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INTERLINK MINISTRIES, INC.



Christen begegnen Muslimen

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Dear Friends,

I trust that you are all right. The Corona virus is something that has affected everyone's lives this year. In difficult times like these we must continue to trust in God. In our garden, I was reminded. A slug ate through about half the stem of a sunflower. It left it bent over and turned to the north. A few days later I saw this in the garden:



Let this sunflower be a lesson for us to keep the faith and to persevere.

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Gal. 6:9 ESV

How MEOS missionaries continue to help migrants with their fears and worries

Excerpts from meinNächster article by Hans Ueli Beereuter

The corona virus has brought a lot of changes to the work of MEOS Inter-cultural missionaries. Many events and meetings had to be canceled, but now there is time for conversations on the phone. Now even more dependent on God's guidance Joshua is a relationship person. He loves personal meetings, encounters and conversations. The migrants come to him. He goes to them. He networks Christians everywhere who are in contact with migrants, but now his work has suddenly shifted: telephone, Whatsapp, Skype. Joshua experiences how he is even more dependent on God's Spirit and His leading. The contacts do not break off. He does not run out of work. Although no new contacts are made through his networking while he is on the road, people call him or a new contact is put in contact with him. Joshua listens, encourages, advises. He is amazed again and again how devotedly the Christians are working for migrants even in the middle of the Corona crisis.

Fear and worries weigh on the migrants in Switzerland

Yones tells me how many Iranians have big fears. Friends and relatives in the homeland have already fallen ill with Covid-19 or died. "They are afraid they will never see their next of kin again: Father, mother, siblings, cousins," he says. In a shame and honor culture, that is even worse than for us, a dignified, honorable farewell, to the oriental man, means a lot. But also many migrants fear for themselves. In the asylum centers they live very close together, sharing a kitchen and bathroom. Even here they must live with increased risk. "The Christians here talk very differently about things," says Yones. "But I know

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only one thing, God is in control even now."

Not being able to help people that you love, hurts a lot!

Anthony Joseph and Yones both tell me about the great suffering of migrants when they cannot help as they would like. In Sri Lanka and India, curfews are putting many people in very great need. The shops in Sri Lanka are only open every 3rd day. You are supposed to keep your distance, but you can't get to the ATM and you can't go shopping because everyone goes shopping. But even worse is the fact that without work you have nothing to eat, as in parts of the world people work as day laborers. (God set rules about how they should be treated. See Lev. 19:13 and Deut. 24:15.)

Relatives are calling, asking for help. But how can someone who only receives 10 Swiss Francs* a day help his family at home? Or what can you give if you have lost your temporary job? It hurts very much not to be able to help, says Yones. He knows this from many conversations and also from his own experience.

* about USD \$10.50

The closed migrant meeting point allows lengthy talks

The "Intro", migrant meeting point, in Bülach, is closed. Hansjörg Schärer can only work with the migrants by talking on the phone. "There are advantages to that: You are there for the person you are talking to all by yourself. You have more time and will not be disturbed." This of course does not replace the face to face conversations. But, since you already know each other, it goes well.

Prayer and Praise

- Pray for MEOS missionaries as they look for ways to safely conduct ministry in a world where the Corona virus is a reality.
- Praise that the transfer of MEOS websites to the new Swiss web hosting has been completed.



Inter-cultural missions work is possible via video conference

The German courses continue via video conference. The co-teacher often has to support the migrants in using the technology. But things are always getting better. "We don't let the virus slow us down and stay in contact with our friends", says Hansjörg Schärer who also tells us that the landlord kindly reduced the rent by 50% for the migrant meeting point. One day before the German course, everyone receives a WhatsApp Message, so no one misses the class. Language is important, also for the counseling conversations, which are now even more frequent and exclusively via mobile phone.

MEOS employees are persevering in their work! Now online, but as soon as it is possible again, they will build relationship again in person.

Thanks for your prayers and support of our ministry in Switzerland!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick & Marlies Henderson".

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