



Ted & Diane Holzmann
Prayer Update

November 25, 2009

Last update: July 17th

Dear Family and Friends,
Our most heartfelt wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, with greetings from Columbia, SC. A

very special "Welcome!" to those of you who recently joined our newsletter family!

We have been anxious that you may have worried about us, having heard nothing from us since mid-July. The delay is because our contact list got terribly corrupted. It has taken until just now to get it re-assembled. A good friend says: Computers were invented to help people waste more time faster! Along the way we got to thank God for (literally) each remembrance of you!

Through several inquiries we know that some uncertainty exists about our current status. We are required to leave Germany for 366 days every five years (details below). By God's grace we have every intention, expectation, and plan to return to Germany. We have three explicit requests to return to Bavaria in the role of church-planters; sharing the Good News of life in Christ, spreading the fame of His Name, extending the joy of fellowship with Him. Our hearts - not to mention all our belongings! - remain in Germany.

How did 366 days become two years? Due to a number of circumstances (Diane's depression being an example) we arrived in July really drained and in need of renewal. Since 2008 we had made plans to use the 366 days for preparing for continued ministry in Germany through education. In order to accomplish both of these objectives completely (full recovery/renewal and preparation for the next overseas term) we were urged to seriously consider extending our Home Assignment to two years. Our home sending church and TEAM leadership approved this plan. So, while caring for ourselves, we are also pursuing degree programs at Columbia

Int'l University (CIU). Diane is deepening her counseling skills through an MA in Clinical Counseling. This is normally a 3 ½ year program. She can complete the course work in two. Ted is in a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program, with concentration in Member Care. This is a seminary degree with direct application to healthy churches and missionaries; subjects of immediate application to our work. Please know that we are in a forward-leaning posture to return to Germany to continue as church-planters in summer 2011.

Among the highlights of these last months are: Taking part in T.E.A.M.'s Re-entry, Evaluation And Preparation conference on the Wheaton College campus. The conference helps missionaries re-enter North American culture and introduces them to changes in how North American churches view mission work. We have enjoyed time with two of our three children and their families, and participated in three Missions Conferences in October. Thank you, one-and-all, for the gracious hospitality, wonderful conversations, the privilege of fellowship as children of the Father.

Ted attended the Mental Health & Missions (MHM) conference last week. Over 260 were present who work in the field of Missionary Member Care. He was delighted by the networking available that reached back into Germany. The conference was part of his first DMin class. He anticipates some good learning for us as church-planters among Germans, too!

Praises:

- Recent complete physicals indicate we are in good health. Diane's emotional strength keeps growing as she recovers from depression.
- Deepening friendships here in Columbia that are life-giving.
- Many "divine appointments" as the Heavenly Father touches neighbors, CIU, and church folk through us (including a surprising number of Germans!)
- We have received good reports of reconciliation efforts and growth in Mainburg.

Concerns:

- Unexpectedly 20% of our **support stops** effective December 31st. May we see the kindness of God (Ps 145:15-16) and respond accordingly. We would welcome your support to help meet the needs. Would God be inviting you to join us in proclaiming His excellency?
- Ted has a steep **learning curve** in his new, part-time, minimum-wage job in the CIU Distance Ed. office: That he would quickly learn the software "**moodle**." Also, for guidance as he explores other job opportunities.
- **Wise self-care** to meet the refreshment/renewal need during the Holidays.

Thankfulness is a matter of the heart, not a day. We are thankful to the Lord for many, many things including you, our faithful friends and supporters. Thank you for being you and loving us and the Lord! May God bless you richly this Thursday and always.

Thankfully anchored in Christ, and gratefully surrounded by your love and prayers,

Lid & Diane

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Details on the "requirement" to leave Germany

In late 2007 we learned that the U.S. government has [social security treaties](#) with about 25 industrialized nations, including Germany, that affect American missionaries. Americans working in Germany must leave Germany once every five years for one year (and one day) in order to "reset" their status as temporary workers ("displaced workers" is the legal term). Theoretically, those who stay longer are supposed to be pay into the social security system of the country in which they are working. Practically speaking, most U.S. missionaries to Europe continue to be covered by the U.S. Social Security system. Due to school schedules and ignorance of these treaties, many missionaries to Europe have gone home just for the summer every few years. Awareness of these so called "Totalization Agreements" was forced upon the missions community, when a former missionary to Europe was unpleasantly surprised when his retirement benefit was reduced because he had not taken the required breaks. Although we are already vested in the U.S. Social Security system, we don't want to risk a reduction in our retirement benefits or jeopardize our future Medicare coverage. TEAM's leadership believes the risk is minimal, but urged all current missionaries who are not in compliance with the treaty to return to the U.S. for the required break as soon as possible. All future missionaries will be required to begin and remain compliant. Our five year period ran out in 2001, and we have been out of compliance since then.

A variety of giving options are presented [here](#).

<https://www.teamworld.org/GIVE/WaysToGive.aspx>