



SERVING THE LORD IN

GERMANY

NEWS FROM DEACONESS KIM BUELTMANN

Deaconess in Deutschland
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Speaking in Gifhorn, Germany—
where I served my deaconess
internship almost 20 years ago!

REPORTING ON THE MISSION

As an LCMS missionary serving alongside a partner church, I get invited by congregations of that church to talk about the mission. About every other month, I have enjoyed visiting congregations around Germany, sharing what God is doing in Leipzig. It has given me a chance to get to know more congregations throughout our German partner church—and given me a little bit of practice for home service. In about 10 months, I will be heading back to the States for home service, which means I will visit your congregations and share with all of you what God has been doing here in Germany over the last couple years. I'm really looking forward to seeing you all again and sharing with you in person what a blessing your prayers and support have been!

Connect with me:

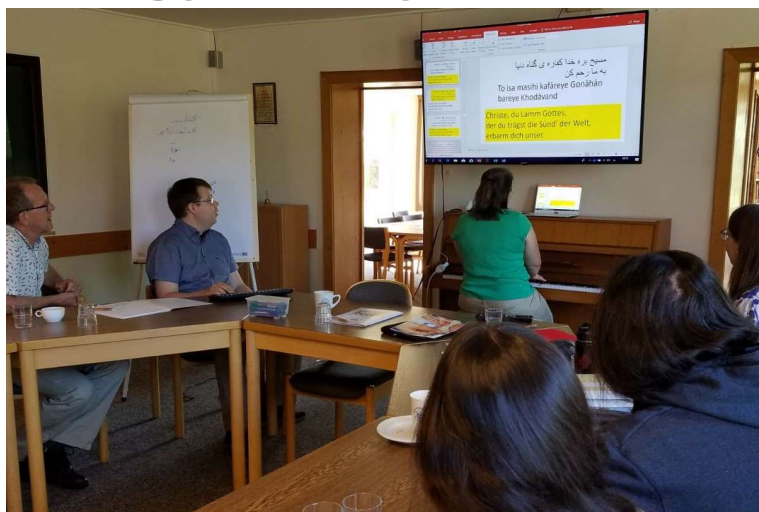
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Deaconess in Deutschland

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Liturgy and Hymns in Farsi

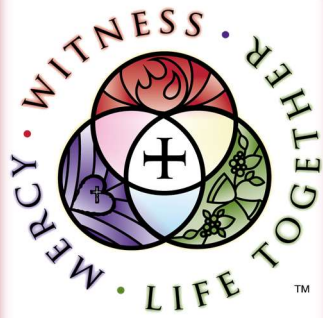


At the piano,
working out the
Farsi text of the
Agnus Dei with
Persians and
fellow
missionaries

Creating Lutheran Christian resources in the Farsi language has been a priority since the mission work here in Germany among Persians began. The Bible had already been translated, so the first project was Luther's Small Catechism. Since then, other projects have followed and continue to develop with the support of Lutheran Heritage Foundation. The liturgy was translated so that Persians would be able to follow along with what was happening in the Divine Service. However, when worship was first held completely in Farsi, none of the translated liturgy was singable. When I first arrived in Leipzig, services in Farsi were just beginning. The liturgy was spoken, and hymns were sung along to YouTube videos. I quickly offered to learn those hymns so that I could accompany the services on piano or guitar instead. This was before I had formally started Farsi instruction, but it gave me a good start on the language as I listened to Persian singers and imitated what I heard.

As my language skills have improved, I have taken on creating PowerPoint slides for the songs and for worship each week. Since we are still very much in the development stages, we don't have a hymnal yet, and everything is done with slides. We continually are looking for, learning, translating and creating new hymns for Farsi worship. We have begun meeting regularly with missionaries who work with the Persians in Berlin to collaborate on liturgy, hymns and more. One of our church members has composed new hymns and is working on creating Persian melodies for the liturgy. In some cases, we have worked out the Farsi texts to fit existing melodies used in the German liturgy. Of course, all this work demands a lot of time in addition to caring for and teaching the refugees, but it is worthwhile—not just to see the progress and growth over the last year and a half—but to see how ***God is using these efforts to create a deeper and richer worship experience for the Persians in their own language.***

A Fruitful Summer



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Refugees preparing for baptism soon!
- Refugees going through their court hearings, especially that those receiving negative decisions may not lose faith or hope.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Progress in the development of Lutheran liturgy and hymns in Farsi.
- The couple featured in last fall's Engage Magazine article, Ahoora and Atefah, have been granted asylum!

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- God showing His provision and care through each of you who faithfully support me with your prayers, encouragement and gifts!



left: Teaching rhythm on cajons to multiple ages and nations at the neighborhood festival.
right: Children feeding the sheep at camp.

This past summer was full of excitement! In June we welcomed volunteers from the States who helped us prepare for our neighborhood festival, as well as an outdoor worship service in the park. It was a joy and blessing to have them support the ministry here. When they weren't preparing or baking cakes for the festival, they were singing in the park between Die Brücke and St. Lukaskirche, sharing the Gospel with our neighborhood. A man in my building, who happened to be working maintenance in the park that week, still talks about my "friends from America who came and sang in the park this summer." Both the festival and the outdoor worship service were great opportunities to meet and engage with more people in our neighborhood and share the Gospel with them.

In July, we took our children's group to camp again. Our theme this year was "Jesus, our Good Shepherd." Since we were staying at a type of retreat place with a farm, we were able to engage in some very hands on learning with activities related to sheep. For these children who rarely get out of the neighborhood, it was quite an experience to pet and feed sheep, learn how wool is spun and create felt crafts from wool. Learning more about sheep and shepherds gave them a better understanding of what it means that **Jesus is our Shepherd who loves and cares for us so much!**

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



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 Bueltmann/Germany on the memo line.

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