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**INTERLINK** MINISTRIES, INC.



Christen begegnen Muslimen

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Dear friends,

## We are afraid of what we do not know!

The title seems like is a self evident fact, but I think that many times in life we forget it. If I was to ask you to run as fast as you could into a room that was pitch black that you had never been in and had no idea what was in it, or even how big it was, it would evoke a feeling of fear. However if I turned on the light and showed you the room it would calm your fear as it would no longer be unknown or foreign to you.

The same is true in life of people of other cultures. If we know nothing about them or their culture we consider them foreign and are normally afraid of them. If we take the time and effort to get to know them they cease to be unknown or foreign to us.

Multiple times God instructs the Israelites that they are not to oppress a foreigner (Ex. 22:21, 23:9, Lev. 16:29, 19:33). In Leviticus 19:34 He goes a step further and says that we should love them as ourself. Whoa! Wait! That sounds a lot like what Jesus said when asked what the greatest commandment is (Lk. 10:25-29). After answering their question with, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart soul and mind", he volunteered the second greatest commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself".

MEOS' magazine that comes out six times a year is called "*mein Nächster*". This name comes from the same Bible passage. The rich man asks in English, "Who is my neighbor?" In many German translations the word for neighbor (Nachbar) is not used, but the German word Nächster. Which literally means "nearest or closest". So the transliteration of the title of the MEOS magazine is "My nearest".

What does it mean to be near or close? We can be physically close to someone without being in a close relationship with them. How can we love them as ourself if we do not know them? You've got to love with your life!

What are your thoughts on this? How do you love your nearest?

## MEOS' Year in Review

Each year MEOS produces a "mein Nächster" that is a year in review. I would like to share some highlights from that issue.



Christians meeting Muslims (CM)

In November 2015 CM held the L2M (Link to Muslims) conference with 550 attendees. The main speaker David Shenk (from the USA) said, he had never before seen such a large and interested gathering of people. The theme of the L2M conference was "Building friendly relationships with Muslims". Please pray for the next L2M conference this November in Biel. With 10 % of the population in Biel being Muslim it is called the Mecca of Switzerland.

**L2M**  
Link To Muslims

MEOS Service

Meeting someone's needs, encourages the development of our relationship with them. At MEOS we try to help people from other cultures integrate into Swiss society.

German courses are very much wanted by people new to Switzerland. Rebekka T. writes, that in the German course that she helps with, they now have people that themselves are immigrants, who can

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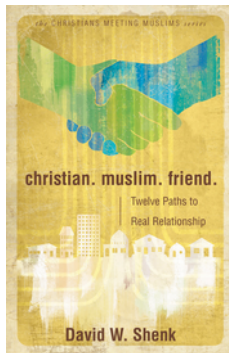
speak German well that are helping to teach the courses.

Markus F. writes that he is now teaching “Plus – Learning German with the Bible”. About one-third of the 120 students attend this course. He has also been training two people so that they soon work without guidance teaching a German course. He is also working with groups in three towns to help them in starting their own German courses.

Elisa R. is also involved in German course where the near by asylum center sends students to the course. She is also running a homework help sessions. Despite a high turnover in the volunteers the sessions continue to run well. A 13 year old girl, who is originally from Turkey, says of the homework help sessions, “I find them very good and have been coming for a number of years. My parents cannot help me well with my homework. I have learned a lot and like it.”

#### MEOS Medien

With the flood of immigrants into Europe in 2015 and their willingness to receive literature, some articles sold out and were not available for order from the normal suppliers, especially New Testaments (NT) and Bibles in Arabic and Persian (Farsi).



For the L2M conference David Shenk's book “*Christian. Muslim. Friend: Twelve paths to Real Relationship*” was translated into German. The

transliteration of the German title: “*Christians meeting Muslims: The way to real friendship*”. For those interested, the English version of the book is available from various sources in the USA.

#### Website Work

I have been working on the new home page [meos.ch](http://meos.ch). Most of the technical work has been completed. Pray for those that need to create content (text and images) for the new site, that the

site will truly project MEOS' work and vision. Hopefully we will be able to put the new site online in the next couple of months.

The Christians meeting Muslims website [cmnet.org](http://cmnet.org) is currently running a no longer supported version of software (Drupal6). It needs to be upgraded to a supported version. Please pray for wisdom and clarity in the planning of migration.

In addition to these two major projects, I have been working on a number of smaller projects and the ongoing maintenance of the MEOS' websites, updating website software, making sure that backups are running properly, etc.

#### My Apologies

I have a saying that goes “We feed the fire that burns closest.” In other words our tendency is to deal with or work with what is closest to us at the time. The task given to us that must be quickly finished, the major project we find ourselves in, the relationships with people that are physically near us, etc.

I want to apologize for my lack of communication this year and say that you are a fire that burns near and dear to my heart. Time and time again I am amazed and overwhelmed by how God uses you to meet our needs!



A very important part of my ministry is keeping you informed about what God is doing in my ministry.

Thanks for your continued prayer and support of our missions work. May God richly bless you!

Frederick and Marlies Henderson  
with Oliver and Alice