

**T**ravel is one of the best educational experiences money can buy. Apart from the scholastic benefits, exposure to other people and cultures helps to put our own lives in perspective. We can see ourselves more clearly when looking through the eyes of others.

Before leaving for Europe, Melanie and I worshipped with a brand new congregation northeast of Atlanta. It was their first Sunday evening and they met in a rented day-care facility. We could feel the excitement of those brethren who were venturing off the beaten path into an uncertain future.

Starting a new work with established Christians in an area where several other congregations already exist is challenge enough. But it pales beside the situation in Prague. When Czechoslovakia came out of socialist oppression a few years ago, a great door of opportunity was opened. But walking through that door meant no tradition of “restoration history,” no other churches in the area to help, no family and friends close to lend encouragement. It was true virgin territory.

Several men have labored in Prague over the past several years. They started completely from scratch, patiently teaching each one who might show an interest. The church at present is about 15 souls who meet in a YMCA hall and who endeavor to be a light to a city of one and one-half million people.

We also met with the saints in Gustavsborg, Germany. This congregation consists of five members who meet in a rented garage which has been modified into a meeting hall. These brethren are limited in what they can do, but they have determined to financially support the European work as they are able.

Finally, we worshipped with the church in Heidelberg, Germany. This group is comprised of American military personnel and has only been meeting together since last summer. They meet in the living room of one of the members, and one Sunday per month the entire congregations packs up and meets in Stuttgart.

Being with these brethren was a reminder that the cross we bear here in Hueytown is not loneliness, foreign culture, or small numbers; in fact, our cross is not even hardship. The cross we bear is prosperity. Unappreciated prosperity can ruin us as surely as any discouragement. Let's be happy with the richness of God's blessings upon us and use them to His glory.