



Pastor Hugo Gevers hands out newly translated devotion books.

NEW CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN PERSIAN

Thanks to Lutheran Heritage Foundation, we have new resources to distribute among the Persian refugees, including a daily devotional and “A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories,” which some of our church members helped translate into Persian.

The resources are a wonderful blessing to make God’s Word even more accessible to new believers and help them grow in their faith. We pray God will work through these new materials to reach more souls for His Kingdom!

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Deaconess in Deutschland

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Church on the Move

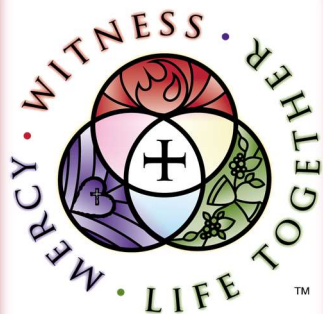


The Heuersdorf Emmaus Church being moved to Borna

Every Thursday, Pastor Hugo Gevers and I travel to the nearby town of Borna to have church with two small groups of refugees—one in Persian and one in Arabic. Both groups had been meeting in refugee apartments until last year, when the family hosting the Persian group went through some challenges that made it difficult for them to continue hosting. We tried figuring out other options, but none of the other families or individuals in the group were able to host, mainly because they were still living in camps. Finally, we thought about the Emmaus Church, which had been spared destruction when the village it called home was destroyed for coal mining. The church, which was originally built in the 1200s, was moved to the nearby town of Borna and placed in Martin Luther Square next to the Borna city church. Since its move, it has become a museum to remember the many villages lost to coal mining in this region. Last fall, we secured permission to use the church, and now our group of Persian refugees has a place to worship each week!

A group of people, who had to flee their homelands, worshipping in a church that basically was forced to do the same, is a great reminder to us all of what we read in Hebrews: we have no lasting city here, but we look forward to the city that is to come, the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ***Everything we have here on earth is just temporary, but through Christ, we have a hope and a future. Our real home is with Him forever.***

One Refugee Family's Story



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The new Persian resources to be a blessing in the faith walk of many!
- Refugees going through their court hearings, especially that those receiving negative decisions may not lose faith or hope.
- Language learning, as a new semester recently began, and I am continuing now with Persian 5 and Arabic 2.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Our new place to worship in Borna.
- New Christians openly sharing their faith and inviting others!
- God showing His provision and care through each of you who faithfully support me with your prayers, encouragement and gifts!

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- "John," whose story appeared in the November newsletter, has been granted asylum!
- New resources to help make God's Word more accessible to Persian speakers!



Coffee table altar at our Arabic house church in Borna

For a while, "Dean" and his family had a nice life in Iraq. Dean worked in a laboratory analyzing blood samples, and his wife "Anna" was a beautician. One day, Anna's three-year-old niece was kidnapped. The family paid the ransom, but the child was murdered anyway. Dean was told his family would be next because his wife was a beautician and refused to wear the hijab. They fled with their three children and the clothes on their backs. Part of their travel included a difficult and dangerous ride across the Mediterranean on an inflatable raft with other refugees.

I don't think we have yet heard all the traumatic experiences of their journey, as it is still painful for them to discuss. All five family members still suffer from nightmares and depression.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5 (ESV)

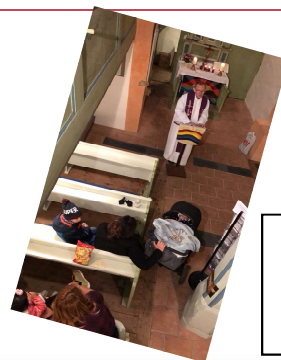
- Deaconess Kim

The children are highly intelligent and would like to study if given the opportunity. They are worried they may not have that chance, depending on how their case for asylum goes. The people in Borna seem to be less accepting of foreigners, and the children have struggled with being bullied in school.

Thankfully, a friend of theirs introduced them to Pastor Gevers, and we have visited them weekly for the past year and a half. The whole family has gone through catechism instruction and been baptized, and they now receive Holy Communion each week when we visit.

Through Christ, they now have new hope, even amid suffering and trials.

Dean has especially grown in his faith. From the beginning, he had many insightful questions and a constant thirst for the Word of God. He confesses often, "I know I am supposed to be working on learning German, but I would rather be reading the Bible!"



Worship in the Emmaus Church in Borna

To help Deaconess Kim continue to share the refuge we have in Christ with refugees, send a tax-deductible gift 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 Buelmann/Germany on the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online at lcms.org/Buelmann or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438.