



Grass growing through concrete
Germany, 2017

Connect with me:

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I'd love to set up a time to talk
with you!

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line.

These past few weeks have sometimes felt like there is no hope that this virus will ever get “under control.” Many states and countries have seen major spikes since starting the process of reopening. This was expected. However, it still feels like all hope of returning some “normalcy” to our lives is gone. We may cry out like David, “How long, O Lord?” (Psalm 13) Many Christians throughout the ages have had to suffer for various reasons - persecution, famine, disease - all things that can make us feel like all hope is lost. Jesus even warns His followers that “in this world you will have trouble.” (John 16:33) This world is not perfect. Sin has infected all aspects of life on this earth. Is it any surprise that we start to become hopeless when we are daily reminded of our sins and the brokenness of this world?

If we stop reading verse 33 of John 16 at “in this world you will have trouble,” of course we are going to lose hope! But Jesus doesn't stop speaking there. He continues by saying, “But take heart; I have overcome the world.” Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, sin, death, and the devil have been destroyed (2 Tim. 1:10). Everything here on earth still won't be perfect again until Christ's second coming. Even though we must wait, we still have hope. Over and over in scripture, God encourages His people and gives them hope. Paul writes in Romans 8:28, “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.” God loves us. He wants what is best for His beloved children. We can't even begin to understand what God does and why He does it, but we can be confident in knowing that it is always for our benefit.

In Philippians 3, Paul writes that we must continue to strain and fight against our sinful nature and this broken world and the devil. When reading this passage, many people picture a race, looking only forwards to the prize that is waiting for us - eternal life with Jesus. However, a different picture also pops into my mind when I read it. Quite often when I'm hiking, I will come across a road or a man-made structure that hasn't been used in a long time. How do I know it hasn't been used in a while? Grass and other plant life is breaking through the pavement or concrete. The plants strain towards the light of the sun no matter what is in their way. Like the plants, we should press on through any obstacles towards our prize - life with God. Pressing on through pain, suffering, and other obstacles in our lives won't be easy, but we already know some of the benefits it creates in Christians. We see this in Romans 5:3-5, “suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” God draws us closer to Him through suffering and trials. He gives us hope by producing good things from the bad. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Romans 15:13).



A shelter discovered on one of my recent hikes

Please Pray for:

- Peace and comfort for the world during these trying times
- Those who are working on vaccines to help bring this pandemic to an end

Give Thanks for:

- A loving God who knows our needs and continues to provide for us
- You as you pray for and support me in serving the Lord

During these times of not knowing when I can begin mission work overseas, I am comforted by God's Word and the hymns of the church. Verse 5 of hymn 732 in the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) says, "Well He knows what best to grant me; all the longing hopes that haunt me, joy and sorrow, have their day. I shall doubt His wisdom never; as God wills, so be it ever; I commit to Him my way." God knows my earnest hope is to be in Germany sharing His love with refugees but until then, I will continue to say, "His love endures eternally: what pleases God, that pleases me" (LSB 719:4).

Learning Farsi

So far, the most daunting part of learning Farsi is remembering all of the letters and how to pronounce them. Some letters have two (or more) forms and how you write them depends on where their place is within a word. Some letters may have just one form but have several different ways to pronounce them!

Here are a couple words I've learned so far!

book = کتاب (ketahb)

ball = توپ (toop)

Help Wanted

When I get overseas, it will be difficult for me to print out and send my newsletters to supporters via mail. Is there an individual or a church small group that would be willing to print and send out my newsletters for me? If you are interested, send me an email and we can discuss further details!

Thank you for joining me on this journey of serving refugees in Germany. God has truly blessed me by placing you in my life!

Prayerfully consider partnering in sharing the Good News of Christ with refugees in Germany through a financial gift.

Send Checks to:

The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E - 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod and include Krause/Germany on the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online at www.lcms.org/Krause or <https://missioncentral.us/Krause/>
or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438