



Grüße aus dem schönen Dresden! Greetings from Beautiful Dresden!

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." ESV

- Dresden has been our home since June. We have experienced a great deal of change and stress. Our refugees know change and they really know stress. This week, we visited a refugee in the hospital for a stress-related illness. This is one of many of the refugees that seeks medical help to combat the mental fatigue of constant change. Every day the refugees must find answers in a foreign land: speaking, listening and reading. They must adjust to a new culture that is dramatically different from their native Iran. Living in the refugee camp for many months causes great angst. When angst lingers too long, it becomes stress and then potential debilitating illnesses. How comforting it is to read the words of Isaiah. We should take time to reflect and know that our heavenly Father will take care of us in the good and bad times. Our challenge here is to let our refugees know that their heavenly Father is there for them yesterday, today and tomorrow.
- We have great faith that God is directing our path. Every day there is some new twist or challenge. We face some of the same challenges that the refugees face with new language and culture. However, EVERY DAY is a blessed day. Thank you for your continuing support to this very important mission.
- Meet Kouroush, local refugee leader at St Petri SELK Church. Kouroush is from Sarpol Zahab, Iran. He is from the Kurdistan area of Iran. Carl asks, "Why did you leave Iran?" Kouroush replied using Google translator, "I was a protestor for democracy and social justice. I have no belief in Islam. Only in God. Most Kurds don't believe in Islam, but they do believe in God." Because of his protest, Kouroush was forced to leave his home and venture to Germany on 10 Oct 2015. This venture took him through many countries by foot, bus, train and boat for over 2800 miles and three hard weeks of travel with his wife, son and daughter. Kouroush initially arrived in Germany and resided in a camp there. However, the camp was so dangerous in October 2015, with many desperate people from countries like Syria.

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This caused him to flee to Denmark, where he met Christ in a Lutheran church. There he was baptized and began his pursuit of the Christian life. It began with a simple invitation to a church to have supper and games. Ultimately, he continued to find out more about Christianity, and Jesus became part of his life. He was forced to leave Denmark and returned to Germany in 2018, where Pastor Gottfried Martins, Berlin SELK, sent him to St Petri. Here, we have gotten to know him and his family since August. Kouroush told me he “believes in Christ, 100%.” He has proved to be an invaluable leader among the Persians that come to St Petri. Early today, Kouroush received great news that he was being relocated out of the camp into a “Wohnung” or apartment after five months. This story is one of the many refugee stories that we hope to share with you over the coming months.



Prayers:

- For good news to our refugees waiting for residence status.
- For refugee families that are separated in the process.
- For all that are facing extreme stress, especially our refugees here in Germany.
- For all that support the Great Commission - Go...make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 6:34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” ESV

Blessings, *Carl & Karen Cecil*



Cecils in Bavaria
over New Year

Taufunterricht
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St Petri, Dresden



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