

BAPTIST FEATURES

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GLOBE TROTTING With Ginny.....

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

King Chooses World
Grandeur Over Christ

CHIEMSEE, Germany--(BP)--On an island in this Bavarian lake an unfinished palace stands. It was built by the strange Bavarian ruler, King Ludwig II.

As a young king, Ludwig called composer Richard Wagner to his court, but they soon disagreed and separated. He also became engaged but the engagement was broken and he never married. Finally, Germany defeated Bavaria and he was no longer a sovereign ruler.

Rather than turning to a faith in Christ that would give him victory over such disappointments, Ludwig chose as his model and ideal the French ruler, Louis XIV who had lived nearly two centuries before him. So obsessed was he by the worldly grandeur of the dead king that the palace Ludwig built in Chiemsee is a small replica of Louis' palace at Versailles near Paris.

In the Chiemsee palace, there are no pictures of Ludwig . . . only of King Louis XIV. The whole palace reflects the ideals for which the French king had lived . . . power, wealth, and self-glory.

The richness of this small masterpiece dazzled us as we were led from one glittering room to another, each one more splendid than the one before. But suddenly the grandeur ended and we found ourselves in a bare, unfinished stairwell, hastily closed in when the king was forced to give up his grandiose plans by lack of money and a tragic death.

Ludwig was neither the first nor the last to choose the wrong goals. Many simpler men follow the same selfish path to failure, though they may never become famous for it like Bavaria's "mad" king!

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Cutline: Interior, the Hall of Mirrors, Chiemsee Palace.