

Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12

Hostetler News Letter – January 2016

Number 22

“There is a time for everything...”

It seems like the older we get, the faster time moves and the more time we need to rest. We were blessed to take a few days off and go away to Eisenach, where Ron received the call to come to Germany 15 years ago! We enjoyed all the historic sites as well as the first snow this winter. We visited the Wartburg, where Luther was in protective custody and translated the New Testament into a clear German language in only 10 weeks.



Ministry Update

As our church grows, so grow the opportunities! Last Fall a young man (Simon Kirsch – he visited CC St. Pete early 2015) started a **guitar class** as an outreach and service – our family

has benefited from it, Uli and the kids are attending and enjoying learning to play the new instrument and to meet new people!

A **Jungschar** (youth group for 9 to 12 year olds) will begin in January – a basement room has been prepared and is waiting for

action! The Bible school class offered is **Biblical Counseling** by Bob Hoekstra, an excellent audio class.

Advent and **Christmas** were special this year. For our ladies advent tea we had more than 30 ladies listen to Ruth share about some of the different names of Christ – she wove the message of grace and salvation into her presentation and no one could miss the best Christmas gift ever – JESUS! Some of our young people organized a family Christmas service with a game, Christmas songs, a theater play and a song performed by our Sunday school kids! On Christmas Eve the church was unexpectedly full – most of our regular visitors were already

gone to see family, but still we were able to enjoy a service focused on JESUS coming into this dark world to give us His light and to make us lights...



Letting our light shine is a great challenge at the moment as Germany experiences the biggest challenge since the fall of the wall 25 years ago! With almost a **Million refugees** coming mostly from Syria, the Iraq and Afghanistan, but also from North Africa, there are mixed emotions and reactions to Mrs. Merkel's decision to accept them. In Wiesbaden the Evangelical Alliance has stepped up and a special door has opened – only 200 yards from the Christian school our kids

Praises:

- busy but blessed Christmas season
- a few days away to rest as a family
- many opportunities among the refugees

Prayers:

- to know God's will for us individually and with the many opportunities for the church – effective use of our resources
- to finish strong – wisdom for elder selection, training of leaders, establishing good ministry habits with our workers
- health and strength and protection for family

If you would like to partner with us in our ministry to Germany, you can send your tax-deductible donations payable to:

SEED Ministries, P.O. Box 3327
Riceville, TN 37370-3327
Memo line: Hostetler

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attend – *very close and a little scary for us parents!!!* In an almost empty nursing home that was waiting to be torn down, 300 refugees – mostly young men, but also some families and children – have moved in. In December the local Lutheran church has begun to offer weekly German lessons, cake & coffee, and a spiritual input given by a wonderful retired pastor of the order of Vivian Laird. The Jesus-Film was shown last weekend in Farsi and another showing this Sunday will be in Arabic! Several people of our church are involved and serving in these outreaches. Three young ladies in our church got jobs last year working in homes for underage refugees, helping them get adjusted, go to their appointments and German classes, and try to help them get over the dramatic experiences that lie behind them.

With the new year we are seeking the Lord to show us how we can better direct our efforts to firm up the biblical foundation of all our activities – in and outside our small fellowship!

Family Update

Ron is still focusing on the teaching and leadership development in the church. His English teaching has been minimal – and we are glad for that because there is so much else to do. He still takes pictures and was able to get some great deals at the pre-Christmas sale at his favorite camera store ☺



Uli is still very busy – including the many orthodontist appointments with both kids. She finally decided to give up coloring her hair and found a great hair dresser who is helping her transition into 'natural' hair. She enjoys picking up gitare again and going climbing with Alex.



Alex (11) dropped his tennis lessons in Fall and is researching a new sport – top rope climbing. He and his Mom just got certified and learned all about knots, partner check and securing & repelling. He also joined the guitar class at church and a youth group for his age group will begin next week! He can't wait to turn 12, because then he will get his first smartphone!



Omi (Uli's Mom) turned 80 in November and we were able to celebrate with a few of her lady friends! We are very thankful to have her with us – she is a huge blessing to us!



There is so much to do here and we trust that the Lord still has us here for a reason. We are very thankful for all the opportunities to serve Him and all of you who support us financially and in prayer! It means a lot to us!

With hugs and blessings,
Ron, Uli, Anja and Alex



Anja turned 14 in September and we celebrated that glorious event with friends and family as well as a girls overnight with movie marathon. Now she has a new (refurbished) iPhone and stays connected via Whats-App. She joined a guitar class and youth group at church, but had to drop her ballet class for it. She still helps with Sunday school and loves the little ones.

