

## **Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post**

**2 September 2011: Susanne Irving, Life Church Petersfield**

### **Reconciliation**

During this year's trip to our twin town Warendorf there were many highlights - but one expedition was particularly poignant: We visited the Moehnesee dam, which was destroyed by British bombers during the Second World War.

Here we were, a group of English and German people, many old enough to remember the war, and could ponder together on what had happened back then: Former enemies who have become friends - a glimpse of what reconciliation can achieve.

The leaders of the German and English delegation fastened an iron lock through the wire mesh that runs along the walkway across the dam before throwing the keys for the lock into the lake below. (We were told that this is a new German custom for people who want to symbolise their commitment and love.)

I overheard somebody asking how long it will take until someone will simply cut the wire mesh. Another suggested that someone could dive into the lake and fish out all the keys again.

Judging by the forging of new and strengthening of old relationships, there is no reason to believe that the partnership between Petersfield and Warendorf won't last. However, generally we humans do not have the best track record when it comes to keeping our promises and commitments to each other.

Luckily for us, the commitments God makes will never be broken. The cross vouches for the eternal reconciliation that God has initiated for those who accept His offer.