got a personal note through your work!
- Felix, Konstantin and Wiebke: with the Blog and facebook you gave everybody the possibility to be with us! And I know it was a lot of work, even in the nights! THANKS!!

- Volker (coach for the volunteers) and Moritz (one of the new volunteers), thanks for being with us, even if you had only less time! But the students enjoyed that you were between them.
- Kai and his wife Meike: you organized really all details for the German students and especially for our stay during the last days in Hagedorn. It was perfect und a great help for us! And thanks to the congregation of Hagedorn too!
- The German families: thanks for hosting the students during the last days and giving them a kind of family. Also thanks for sending your child with us! And thanks for the party and preparing all the things for the last days! Hope to see you and your children soon! And if there is a next trip to Hagedorn and Herford you get more time for the stay in your family!
- Michael Krause and Doris Vogelsang: as we said in the concert: Thanks for your good cooperation with Kirchenkreis Herford! It helped us to get some important funding! And we got it! And thanks also for all support in any questions!
- And last not least: Matthias and Uli, our bus drivers! We enjoyed that you drove the bus in a very safe way and helped us to solve any problem. Even if the bus was blocked by a car so we couldn't leave in time... And we enjoyed talking during travelling! You are belonging to the group, not only as a bus driver. And special thanks to Matthias for "Thank you lord" – it sounds great!
- Did I forget somebody???
- And of course thanks to all you students! You were great and did very good performances! Keep at it! See you soon!

Thanks for all!

See you in Herford/Hagedorn or in August in Bethlehem!

All the best!

Monika