



Compelled To Go Compelled To Go

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Be Prepared! This is a long one!

Dear Friends, Family, and In-Pact Partners:

After two wonderful months of amazing ministry among Farsi speaking refugees and immigrants in Germany, we are now back home in Missouri, and slowly readjusting back to CDT, our comfortable bed, and our favorite recliners. Much has happened since our last letter that covered the first month of our ministry, so we want to bring you up to date on some of them. If you want to go back and review Issue #119 (both A & B if you got PDF versions), it would be a good idea.

Our last letter ended as we covered "S's" public declaration of her new-found faith in Christ. She continued to attend our meetings as often as possible, but living in a distant remote village prohibited her from coming regularly. We think we've adopted a couple more Iranian "daughters"; she & "S2" are both real sweethearts.

During the second month we had two or three special times to relax. One of them was a wonderful Saturday at Ehsan's little garden plot for a genuine Iranian barbecue with him, his twin boys, and his mother-in-law. It was a great experience from beginning to end in his Spartan-style cabin. He again proved his cooking skills.



One new addition to the Farsi ministry is a periodic observance of the Lord's Supper. Because so many in the Sunday Bible study are unbelievers, & because there is lots of misunderstanding among them what it really means to be a Christian, the Lord's Supper is held in another room after all other activities are over. It was our privilege to observe it with them as one of the more seasoned believers, Hamid, led the small group in a brief observance (below left and center). We also continued attending Café' Hope each week. We met Zano & her family last year, & were happy to see them again this year (below right). Pictured is Zano (left) with her mother (right) & aunt (center). None of them have come to Christ yet, remaining courteous but firm.



We continued our week-end leadership (below left) & discipleship (below center & right) retreats, helping "F" deepen their faith & raise up strong leaders. Sadly, "P" (in bold striped sweater, left) was deported back to Sweden since we were there, and is facing possible deportation back to Iran. You remember from our last letter that "H" from our Kiev group led him to Christ in Sweden, and that he came to Germany after authorities in Sweden threatened to deport him because he had lied to them. Now he waits in a detention facility at the airport in Stockholm, awaiting the outcome. We have written a letter to the authorities attesting to his faith & asking for their leniency and compassion. "He is the one who led "D" (center right foreground) and "S" (right in front of Jo Ann) to Christ just a few weeks ago. We are praying fervently for God's purposes to be done.



We wish you could know the people in the picture above. In the back row, clockwise from left) "Chef" from last year, "P" (now in Sweden), "Fh" (a research scientist), "E", "V" (from our original work in Kiev) "X", then "D" (front row right), "F" (the leader and first Iranian Bob baptized in Kiev in 2006), then "E" and her daughter (married to "X"), and then "H". These are all incredible people each of whom we could write many pages. They are some of the choicest people in the Farsi group in Giessen.

Our ministry this year included meeting with key people who can help strengthen the Farsi work as "F" continues providing leadership. It was a privilege to spend time with Pastor Cleon Rogers & his wife from the International Baptist Church in Giessen, Pastor Tyrsten Pfrommer (below left), lead pastor at the FeG (Free Evangelical Church of Germany) as well as Jimmy and Laury Martin (below right) & Alex, who had been part of Living Vine IBC in Kiev in 2003-2005. Jimmy is General Secretary for the International Baptist Convention, & Alex was visiting them while attending an international banking conference in Frankfurt. Alex and his brother, Anton, were part of Bob's "Timothy Fellowship" at Living Vine. We felt it significant that one of the first members of the original "Timothy Fellowship", the first Farsi salvation of our Farsi ministry, & the Martins who have invested in both lives were together with us in the same room. God is so very good.



We continued our Thursday night presence at Café' Hope every Thursday except one, & Bob ended up sharing the Gospel three times. We stand amazed at the vision God gave Ulrich & Krista Weyel (below left) so many years ago to minister to gypsy's, drug addicts, & now immigrants & refugees seeking new lives in Germany. What a blessing it was to spend time talking with people from so many countries. In the center picture below we have people from Syria, Iran, & Lebanon sitting with us. One night we had people from Iran, Iraq, Syria, & Afghanistan sitting with us, two of whom had fled to Germany because they had translated for allied military personnel in the past. Some nights there over 100 people crammed into the room.



As you may recall from last year's trip, Bob had a bout with a bleeding ulcer. God was gracious to heal that and his regular 5 year exam showed no major issues. This year, it was Jo Ann's turn. The cyst she had on the back of her neck for over 10 years had begun to grow several months earlier, but was nothing more than something bothersome. However, two weeks before our return to the States, it became infected and eventually abscessed. Finally realizing we could not wait until we returned to the States, we went to the University Medical Clinic (actually to get a prescription for Jo Ann's blood pressure medication . . . she had miscounted and was about to run out) where the doctor prescribed high-octane antibiotic "horse pills".

However, it kept getting worse, so we went to the same doctor Bob had seen the previous year. When she saw it, she almost jumped back and said, "Oh, my! I cannot do this; you need to see a surgeon!" An hour later at the Catholic Hospital the surgeon took one look and said, "You need surgery today . . . now." Two hours later Jo Ann was under general anesthesia having the cyst removed, just three days before we were scheduled to return to the States. The remaining days, then, included daily trips to the hospital for bandage changes and pain medication. As we write this letter, trips to the doctor are now twice a week, and her last one may possibly be this week.

As we neared our departure day, our dear German friend, Andreus, insisted that he take us about three hours south of Giessen to the 13th Century city of Heidelberg. We were overwhelmed by the beauty of that old city. We hope to put an album on Facebook soon, but the picture of the great castle overlooking the city gives you an idea of its beauty (below left). We took the cable car all the way to the top of the mountain, giving us an amazing panorama of the valley with the city and the river.

