

Life Change at Any Age

“Don’t waste your time on seniors,” one member of the Johannisthal church in Berlin said, “they’ll attend your events but they won’t change.” Melissa Froese disagreed. As a Jornada (2-year) missionary serving in this Berlin church plant, she was looking for ways to reach the local community.

The church began hosting “Senioren Café,” and a group of seniors attend faithfully each week. Here, seniors benefit from computer courses and enjoy chatting over coffee and dessert. Melissa explains: “We are reaching an aging community that’s lived here for a very long time – many since WWII! It takes a long time to build trust, but there’s a lot of hope whenever we see the church ask God to move in people’s lives.”

The church is attracting members like Dietmar. God spoke to him in a dream and led him to move to this community. He knows that ‘God doesn’t do anything for nothing’ and is excited about serving here. Through a weekly prison ministry, Dietmar met Volkmar and talked to him about Jesus. Volkmar accepted Christ! Melissa explains, “We always pray before our Sunday services and Volkmar comes regularly to pray. He is always grateful in his prayers, saying: ‘As you’ve helped me find you Lord, I pray you will help others in this community find you too.’”

Melissa’s eyes dance as she speaks of the church: “At the beginning of our time here, 30-40 people showed up. Just two years later, the congregation has doubled to 80 or 90! This is a sign of health. The church is shining Christ’s light!”

Please pray for the church in Berlin and the Senioren Café. Also pray for Melissa and her husband Ben. Their Jornada term has ended and they seek God’s direction for the next phase of long-term mission.

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

“It takes a long time to build trust, but there’s a lot of hope whenever we see the church grow and lives change.”

“As you’ve helped me find you Lord, I pray you will help others in this community find you too.”

STORIES

OF PRAYER mbmission.org/prayerstories

Departures and Arrivals

Our family is in Peru! Two weeks before Christmas, on our daughter’s birthday, we flew out of Los Angeles Airport with twelve suitcases, three children, a guitar, and a few carry-ons. Our destination? Lima, Peru. There had been a mad rush of activity to get to that departure gate: packing our belongings, storing items, moving out of our condo in Fresno, CA, and saying goodbye to so many loved ones.



Upon our arrival we were amazed at the kindness and generosity of so many church family members. Airport chauffeurs, guest house hosts, tour guides and ‘visa application translators’ helped make the transition smoother and more enjoyable.

In Trujillo, church members (including Liana Penner, MB Mission missionary) were waiting for us, ready to haul our many bags to the church parsonage where we’ll be living. We have been welcomed and cared for as if we were long-lost family members returning after years away.

Finally, we celebrated our first Christmas away from family. We honored Peruvian traditions at midnight on Christmas Eve with Pastor George and his family, and on Christmas morning we huddled around the little Christmas tree we’d brought. It was different, but a memorable time together.

We are so thankful to all who have supported us financially, emotionally, through prayer, and in many other ways. We’ve only begun to experience what God has for us here. We are encouraged by our fellow Peruvian believers and are growing in language proficiency. God is good and He has been with us every step of this journey! Please pray for health, strength and wisdom and that we will conduct ourselves “not according to worldly wisdom, but according to God’s grace.” (2 Cor. 1:12)

By Lowell Ens

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Otto & Lidia Funk Peru	2 BB Restricted	3 SB Restricted	4 M & R Restricted
5 S & N Restricted	6 Otto & Marjorie Ekk Portugal	7 Sandra Fender Thailand	8 Cynthia Friesen Thailand	9 T & R Restricted	10 Rob & Judy Griffioen Thailand	11 Motohiro & Mariya Hamana Thailand
12 J & F Restricted	13 C & F Restricted	14 Stacy Kuhns Peru	15 Jim & Marilou Nightingale Brazil	16 Baudouin & Marie-Brigette Nsulunka South Africa	17 S & B Restricted	18 Greg & Becky Ouellette Thailand
19 Andy & Carmen Owen Thailand	20 Sandra Plett Mexico	21 SR Restricted	22 Edd & Ingrid Russell Thailand	23 PK & C Restricted	24 K & W Restricted	25 Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters Thailand
26 Blaine & Michelle Warner Burkina Faso	27 John & Evelyn Wiens Ukraine	28 James & Alyssa Wiest Mexico	29 S & L Restricted			