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BECAUSE EVERY NATION NEEDS TO KNOW HIM

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→ **Transition:** **Never Easy, but REWARDING**

*He who calls you is faithful,
and he will surely do it.*

1 Thessalonians 5:24

The joys of moving are once again upon us. Transitions and change are equally exciting and horrendously stressful. When Jesus told his disciples to cross over to the other side of the sea of Galilee, they had no idea what exactly awaited them in the middle of the sea—after all the “other side” was the commission, focus, and destination. They only knew that God had called them to transition. God put it in our hearts almost 3 years ago now to come to Germany, and we had no idea what would be waiting in the middle of the journey. There have been plenty of storms and trials—but oh, has God been kind and faithful. Now that the move is upon us, it almost feels like we are about to touch shore!

We have been diligently preparing to get ready to launch to Frankfurt over this last month. Our time in Karlsruhe has been so God-ordered and directed. In effort to be able to build upon all that the



Lord has done over this last year, we have endeavored to finish well here in this city. Practically, that means meeting with a lot of people and going out of our way to make sure that we honor those who have helped us acculturate, partnered with us, befriended us, etc. We have seen God's sovereign wisdom in guiding us to this city for the first year. Over the last several weeks we have had many dinners and times of good fellowship with German friends. Of course, that has also meant that we have been continually stretched at every moment in our German speaking. At the beginning of August, the church in Karlsruhe officially sent us out (pictured above), and we will be continuing talks in the coming days of how we can partner together in Frankfurt for the sake of the Gospel.

In particular, we have seen God's hand in connecting us with the local church that he did. In the beginning, our experience was a wee-bit challenging as there were some turbulent times in that church. However, a new church was



Stretch out your hand!

Jesus speaks to a man with a withered hand to stretch it out. How crazy? He asked him to do something that was impossible. He asked him to do something that exposed his weakness. He asked him to do something that he knew he was incapable of. And yet, it was possible because Jesus the author of life gave the command and had the power in the midst to give the miracle necessary for him to obey. The weakness was only exposed not to embarrass or in any way bring shame, but rather to bring healing, deliverance, and freedom from that very thing. God is calling many of us in areas that feel withered in our lives, to stretch out and move forward in grace. We cannot afford in this critical hour to allow our deficiencies—which we all have—and I have more than I would care to elaborate upon—to hold us back. As Janine and I continue to advance and only by the grace of God, we are praying that the Lord continues to help us as we stretch out our “withered hands” of brokenness, pain, and fears as we contend to see Jesus exalted. I believe God is looking at you today and says: “Stretch out your hand!”

Training to a French Missions Team

Delightedly, I received a phone call awhile back inquiring of my interest in giving training for some young French believers on Islam and how to reach Muslims. The influence of Islam in Europe is steadily on the rise—not nearly as much as many alarmists would decry—but nonetheless, the numbers are growing. However, the beauty of globalization is that God has transported and moved people sovereignly from one area of the globe to another. The person, who in their homeland would have never be open to hear the Gospel, suddenly in a new context finds themselves looking for friends, answers, hope, and often God! Wow—what an opportunity for the church.

While I was teaching on how to talk to Muslims, I was reminded one of the greatest apologetics still to this day is the love of God as witnessed, experienced, and seen in the lives of Christ-followers that Muslims encounter in their lives. Allah in Islam is not a God to be experienced and from whom followers would receive love or be declared as sons or daughters. Therefore, when a Muslim experiences first hand the life-changing love of God in and through us, it is a powerful witness and evidence to them of the reality of Christianity—and who Jesus is!

As the church witnesses the pains of the radical Islamization in this day and hour, may we not forget that the blood of Christ was spilled to pay for souls of Muslims, as well. With love and friendship extended to the Muslims we see in our grocery stores, work places, and neighborhoods, we can be shining lights of the love of God to these people.

Check out a video interview that I did at Regent a couple of years ago with a Muslim that I and another partner in ministry had the privilege to lead to Christ and disciple. Here is the link: http://www.regent.edu/admin/media/fms/vod/singlePlayerURL.cfm?adire_ss=8000526

(Cont. from front page) ...birthed from that church in January. We have been attending there and helping in teaching, worship, and preaching. By experiencing the new church launch, we have witnessed first hand what can take place in church planting in Germany. The church has grown in these last 7 months. Once again, I am convinced that there is a *present* harvest here in Germany. We simply need to only be creative, Spirit-empowered, intentional, prayerful, and diligent to go and reap.

Moving on is not always easy—especially as I get older☺—but the anticipation of walking out the destiny and purposes of God coupled with supernatural grace calls us forward. We are hungry, spiritually speaking, to invest into this city and nation and see Christ exalted there. Our kids are feeling the ping of the move as they are saying good-bye to some wonderful friends made over this last year—but again, grace calls us forward. Transitions are never easy but the promise of a present and real Savior, Lord, Redeemer, Comforter, and Friend brings great assurance. The reality of a heavenly calling in moments like this becomes a little clearer. We are crossing over and the shore is in sight: So Now—time to get on with it!

Prayer Requests:

- Adjustment to Frankfurt, New ministry, and Abbie to her school
- Effectual and Strategic doors to be opened in Frankfurt
- We would make new friendships and connections
- Fresh empowerment by the Holy Spirit to our ministry



Brian leading some Worship in German, Swahili, and English in Mannheim☺

New Churches Launching in Tanzania

Years ago when we started Maskani Yake Church (His Dwelling Place), the vision was to be a center from which church planting and apostolic ministry would flow. Through the years it has brought me great joy to hear how the ministry continues to develop and prosper. During a recent phone call with Habib, the leader of our ministry there, he informed me of two new congregations that are being planted: one in Morogoro and one in Lushoto. 14 years ago Habib was a Muslim considering to be radicalized, and now he is in process of continuing to advance the vision of multiplying churches to help reach more people. Not only does it bring me great joy to read, it likewise encourages me to continue to contend for the vision here in Germany.

Pray with us that God would connect us with key men and women there in Frankfurt, like Habib, that we can pour into and mobilize to help preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and see God come in power through church planting in Germany and Europe.

We are still asking the Lord for the finances to build the primary center in Moshi. The land was acquired a few years ago, but now we need the finances to help establish a more permanent facility for our main church in Moshi—would you pray about supporting this?



With much love:

Thank you so much for the partnership in the Kingdom. All that we are doing could only be done by the grace of God, prayers of believers, and the

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