

Belonging

Eileen, a nine-year-old girl, came to Sport Spiel Spaß at our Berlin church a year ago. She kept to herself. In fact, she was so quiet that we began to wonder if she could talk! When spoken to, she simply ignored the question, staring blankly into the speaker's face. One day, while making friendship bracelets during craft time, I turned and saw Eileen behind me. I tied my bracelet onto her wrist.

The next week I received a beaded bracelet in return. That was the start of a new friendship. Now, one year later, Eileen wears a Canadian flag attached to her necklace. Like a shadow, she follows me home for lunch or around the church while I'm vacuuming. She talks excitedly to me about her life. She even plays her recorder for me!

Eileen comes from a single parent home. Her mom works long hours and doesn't come home until 7 or 8 at night. Eileen is tough and acts older than her age. She's even a bit of a bully. But underneath her tough exterior is a sweet child who is longing to be loved. She is so hungry for attention that she prefers to sit beside me through a long church service rather than going to Sunday school or staying home to play video games!

We meet a lot of kids and families who gravitate to the community and belonging they find in our church during the week. 'Regulars' come in, give us hugs and tell us about their day. Some even take ownership of clean up and planning for events.

Our prayer is that we as a church will radiate the presence of Jesus with those Christ is drawing to him. Pray that our community center/church will be a light in this neighborhood. Pray also for Eileen and her family.

Melissa Froese,

Ben & Melissa are missionaries serving in Berlin, Germany



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STORIES

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Saying Good-Bye

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to move to a different continent to share God's hope with people who have never heard of Christ? For long-term workers, the practical implications are countless. Think of your own situation: homes, vehicles and belongings would need to be sold or stored. Think of everyone you know in your home country: all of your friends, family members, community contacts, church relationships – everyone. Think of all the arrangements that would need to be made. Imagine just how many times you'd say good-bye.

While living and sharing the Good News abroad, life goes on at home. Couples get married, babies are born, birthdays and graduations are celebrated, and loved ones pass away. Long-term workers know they will miss every one of these milestones. Long-distance communication on Skype and Facebook is a meager substitute for a hug.

In addition to all of the concerns about forms, finances and friendships, there are questions about that unknown entity: the future. The very act of leaving home involves sacrifice and surrender. And despite many tears, these workers move forward in joy and confidence, taking a risk to obey God's call.

As a Mission we are grateful for everyone in the world-wide MB family. This month particularly, we honor those working in foreign lands where the Gospel is not widely known. In summer 2011 we sent a new team to France, and in October a new team moved to N. India. Please pray that they will adjust to language and culture and make new friends. Ask God to unify the teams and keep them safe. Pray also for the loved ones 'back home' who experience the absence in a personal way.

We are thankful that we worship *"the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles,"* (2 Cor. 1:3b-4a)

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November 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Greg & Becky Ouellette Thailand	2 Ricky & Karen Sanchez Thailand	3 Trevor & Joan Godard Mexico	4 Jen Schmidt Mexico	5 TREK Worldwide
6 Jon & Bonnie Esau Thailand	7 Latin American Retreat & Consultation Latin America	8 Andre & Olga Pritzkau Germany	9 Doris Goertz Japan	10 Phil & Carol Bergen Burkina Faso	11 D & M Restricted	12 Richard & Hazel Funk Austria
13 Melvin & Gudrun Warkentin Paraguay	14 Operations Team North America	15 Barbara Block India	16 Bob & Chris Davis Thailand	17 Krista DeBoer Burkina Faso	18 Wendy Eros Japan	19 Rob & Judy Griffioen Thailand
20 Ben & Melissa Froese Germany	21 R & M Restricted	22 D & S Restricted	23 Gary & Ellie Loewen Germany	24 Liana Penner Peru	25 Russ & Marj Speiser France	26 Robert & Anne Thiessen Mexico
27 Reg & Faa Wall Thailand	28 Einer & Girsela Zuluaga Panama	29 J & M Restricted	30 Lowell & Melissa Ens Peru			