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Christen begegnen Muslimen

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SERVING MISSIONS GLOBALLY

INTERKULTURELLE DIENSTE

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Dear friends.

As I (Frederick) was shoveling and blowing snow the other day I had a thought . . .

### Who asks you for directions?

As it often happens when I am working outside in front of the house, a car pulled over and once again, I was being asked for directions. This is a common enough occurrence for me that it got me thinking while I continued my snow removal work.

We live on the edge of our town Bäretswil. Just before the house where we live is the speed limit sign that reduces the speed to the normal 50 kilometers per hour in town speed limit.

So, why do they ask me for directions?

- I am available. (I am where they can see me.)
- I am credible. (They can see I live here and assume I know the area.)
- They feel a need to get directions.
- They are not moving too fast to stop.

This got me thinking about Paul's statement to follow him as he follows Christ (1 Cor. 11:1). In regards to spiritual matters it is the same as in the situation above. Not everyone will ask you for directions. Some do not feel that they need directions. Others are just moving too fast through life to stop and ask.

Do people ask you for spiritual directions?

Are you available when they feel the need for directions? Have you established yourself as credible? So, who asks you for directions?

#### **PerspektivA Update**

In my last prayer letter I wrote about what God is doing through the MEOS ministry of PerspektivA and it seems He is not through.

In addition to the weekly German course, that I wrote about last time, PerspektivA is now working with the city Wil and the Swiss government to offer a four month daily German course free of charge to the students. This new ministry is allowing the building of many new relationships.

In November PerspektivA was in the Wil newspaper. The article was titled "Refugees give something back". The article explained how about 20 men and women from different countries gather together for a common goal.

They are sewing blankets, scarves and caps for refugees in Greece. Mixed with the constant whirling of numerous sewing machines one can hear Dari, Persian, Tigrinya and German being spoken.

The items they are making are much needed, as winter is on the way and the temperature sinks close to the freezing point. Many of those sewing, themselves fled to Switzerland.

Some have been helping for as long as a year and a half. Because of their asylum seeker status they are not allowed to have a paid job. Volunteering gives them a routine

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and purpose in an uncertain time in life.

Not all of the items sewn will make their way to Greece. Some are sold at local markets to finance 1/3 of the cost of this ministry.

# **Trainings**

One of the important ministries that MEOS does, is to train people to reach people of different cultures.

This year *Christians meeting Muslims* will be holding another two day *Link to Muslims* conference starting May 12th. The theme this year is *A Bright Future for Muslims*.



L2M and Zam Zam course flyer covers

Each year MEOS offers a ten month Zam Zam course that meets once per month. The course teaches Christians how to easily explain their faith to Muslims, but it is not only book learning as it has practical sections as well. The course motto is "Understanding and learning to love Muslims".

Through courses such as these MEOS multiplies its efforts to reach people of other cultures for Christ by winning new intercultural workers.

## Websites and such

I had good planning meetings with Markus Burri, the director of MEOS Medien, regarding the new web shop for MEOS' media house. This will replace the current web shop and the FileMaker database that is currently used.

MEOS is also changing the software that will be used for managing addresses and contact with ministry partners. We will be working with the company that is supplying this new software to setup the needed regular transfer of data between these systems.

Lord willing by the end of 2018, the new software and the new <a href="mailto:meos.ch">medien.meos.ch</a> will be online. In the meantime there is a lot of planning, development, testing, migrating of data and training to be done. Please pray for everyone involved in this process at MEOS and also for those involved from the company supplying the new software.

# **US Furlough in 2018**

How time flies, a new year is here and January is already history. It has also been three years since I was in the USA in 2015 to meet with you face to face and share of God's work in our lives. Lord willing, I am planning to be in the US from the middle of June to the middle of August.

I (Frederick) am looking forward to seeing you once again. Please contact me to schedule a meeting. We also have a US phone number (see the header) that you can use to contact us. If it is night it will go to voice mail and I will get back to you.

Thank you for your financial support and prayers for us and our ministry!

Fredrik & Hankos

Frederick and Marlies Henderson