



Auf Wiedersehen, Nicht Goodbye

Gott sei Dank! Thanks be to God! Also, thanks be to our *prayer warriors* and *financial supporters* that make this mission possible. The last two years have been an incredible opportunity for us to work with Iranian and Afghan religious refugees. God brought these refugees to Germany from tyrannical Iran, where religious freedom was not tolerated. At the Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK) St Petri church, the refugees found a welcoming pastor, congregation and two American missionaries. God worked in miraculous ways; the Holy Spirit turned Iranians and Afghans to Christ in their home countries and in Germany.

Our mission in Germany concluded at the end of 2019, however there is still much work to do. The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has sent a missionary pastor last month to help SELK with the Great Commission in Germany. We are praying for Pastor Steven Braun and his opportunity to share the Word of God with this eager and intriguing group of people that call themselves "Persians".

Note the interesting connections of ancient *Persia* with the *Promised Land* dating back to King Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian captivity, and their return to Israel under Persian King Cyrus the Great (Kourosh in Persian). Today, the Persians continue to honor King Cyrus and his historical significance. Our good friend Kourosh was named after this king. The first Christian apostles to evangelize Persia were St. Simon (Simon the Zealot) and St. Jude (Thaddeus). The Christian church has been in Iran since First Century Christianity. Though today, Christians are a very small minority without full citizen rights. Muslims that convert may be killed or imprisoned. However, many feel the call by the Holy Spirit to worship Jesus. They risk it all for Jesus Christ.

We learned about the Persian culture. It is friendly, generous and hospitable. When one dines with a Persian family, one must bring a good appetite for incredible cuisine. During our mission, we made so many friendships. It was very difficult to go home. We did not say goodbye; we simply said, "Auf Wiedersehen" or "we will see you again." We hope to visit our Persian, Afghan, German and American friends in Saxony in the not too distant future.

As we were departing Germany, the Chemnitz refugees were evaluating a permanent storefront location conveniently situated near downtown. We have not heard if they moved forward or not. We ask for your prayerful support for a more permanent solution. Access to a church just once or twice a week for a few hours was just unsatisfactory for this growing church.

We are at peace knowing that Pfarrer Stefan Dittmer is enlisting many of his congregation members like Peter Bayer and Kathrine Dargie to help lead Bible studies. Herr Ulrich Schroeder has been recruited to work on the SELK Bleckmar Mission governing board. Many others like Jana and Tobias Schmidt-Dahl lend a hand in Chemnitz. The good news is that I am unable to list all the St. Petri mission supporters. Every week, the Holy Spirit leads refugees to faith that brings salvation in the next life and everlasting peace in the present.

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Carl & Karen visit Kelly and new grandson, Marco

Prayers:

- For speedy religious asylum adjudication for one of our refugee's brother imprisoned in Turkey.
- For a permanent place of worship in Chemnitz that allows them to have weekly Bible study.
- For all LCMS missionaries serving around the world.
- For speedy employment for Carl as he starts his next career.
- Thanksgiving for all our financial and prayer supporters over the past two years.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

Blessings!

Carl & Karen Cecil



Our faithful car of 16 years -
SOLD



A Persian Dinner



Weihnachts-Adventsfeier
Krippenspiel



Der Heilige Abend

Support LCMS work of Carl & Karen Cecil; send a tax-deductible gift to:
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