

## **(Germany) (Germany & Switzerland) "Forgiveness" - Joint Spring Retreat at Black Forest (By James Kim, Karlsruhe)**

We held our spring retreat from Friday evening, May 31, to Sunday morning, June 2, at the Feldberg Youth Hostel in the Black Forest, Germany, with the theme of Forgiveness. Twelve people from Karlsruhe, six from Bern, Switzerland, four from Korea, and one from Freiburg attended the retreat.

In the opening service on Friday, Seung Won Kim (Suwon, Korea) spoke from John 2, titled The Wine of Jesus, and in the evening service, Marianne Blessing (Bern, Switzerland) spoke powerfully from Ephesians 2, titled The Need for Forgiveness of Sins. On Saturday morning, Richard Erhardt spoke from Psalm 32 on The Joy of the Forgiven. On Saturday morning, Tobias Hergert spoke from Luke 15 on God's waiting for sinners to repent. On Saturday evening, General David Song (Freiburg, Germany) spoke from Revelation 5 on the Lamb of God. On Sunday morning, Joseph Kim preached on God's Love based on 1 John 4, and on Sunday morning, James Kim preached on Shine Like the Stars based on Daniel 12.

Sibylle Grace (Bern, Switzerland) and Maria shared their testimonies of God's grace in their lives during the Friday evening service, and Heekyung Kim (Suwon, Korea) and Andreas shared their testimonies during the Saturday evening service.

We split into two groups for group Bible study, fellowshiping with each other, studying the Word, and writing and presenting our reflections together.

The retreat included powerful and gracious worship together, accompanied by bands from Suwon and Karlsruhe, a string trio from the music students, and a gracious chorus.

After lunch on Saturday, we traveled by bus to Feldberg, took the cable car to the top of the mountain, walked around, went up to the observation deck, and fellowshiped with the beautiful, clean air and forested views of the Black Forest. Afterward, we visited the nature museum and returned to the retreat center.

During the retreat, we were filled with joy and grace through the Word, praise, prayer, and fellowship, and we were able to heal our bodies and souls. We give thanks and glory to God for blessing the retreat, for the restoration of the sheep, and for the powerful addition of spiritual wishes, and we express our sincere gratitude to all the partners who prayed for the retreat.

