



MORE!
April, 2020

Happy Easter from the Mansfield tribe...

We are on week 5 of what Germany calls: Kontaktsperre = Barred from Contact, social distancing. What does this look like here?

- We are to keep a distance of 1.5-2 meters from other people. in public and at stores. Families are allowed to be closer but if someone is sick they recommend distance and isolation.
- Only 2 people are allowed to be out in public, with distance, unless you are a family.
- Besides grocery, home improvement stores and pharmacies, all other stores are closed. Grocery stores have pretty much all things available. They run out of some things quicker but will restock within a day or two. Yes, we have plenty of toilet paper in the stores. :)
- No celebrations or gatherings.
- No church services and no get togethers for brunch on Easter.
- We are respectfully asked to stay home as much as possible and not visit with people
- Oh yes, no trips, vacations, visits to our neighboring states or counties.
- Schools was cancelled and online school started 4 weeks ago. Currently we are all on Easter Break and online school will resume April 20th.
- Walks in our lovely mountains and woods are allowed, a huge blessing.

We celebrated Easter with our usual 5 ladies that have become part of our family as they stopped in individually to see us and enjoy the Easter feast that happened all day!

Right in the beginning, we were able to bring Hannah home from the Netherlands on the day the borders were closed and she is doing her internship here in town. Megan was already doing online school so not much has changed with her.

Micah's transition to online school has not been too terrible and we hope he will get used to it.

Has this been hard? Not really. Why? The lifestyle of a missionary more often than not is already pretty socially distant. We have seen our missionaries here adjust well and they feel more connected with family and friends as we all experience this together. Not so much for the teachers in this communitythey had to jump from one day to another teaching online vs. in the classroom and that is still a learning process.

So, for our ministry this means that instead of hosting groups of young missionaries at our house we host one person at a time or we go on a walk together to check in and minister. We check in on our neighbors and go shopping for those that are at risk and help those connect with the right medical office that are getting sick. These are all part of our usual variety of caring for missionaries and we are so glad to be able to continue to do so now.

What is really good about this season? There is more unity with one another as we face the unknown together. Across Germany church bells have been ringing every night at 7:30 as a call to unity and prayer. Candles are being put in windows to symbolize that we are connected in solidarity and prayer for our community and the world. This has not happened since the war! Young people are helping the old people, so they are protected. Church happens at home and is changing how we engage with God and with one another.

We like these changes!
How about you?

Praise:

- Amazing fruit is coming out of this season! Renewed faith in our missionaries, in Germany and across Europe. People are turning to God in a new way!
- We are all together and everyone is healthy, thank you Jesus!

Prayer:

- Continued health, so we can keep ministering and don't have to quarantine.
- 50 dorm students at BFA that could not go home for spring break because the countries their parents serve are closed and will not let them join their families.... potentially not for a while into the summer.
- Another 50 dorm students who were able to go home but now will not be able to come back to finish the school year. They will have access to online learning but a good handful of them are seniors and will not be able to graduate with their classmates.
- The teachers of BFA who had to switch to teaching online to be strong and courageous for their students in this season.
- That fear will succumb to faith in each and every person!
- That this season will change us all, even when it is not hard.

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