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INTERLINK MINISTRIES, INC.



Christen begegnen Muslimen

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Dear friends,

Refugees in Switzerland

Martin Saegesser, the MEOS Mission Director recently told of meeting a refugee here in Switzerland. He wrote:

“Not long ago I spoke with Wahidullah, a young man from Afghanistan, originally from Uzbekistan. Just a few months ago he arrived in the St. Gallen Rhein valley here in Switzerland. Without my prodding him, he told me a few stories of the adventure of his escape through Iran, Turkey, Greece and the Balkans. I could see how much he still suffers from this experience. My MEOS colleague offered to help him with counseling sessions to work through his experiences and overcome his trauma. This is how we help people and share with them God's “border less” love that excludes no one!”

Everyone needs some PerspektivA!

We all need some perspective in life. Even more so for those that have fled from their home country and seek refuge in another country like Switzerland. In the last *mein Nächster*, MEOS' bimonthly magazine, is an article about how one MEOS inter-cultural worker, Stefan Wunderli is helping refugees in Switzerland do just that. Here is a condensed version of the article. Just a note on Swiss culture, most not-for-profit organizations in Switzerland are run as a club. MEOS and non state churches are almost always organized as clubs.

In October 2014 Stefan and people from Wil,

Switzerland started PerspektivA. “We had the wish in addition to the German course to help asylum seekers find work. We thought that this would work better if we organize as a club.” This would be more inclusive and encourage more people to get involved. MEOS helped to encourage and support the integration work.



Stefan Wunderli and PerspektivA Participants

The city of Wil works with PerspektivA in sending people that need to take a German course. The city now pays the symbolic attendance fee for people taking the course. Other than this the club receives no other government funding. PerspektivA has hired a social worker to coach volunteer workers in their inter-cultural work.

PerspektivA German course has 30 – 40 people. They also offer a hand work course with sewing machines. New are the gardening and cooking courses. The main concept in all this is voluntariness. Those participants that show more self-initiative are given more opportunities. An

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example, those that stay after the German course to help with the kitchen work will be given help with their job applications.

This system with little outside funding works because of the voluntariness, people doing things because they want to not because they are forced. The German course is the foundation offering of this system. During which it is made known the other offerings, courses, help with job applications, and eventually external jobs. Participants learn how people in Switzerland work. The goal is to give the participants a better chance to find employment in the free market economy.

A part of this is the making of products to sell. This started in the beginning because a number of the participants in the German course could not pay the symbolic attendance fee. This started with making Elder flower syrup (added to water to drink), but now includes applesauce, eggs and chicken meat. What also helps to build a positive image in the community is participants that sell the products on weekly farmers' markets: Refugees that actively make a difference.

Websites and such

The new meos.ch is now live. Pray that God will use this German language website to inform and inspire people about MEOS' ministry in Switzerland.

I have started the planning process for a new website for MEOS Medien, medien.meos.ch the media house of MEOS that provides DVDs, CDs, books in over 100 languages. I will be functioning as the project manager and web developer for this project. Pray for wisdom in setting a mission statement and goals for this project that will guide us.

Also in the planning is a new website for Christians meeting Muslims, cmnet.org on which I will be working as the web developer.

From September 26 – 29 I will be in Vienna for the European Drupal Conference, Drupalcon. Drupalcons in the past have been good times of learning and networking. Pray that this Drupalcon will also be a profitable experience.



Kids – Update

Oliver finished the 2nd year of his four year design engineer apprenticeship at Ferag AG. He passed his mid-apprenticeship exam this summer. He will no longer be in the section for apprentices at work and will be moving to a section of the

company where he will work alongside the other employees for the remainder of his apprenticeship.

Alice started her four year apprenticeship this month as a furniture and kitchen carpenter. She came home happy after her first day and she continues to enjoy it.

Thank you for making what we do possible with your financial support! Thank you for your prayers for us and our ministry!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frederick & Marlies Henderson'.

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