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Subject: **Jazz Band**
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To: <linda.psaute@gmx.net>

Our dear Prayer Partners,

Please forgive the fact that I have not been able to update you since the **Jazz Band from MidAmerica Nazarene University** was here the last week-end in May. Your prayers were certainly answered, and God gave me the strength for our concerts with them, but it took my last reserve and the following week I was so ill and weak I couldn't send you a report. I am so grateful that my brother was here with me and he even prolonged his stay because I was doing so poorly. Every time I would have a particularly bad wave of malaise and weakness, I would call my brother to come into the living room, where I was stretched out on the couch, and we would pray together. It seemed to both of us that we literally fought our way with prayer through that week. On Monday (6.6.) I went into the hospital and was there until this past Saturday (18.6.). The first day there, they found that the virus infection that I had evidently been carrying around had gone to my heart (Perikarditis---perhaps the German term?) and this they wanted to keep an eye on, though they were never able to ascertain what virus had actually caused my exhaustion.

But it was so evident in all this, that God had truly worked a miracle, giving me the strength for that weekend of concerts (Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday morning), though before and afterwards I was so weak and sick. Thanks so much to all who prayed for me during this time. I am now officially written up sick until July 8, and after that we will see how things go. Regular check-ups will show the progress of this condition. I know many of you have been through, or are going through, much worse than this, and that makes me appreciate your prayers all the more.

The concerts were all we could have hoped for, with full churches and enthusiastic listeners. I had to sit to conduct the choir, but the choir members pulled together in a wonderful way and were so cooperative and understanding. I am really very proud of them and think that this whole experience brought us into an even deeper sense of being a big family. I have heard some reports about various ones who attended the concerts who were stirred by the music and texts. One lady (who had traveled 5-6 hours to come to a concert) said she had never experienced anything like it and was so moved, she had to concentrate very hard not to burst into tears (which we know would have been ok, but very unusual for a reserved German). Of course we can't measure the results of something like this and only God knows all He is doing in hearts. Please pray that the choir members as well as those who attended the concerts will continue to consider the Lord we praised through our music.

I had to cancel our singing at the State Church service here in Neustrelitz this past Sunday (19.6.) as well as the rest of our rehearsals this season. School lets out at the beginning of July and then we have a break during the 6-week summer holidays. It will take some time for me to recover my strength (and weight) and God has shown me that I should "embrace" this time and accept it as His plan. (I will not be able to teach the voice classes this summer.) If I were to tell you all I have already learned through this, it would take too much of your time. Perhaps one of the main purposes of my illness is the opportunity I had to give a New Testament to the lady in my room at the hospital. She was so glad to receive it and promised me she would read it, asking for my telephone number so that she could call me if she has questions. Please pray that God's Spirit will work in her heart and use His word to draw her to Himself. She was only there for 3 days because of a mysterious pain -- no cause found -- and which went away quickly. Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

God is good. This we know, no matter how we feel. We confirm it, knowing His Word is true and He is faithful. May He continue to work in all our lives, fulfilling His purposes for us and glorifying Himself.

In gratitude,
Linda