



Dear Praying Friends,

We are singing Christmas carols and hymns in English again this year, as we are in the midst of our required year away from our ministry in Germany. It saddens us greatly to not be visiting the Christmas market or celebrating the Advent Season with our friends and ministry partners in Leipzig and we also miss our Ohio friends and fellowship terribly. However, we are thankful for the new friends and warm fellowship God has provided in Austin, and being close to Emily and Isabella. Yes, I said Austin, as in Texas, not Cleveland, Ohio.

For many reasons, we chose to use this home ministry assignment differently than previous years. In preparation for the next season of our ministry and lives, we felt it would be best to re-tool for employment in the USA so as to be bi-vocational once we return. We want to continue in ministry beyond retirement age, but are realistic that that will require us to have additional jobs. Through prayer, trusted counsel from both US and German partners, and the unfolding of events and opportunities, we decided to move up our HMA to August and relocate to Texas. Jeffrey was accepted into an excellent, and very demanding, residential chaplaincy training program at the Seton Healthcare Family in Austin to pursue certification as a licensed chaplain. He will complete the residency in August of next year. Katherine's original nursing licensure was from the State of Texas, which will make reinstatement much easier if she pursues that option this spring.



In addition to future employment considerations, we are using this year for a time of discernment as to whether or not we will return to Germany full-time, and if so, what the ministry should look like. And if the Lord should lead us to stay in the USA permanently, we are exploring ministry opportunities Stateside. There is much to consider and we appreciate your prayers for wisdom and willingness. The cross-cultural adjustments have been very challenging this autumn and we feel very much like strangers in the foreign land of Austin. There is however, much to be enjoyed here and God has provided fellowship and ministry in a church plant in South Austin near us. Transition and adaptation, sadness and joy, all describe our present reality.

For a few weeks we enjoyed having Sarah and Ben here in Austin. It was wonderful to only have a 15 minute drive to see them, rather than a 15 hour flight. However, Ben got a job with Delta Airlines and they moved to Atlanta in October. Although we miss them, we are pleased for their good situation. We had two big reasons for celebrating with them this year. Ben received his MBA from Rice University and Sarah is expecting our second grandchild – a new little Robinson will make an appearance in February.



Emily too has reasons to celebrate. She completed her yoga training with additional certifications in Trauma-sensitive and Pre- and Postnatal yoga, and completed her coursework to become a Health and Wellness Coach. She has begun a Masters program in Therapeutic Yoga and just landed a job with a counseling center here in Austin that specializes in post-trauma and eating disorders. Emily loves being an instrument of God's love and healing in the lives of others. She continues to be a wonderful single mom to Isabella. Isabella will turn three this December 26th and it is both a joy and a privilege to have a significant role in her life this year.



A big part of our hearts are with our dear German friends and partners, so please continue to pray for us as we seek to encourage and support them as well as we are able from a distance. Nathanael Church, the Gundorf church, the prayer houses and ministries to refugees all need your ongoing prayer support.

Please know how thankful we are for your ongoing support of us as we look back in gratitude at the first quarter of a century of serving God in ministry, and look forward to the next one in anticipation of His continued goodness. We wish all of you much joy as we celebrate Christ's birth and the amazing realization that God is with us and for us. May you know all the love and goodness that means in the coming year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Katherine and Jeffrey

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