

ANNUAL CHURCH REPORT
International Baptist Convention
FOR YEAR: Jan. 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008

Please send completed form to IBC office by 20 January 2009.

I. CHURCH INFORMATION

A. Name of Church International Baptist Church Cologne

Street Address Escher Str. 160, 50739 Köln

City Cologne Country Germany

(Please put postal code in appropriate place for postal system in your country.)

Telephone 02236-331 3023 Fax / E-mail info@ibc-cologne.com

Web Page: www.ibc-cologne.de www.ibc-cologne.com

(Please verify that the information about your church on the IBC website is correct.)

B. Name of Pastor Prof. Dr. Lorin Cranford

Pastor's Street Address Aachener Str. 128, 50389 Wesseling

City Wesseling Country Germany

(Please put postal code in appropriate place for postal system in your country.)

Telephone 02236-331-3023 Fax 800 /524 562 23294 E-mail lorin.cranford@gmail.com

Indicate preference for place to receive mail: Church Pastor's Home xx

HIGHLIGHTS news magazine:

We would like to receive 20 more copies / less copies (please indicate a number).

We are receiving the right amount

C. Name a contact person in addition to the pastor: Linda Akinyi Okundaye

Mailing Address POB 800518, 51005 Köln

City Cologne Country Germany

Telephone 0173-5454 362 Fax / E-mail churchsecretary@ibc-cologne.com

II. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

A. Membership & Baptisms

1. TOTAL CURRENT MEMBERSHIP 57

2. TOTAL BAPTISMS IN 2008 4

B. Worship Service Attendance

TOTAL WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE (Average) 45

NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED (Members and regular attenders) 30

Please list nationalities: Angola, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Columbia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Iraq, Iran, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Togo, Turkey, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom, USA

III. CHURCH FINANCES (Please state in Euro)

- A. Total Annual Church Budget EUR no adopted budget
- B. Total Receipts EUR 37.999,59__ What percentage of your annual budget is given to IBC Cooperative Program? __7%__(Apr-Dec)___
- C. Total Gifts to IBC Cooperative Program (not including loan repayment and special offerings) EUR 1.526,14__
- D. Other IBC Giving (Global Missions Offering, Missions Endowment Fund, etc.) EUR __377,---__
- E. Gifts to National Union EUR none_____
- F. OTHER missions causes / direct mission(ary) support. EUR _none_____

IV. ORGANIZATIONS/MINISTRIES

Please list your ongoing ministries:
(eg Bible studies, cell groups, prayer meeting, discipleship, Sunday School, AWANAs, children's & youth ministries, women's & men's ministries, singles' ministry, music, missions)

Bible Studies: Wednesdays @ 18:30 – 19:30

Children's Sunday School: Sundays @ 14:00 – 15:30

Worship Practice: Sundays @ 13:00 – 13:50

V. CURRENT CHURCH LEADERS

- A. Chairman of Deacons/Elders __none_____ E-mail: _____
- B. Other church staff/leaders
- Evangelism: Billy D'Almeida E-mail: evangelism@ibc-cologne.com
- Children Ministry: Marianne D'Almeida E-mail: children@ibc-cologne.com
- Worship Ministry: Solomon Idemudia E-mail: worship-ministry@ibc-cologne.com
- Welcome Ministry: Vivian von Piechowski E-mail: welcome@ibc-cologne.com
- Financial Secretary: Francis Adoga E-mail: finance@ibc-cologne.com
- Treasurer: Kingsley Edosomwan E-mail: treasury@ibc-cologne.com
- Church Secretary: Linda Akinyi Okundaye E-mail: churchsecretary@ibc-cologne.com

VI. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. History of Church: Please attach a history of your church or current update if you have sent us a history. **History attached as from page 4**

B. Events of Significance during the Year (Church anniversary, revival, special projects, new programs and ministries, new missions/church plants):

1. Calling of Lorin & Claire Cranford as pastor in July

2. Calling of Calvin & Betty Ann Hogue as interim pastor in September (four months: Sept - Dec)


3. Relocation of meeting place to Nathanael Kirche in September

This report has been approved by the church on this _____ day of _____, 200_____.

Linda Akinyi Okundaye
Church Clerk (type or print name)

Lorin L Cranford
Pastor (type or print name)

Church Clerk (Signature)



Pastor (Signature)

Addendum:

Please verify that the information on our website is accurate (www.abc-churches.org, click on the Church Locator section)! If your church's web page is not listed there, please let us know.

Comments:

Church History

The Starting Point

It all began at a time when Cologne was on its way to getting larger and achieving an international flair. Way before that, lots of foreigners came to Cologne out of various reasons and decided to make their living here for a while or for a longer period.

In March 1991, Pastor Hogue from the US was sent by the International Mission Board (IMB, then called the Foreign Mission Board). A group of believing Colonians, both local & foreign, saw the need of this city having an International Church. Their vision was to form a church where all foreigners and Germans, in and around Cologne, would have a home and could share God's hope in English, a language that connected more people, and for most of them, probably the only foreign language they spoke upon arriving in Germany.

With the help of the IMB, the International Baptist Convention (IBC; then known as the European Baptist Convention) and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the church was started. With God's purpose and the dedication of the founding group, lots of evangelism was done in Cologne and in the surrounding areas to reach out to unbelievers, whom the German churches couldn't reach largely due to language barriers.

As an asylum country, Germany had lots of camps filled with believers, whose problems also included not knowing where to continue worshiping God in a language that was familiar to them. The founding group went to all the asylum camps and reached out to those who knew God already and encouraged them in their faith. But it also had a wonderful opportunity to share Christ with those who didn't know about our Lord Jesus Christ. Each Sunday, this group drove a small van to the suburbs of Cologne and gathered up those who were not allowed to come to Cologne on their own, brought them to the Sunday service, and then drove them back again. This went on for more than half a year and great testimonies were heard and seen in the lives of those asylum-seekers at that time.

Also at that time, Bonn was the capital of West Germany, we still had the DM (Deutsche Mark), and today's teenagers were just being born.

We therefore had an international neighbor right next to us with a big potential of new members from all the embassies and international bodies located there. Once the IBC church became known in that area, the church grew rapidly and with God's blessings we were able to register the church in 1993 as International Baptist Church of Cologne/Bonn. Not only foreigners saw the need to fellowship at IBC but also Germans who wished to have worship in the English language joined us as members. We have also been a member of the Bund Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden in Deutschland (BEFG) from this same time.

This International Church brought nationalities closer together beyond the fact of just sharing a common language. People have had chances of intercultural exchanges and to experience how our Lord Jesus Christ is being worshiped around the world. Activities throughout the city were always marked by the peaceful coexistence of so many differing cultures sharing the same belief. The church has seen the hand of God at work in so many areas of the members' lives and we still know that this is God's own church and no work of evil will bring it down.

God has blessed us during these times with the following Pastors:

Pastor Hogue USA 1991 - 1996

Pastor Hatfield USA 1996

Pastor Philips USA 1997

Pastor Howard USA 1997

Pastor Oglesby USA 1997- 2000

Pastor Willson UK 2000 - March 2008

Pastor Cranford (Interim) USA June - August 2008

Pastor Hogue (Interim) USA September - December 2008

Pastor Cranford USA from 2009

An easier start couldn't have been achieved without the support of the Evangelisch Freikirchliche Gemeinde-Rheinaustrasse. They allowed the new International Church to share their premises with them. This central place, located by the River Rhine in the southern part of the right-side of the river, was home to IBC-Cologne for twelve years. For a good four years, we were located on the left-side of the river in Cologne-Kalk and believed that God to carry us anywhere He wants us to go, because salvation belongs to our God and He know where and when we need to be somewhere else.

For the first time since the church's beginning, we were without a pastor for four months beginning in March 2008. This was a crucial time for the church and only hope kept the few people left in church still believing and coming to church every Sunday. With the help of visiting pastors we managed to still hear the word of God preached at IBC-Cologne each Sunday.

The International Baptist Convention pulled all strings to help the church during this tough time and rendered help in many ways. We are so happy to be part of the convention and now fully understand how important their assistance can become. Soon a potential pastor was found for the church in Cologne, and so pastor Lorin Cranford came for a period of eight weeks to meet the church and

vice versa. Pastor Lorin was welcomed with great anticipation and he saw the need the church had and willingly accepted the church's call to serve the Lord at IBC-Cologne beginning in 2009. Change was on it's way. During this time we found a new meeting place, which we had been seeking for quite some time, Pastor Lorin went back to the states in August and managed to find the founding pastor of the church, Dr. Calvin Hogue, and arranged for him to come to serve in Cologne as interim pastor until he could come back at the end of December.

So big changes happened in September 2008. With the return of Pastor Hogue, we moved back to the other side of the river, this time in the part of Cologne called Bilderstöckchen/Nippes. The Evangelical Landeskirche St. Nathanael entered into an agreement with our church and leased their building to us on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. We now meet one hour earlier and are more centrally located in this new place, than back in Kalk. There is a need for the Gospel of the Lord in the entire city, but especially in this area that our church has moved to. This is an area mainly dominated by state Catholic and Protestant churches. And sadly the message of Jesus Christ as personal Savior hasn't been heard by many of them. We know that there is a special reason for us to be where we are and we trust that God will use us, as we are to bring growth in our church, community and city.