



## *Sheltered by Gracious Powers*

***I do not trust in my bow; I do not count on my sword to save me. You are the one who gives us victory over our enemies; you disgrace those who hate us.***

Ps. 44:6-7

In these current days the contrast of our reality, and the reality of war somewhere else is harsh yet it is our truth. We get to move in peace and safety while all of a sudden others can not. It seems all we can do is pray and extend encouragement in some way and staying alert if more can be done. We can't give them our reality, even though we wish to. Yet as we pray we are in the best place to lift up those who are in danger. God's reality is everywhere, it is with us and with those hiding from bombings. At least we can stand on that together.

We do know missionaries that have left behind their property, belongings and ministry to keep their family safe. Their home and cars and buildings are being used to house and collect Ukrainian families that are fleeing from the east of the country. Before the banks shut down they were able to purchase food and supplies and store them for now and the days to come. Their home and ministry center is now a refuge and a storehouse of provision. For how long we don't know but for now it is a safe place.

Here in the south of Germany we are starting to receive bus loads of children from orphanages with their staff members and more are coming. There are trucks and buses being loaded with food and supplies every day that will be driven to Ukraine and they are to come back with women and children. Places to keep them safe here are being prepared. We are not sure yet if any will make it into our town specifically but by now we have received at least 5000 refugees from Ukraine in our state. Our little town of Kandern has been preparing to receive around 100 refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Africa. We will see if that will change. We are ready if they come to host them in our safe and peaceful valley.

Our hearts break for all of this and we pray for His reality to be visible and His victory over the enemy. As much as we are able to provide a safe place for refugees it is our Heavenly Father who so graciously extends His comfort and peace to all of us.

We have been continuing to meet with missionaries one on one and in small groups and are lifting up their inner struggles and outer wars together. As uncertain as our times are, we know that He is with us, He is surrounding us with His heavenly army and He will give us victory.

Looking forward we are hoping to host another retreat with women in the next month and continue to do all the things we are able to to make living overseas easier for missionaries and to bring hope and healing through Him.

Here are a few pictures from the last couple of months and days:



David splitting wood, getting ready for the men's fire time last month. There is a group of 8-11 guys that come over to fellowship around the fire and pray.



On Christmas we had a larger group than expected but it was such a joy and blessing. In here you see Janet, the widow that David and Micah get to help around her yard and home, sitting between David and Anna.



Last weekend 167 orphans and their caretakers arrived in Freiburg to be hosted by the Freiburg mission that sponsors them. The City of Freiburg is providing food and shelter.



Early this Friday morning busloads of disabled people from Ukraine arrived to be hosted in rehab and other care facilities near us.

Recently we discovered this poem/song again and it fits so well our times:

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***By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered  
and confidently waiting, come what may,  
we know that God is with us night and morning,  
and never fails to meet us each new day.  
Yet are our hearts by their old foe tormented;  
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;  
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation  
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.***

...

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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### ***Praises***

- COVID is finally not as threatening and restrictions are slowly lifting. Praise God!
  - David's mom is healing well and is getting stronger!
  - We are strong and able to minister in these turbulent times!
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### ***Prayer Requests***

- Pray for Deborah (missionary to Ukraine mentioned above) as she and her family of 9 are safely in the USA. Their home and ministry center have become a safe house which they are managing from the states. Pray for protection of those seeking refuge and a end to this war. Pray for internet, water and power to stay on.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for us and the other missionaries here as we continue to minister here and are emotionally processing the war and how it will impact our lives. This all seems very close and will feel even closer as we receive ukrainian refugees very soon in our communities. Pray that we will stay focused on our assignments here and listen to His prompts when He moves us to do something different or gives us the opportunity to serve in other ways.
- Pray for the women's retreat Anna is hoping to host with women in March. That everyone will be healthy and able to attend and for open hearts to receive from the Lord what they need.

***Donations are a blessing!***  
***Thank you, for supporting our Ministry!***

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David



Anna





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