



Greetings Mission Friends,

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As we close in on our second year here, we reflect on our many friendships from around the world: Persian/Iranian, Afghan, China, Pakistan, German and American. Our mission has been to spread the *Good News* with those that God has put on our path. We gather together and receive God's grace through His Holy Word...We do not change hearts, that is for the Holy Spirit. It is in Christ alone, through His Holy Spirit, has given the gift of faith, as He promised. This has not come in the form of social justice and humanitarian activity, but where God has led us to be His Cross centered vessel of love. God continues to open doors through hospitality and to give us enough language capability to connect in friendships that may have eternal reunions in heavenly places. This is our mission life. We don't get to see and know everything. We must trust in God again and again from start to mission completion.

We recently met a young lady from China through our language training. She is not a refugee, but a very gifted church music student who has found her way to the heartland of music in Dresden, of all places! She now grows in Christian faith and hopes to be baptized very soon. As a church musician, playing the organ is a very important part of her studies and we delight in hearing her practice at church. Our new Chinese friend is much like our Iranian/Afghan friends in that freedom of religion is non-existent in her home country, but the Holy Spirit is at work in China, Iran and many other countries that do not have religious freedom. On the other hand, we have so much freedom in our country that we take it for granted. This is also true in Germany.



Our music student friend spielen (playing) on St Petri organ and piano

We find that mission life has many unexpected twists and turns. The impossible becomes possible through God. Through God's grace, ways of tracing family members through the Dresden Red Cross comfort and giving hope to our friends that long to connect with fleeing family members that land in prison instead of at their doorstep.

Our Refugee Christmas party is scheduled for December 8th in Dresden with friends from Chemnitz and Leipzig. We have so many moving parts to coordinate but look forward to a day of fellowship in the Body of Christ around a baby King given for the salvation of the whole world.

Gott segne euch!



Taufunterricht (Baptism Instruction) in Dresden



Karen reading *Kinderbibel* to refugee



Dinner at refugee home

Prayers:

- For trust in God’s saving promises that give life, forgiveness and salvation.
- For thanksgiving for the gift of life with our first grandchild, Marco.
- For our mission servants in faith that joyfully seek the lost sheep with us with their generous gifts, encouragement & prayer.
- For faithful witness of Iranians and Afghans who invite friends to worship & bring lost generations of cold war German neighbors back to the hope found only in Jesus.

Trust in God with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
Proverbs 3:5 **ESV**

In Christ Our Peace,

Carl & Karen Cecil



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