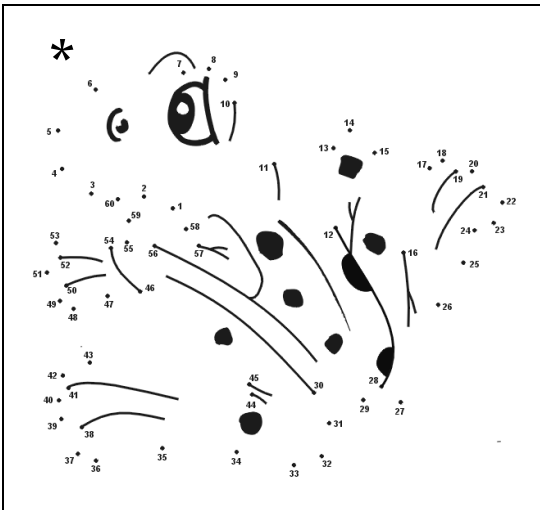


Table Talk



Serving the Bread of Life in Berlin

Autumn 2010



Connect the Dots

Remember Connect-the-Dots, the game we played when we were kids before there were computer games? You would start with your pencil on number one and then follow the numbers until you got to the end. Gradually, as your pencil moved from number to number a picture would begin to emerge. Sometimes, I would get frustrated because I couldn't find the next number or, as in the early years, I didn't even know what the next number was! How could I figure out the puzzle and see the final picture if I couldn't even find the next number? Sensing my frustration, my dad would often lean over my shoulder and placing his big hand over my tiny one, he would guide my pencil to the next number and then to the next until finally I could see the Disney character or the fire truck or the space ship begin to emerge.

It occurs to me that's exactly the way things often happen here at Matthew's Table. We do our best to figure out the full meaning of day-to-day events and of our ongoing efforts to develop relationships that will result in producing the image of Christ in people's lives. We desperately want to see the final picture. Sometimes we become frustrated because we can't determine what should happen next. How will we ever be able to say the words that will bring Gunter to faith in Jesus? What can I do to convince Erika that Jesus can fill the void in her life? How do we best approach our lonely gay friends with possibility of joy and fulfillment to be found in the love of Jesus? The more we try in ourselves to figure it all out, the more frustrated we become!

Then the Lord places his hand over ours and says, "Here, let me show you the picture I have in mind." Hannah Whitall Smith said it better than I: *"The guidance of the Spirit is generally by gentle suggestions or drawings, and not in violent pushes; and it requires great child-likeness of heart to be faithful to it. The secret of being made willing lies in a definite giving up of our will. As soon as we put our will on to God's side, He immediately takes possession of it and begins to work in us to will and to do of His good pleasure."*

We wish it could be possible for each of you to visit us and see how the pictures of changed lives are developing here at Matthew's Table. Since that may not be practical for everyone, please look at the photos on page two and try to envision with us how God is connecting the dots in people's lives through Matthew's Table. One thing is completely clear to us, your praying and giving are critical to the process! **(* It's a frog!)**

It behooves us to accomplish what God requires of us, even when we are in the greatest despair respecting the results.
John Calvin (1509-1564)

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Your Faithful Giving Keeps the Bread on Matthew's Table!
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Connecting the Dots at Matthew's Table

A Photo Essay on how God's Hand Directs Ours to See the Complete Picture



1

Neighbors and good friends, Carla and Dieter invite us to visit his extended family who live in Saarland in Western Germany.



2

On the way we decide to spend a couple of extra days at a B&B called Casa Sophie and owned by Stephan & Andrea with whom we became immediate friends. We invite them to visit Matthew's Table.



MATTHEW'S TABLE



3

In Saarlouis, we quickly become acquainted with our gracious hosts Anita and Walter and discuss plans for future connections.

6

Later that month, Anita brings 16 of her friends from England, Holland and Germany for dinner where we share God's love with them during our table fellowship.

4

Dieter's sister, Anita, asks us to visit her ailing parents who request us to pray with them before we leave.

5

The following week Stephan, Andrea and little Sophie visit us at Matthew's Table where we tell them the reason for our faith in Jesus.



Here's the rest of the story: To our knowledge, everyone you see pictured above (other than Gayle) is still in the process of coming to faith in Jesus. These friends are the reason we are in Berlin and why your faithful support in prayer and finances is so important to us. We can't do it without you!