



March 2019

Dear friends,

Spring is here in Switzerland with its strange mix of weather. If we compare the seasons of the year to life, spring is the time for new beginnings and growth. At this time of year we want to get going, to do all the things we could not do all winter.

Maybe this is the time for you to start working interculturally where you are. In the most recent "mein Nächster", the bimonthly magazine from MEOS, they focused on "contact with Muslims".

Immigrants to Spiritual Leaders

One of the articles talked about how some MEOS missionaries are training immigrants to be leaders in ministry. In the current "&CULTURES" they have 14 students. The students are from all over Switzerland and work with local churches to bring the Gospel to people of their original culture. The article also featured interviews with four individuals from four countries, Cameron, Syria, Tunisia and Iran, about their work to reach others for Christ.

Indescribable Troubles

Another article was about the ministry Sabatina, that works to help Muslim women in trouble and persecuted Christians. One of MEOS' missionaries answers calls to their hot line. One call was from a young woman, Azhar, who was born in Pakistan in a strict Muslim family (her father was an Imam) that grew up in northern Italy. At the age of 15 her family went on a trip to Pakistan to visit relatives. Unknown to her or her mother, her father had arranged a marriage to her cousin, and so her troubles began. Not only

her husband but also her mother-in-law and father-in-law beat and ill-treated her. Regularly she was raped by her husband. She was not allowed to leave the house nor call her mother.

When her father got ill on another trip to Pakistan and was in the hospital, she was not allowed to visit him. Only after his death she was able to see him. In the meantime she was pregnant. Only under the pretext which her mother created, that she should urgently see a doctor, she was able to flee to Italy. However because relatives lived there, she did not dare to go out of the house. She, her mother and siblings were constantly verbally threatened. One of these was her uncle who threatened to kill her.

A Sabatina counselor was in constant contact with Azhar, who would soon give birth. It was decided to move her and her family to a safe place where they could live free and without constant threats.

A Providential Meeting

Also in "mein Nächster", MEOS missionary Kathrin told the following story.

I got on the train in Bern on a rainy morning. I wanted to enjoy the trip to Zürich with a cup of coffee. In the almost full train restaurant there was a seat free across from a Muslim woman.



A chance meeting or the hand of providence?

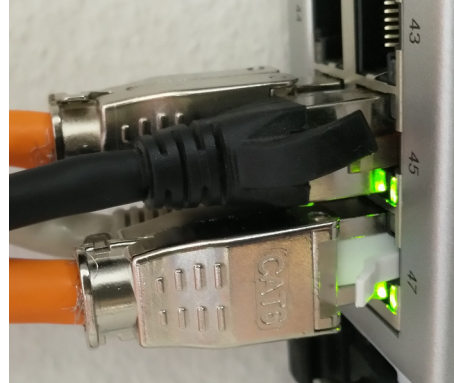
She greeted me with a friendly welcome. Hadia (means, gift of God) came to Switzerland from an Arabic country for training ten days before. As she told me in English of her ambitious business goals, I asked her if she was single. She said yes and told me that “Not long ago I used to live with my mother.” Her eyes filled with tears: “I miss my mother a lot. She died two years ago. She was the only person that I could be myself with.”

Hadia opened her heart to me: “All the time I try to put on the facade of appearing to be a strong woman. I am the oldest of my siblings and have always looked out for the rest. I also need this “strength” in the business work to get ahead.” Again she starts to cry. I listen and understand how much pressure she feels she is under. She tells me of her great longing to be allowed to be herself, in her country, in her family, as a woman, yes as Hadia. I told her that God sees her and has thoughts full of hope about her life and also loves and affirms her sensitive side. She nods visibly touched. I tell her, “With the heavenly Father I may be myself, even in my weakness. His love and peace comfort me again and again.” I assure her that God wants to use difficult situations to show her his love more deeply. So I lay my hand on hers. She willingly lets me pray for her and in the end she embraces me warmly. We exchange our telephone numbers, then I get off in Zürich, and Hadia goes on to Kloten (Zürich Airport) to fly back to her home country.

When I write her a WhatsApp message a few days later, she replies: "Good morning Kathrin, you can't imagine how happy I am to hear from you. I arrived home last Monday after a long journey. The only thing I could think about during my trip was our meeting on the train. I am so grateful that we met. I'm sorry you had to see all the tears. I hope we will keep in touch. I believe that God sent you for me that day. Thank you for listening and your prayer, my angel."

I wouldn't call myself an angel, but I love that God can lead us to the right place at the right time.

Maintenance



Network Cables in New 48 Port Switch

The project to replace the network cables at the MEOS offices with gigabit capable ones has been completed. I have turned my work focus to maintenance work like upgrading

software on websites. I have also been working on documentation for things like the website backups. And of course there are always those little things of low priority still on to do lists to be checked off.

Thanks for being a part of our ministry!

Frederick and Marlies Henderson

Prayer and Praise

- Pray for Oliver as he works to complete the required tests, projects and course work for his apprenticeship in early summer
- Alice in her apprenticeship as fine carpenter
- Praise the Lord for all our faithful supporters (some over 20 years) that make our ministry possible
- Wisdom and guidance for MEOS regarding possible ministry opportunities
- Praise for those that support us in our ministry. To them we say thank you and God bless!