



ANNUAL MISSIONARY REPORT

Name: Chad, Cherry, Quinn & Grace Gfeller

Date: 07/11/23

1. What has God been teaching you or emphasizing in your life?

We have been preaching through the Sermon on the Mount with our teaching team in Berlin and I recently had the opportunity to preach on the 'Lord's Prayer'. We so easily allow the words, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" to roll off our tongue, but is it the kingdom of God that I truly desire will infiltrate this world?

It's easy to build ministry around the idea of 'programs' or to create a culture of religiosity that seems to posture toward this desire to see His kingdom come and His will be done, but in reality, does more to serve our own purposes. It might promote 'our ministry' in a good light and seem to give off the perception that good work is being done, but yet offer up hollow cries of self-sufficiency, instead of hallowed cries for His glory.

My focus moving into this next year of ministry is to simply pursue His Kingdom from a pure heart, that I would guide our family to keep our eyes on things above, while encouraging others to do the same. So, my prayer would be that our family would desire to bring a Romans 12:12 perspective to every person we encounter and every place we go, that we would seek His kingdom, but rest in His provision, for His honor and glory.

Romans 12:12 ESV

¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.¹

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 12:12). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

2. How do you feel about life in general? (encouraged, discouraged, stressed, unsettled, peaceful, apprehensive, etc.)

I am encouraged by the opportunities before us. When we landed in Berlin six years ago, we were pretty much alone. We had a church that we intended to work alongside, but there was much uncertainty to what life and ministry would look like.

Fast forward six years and we have strong partnerships with coworkers we are not only like-minded with, in regard to philosophy for ministry, but we have the support of a wonderful church community that has fully embraced us.

It is in this context that we have thrived, because we have found a community of grace and love to serve alongside in the task of making disciples and strengthening the local church in this place. In this way, we are thankful for where God has placed us, because it has given us a platform for living out our mission to shine the light of the gospel in this strategic place.

3. What blessings and answers to prayer have you experienced in the past year? (Please list answers to previous requests.)

I believe one of the greatest blessings and answers to prayer is to see godly men rising within our congregation. The older I get the more I understand the need for our family to pour into faithful men and women. God has allowed us to make gains in this regard, to building a culture of healthy leadership, through the establishment of different leadership development initiatives.

I praise the Lord for His grace in our health this year as well. While we have experienced some minor illnesses, God has been so gracious to us. We were able to also get our insurance company to process Quinn's treatment for her allergies, so she could continue her therapy for the breathing issues she has experienced.

I also see how God is working in our family. We see God's faithfulness to us in the work He is doing in Quinn and Gracie's lives. They both did so well in school this year and handled not only the academic pressure so well, but the cultural and social influences they experience regularly in the school they are in. A couple of months ago, they saw the need for someone to teach the younger kids at our church plant and they volunteered for this. They have consistently prepared and shown up to encourage the parents in this way.

I also praise the Lord for His grace in giving us strength for the life of ministry here. Our weeks are full not only with the everyday rhythms of discipling our own family, but the discipleship and outreach we participate in regularly. Weekends have become particularly full with groups in our home most Saturdays and helping lead on Sundays at our home church and our new church plant in Potsdam. I can say that through it all, God has been faithful to provide for every need and given us strength for these tasks.

Finally I praise the Lord for how He has established our family here in Germany. It has not been the easiest road, but I see how He has worked in each of our lives to bring us to a place of contentment in where He has us. It's taken almost six years to feel like each of us has a place here and a purpose and I thank the Lord for His faithfulness to us.

4. What problems have you faced during the past year? How did you deal with them?

It's easy to get caught up in doing things, because that is the way they have always been done. We are continuing to constantly reflect on why we are doing the things we are doing. We had to do this with our men's ministry this past year.

We had the previous year done well to draw men into regular gatherings, but this year it has been a struggle. We recognized that what had previously worked had become ineffective in many ways, because more men were participating in other ways, making it prohibitive for them to come together more regularly.

I also recognized that this was something I had been holding onto that needed new leadership, so we began to pray for someone that would be willing to lead in this capacity. It has been encouraging to see some men rise up to meet this call and the plans they have to lead in this way as we enter the fall.

5. Describe your ministry and its results over the past year. What was accomplished of the objectives set a year ago?

We have continued to see progress in developing a structure for leadership development within our church. We have continued to develop leaders through regular leadership roundtables and have instituted a new leadership cohort this past year to develop men for church leadership. This has led to developing closer relationships within our leadership with being intentional about discipling. Much of my time this past year has been spent in one on one or small group meetings for this purpose. We see the equipping of the next generation of leaders in the church as critical to our mission here and for the advance of God's kingdom.

We have also seen the successful planting of our first church plant in the past year. We currently have a group of believers meeting regularly in the city of Potsdam and are now at the point where we are developing a leadership team and looking for a more permanent building for this congregation. Cherry, Jeannie and the girls have been in many ways critical to this growth in the role they are playing in providing hospitality on Sundays and serving the children who attend.

We are continuing our work to the least reached and hurting as well. We have a call to refugees and the fatherless in this city and we have continued regular ministry and led others from our congregation into this work. Much of our focus on refugees has been to Ukrainians over the past year and I continue to work with boys and girls in Reinickendorf.

We host a community group in our home twice a month and normally have between 20-30 people from our area of the city participate. Cherry and Jeannie are instrumental in this ministry in welcoming people into our home regularly (not only for community groups, but leadership roundtables and many other gatherings). These gatherings seek to accomplish the mission of our church, which is to gather for Worship, Instruction, Fellowship and to scatter in Evangelism. Our monthly meetings take on different forms in order to live out these functions within our church. We hope that this model will continue to spread through our church and other groups will be established that pursue this same purpose.

6. List your specific objectives for the next year. (Keep a copy to answer question #5 on your next report.)

- 1) **Growth of Outreach Platforms:** We would love to see more people serving in regular outreach ministries going into this next year.
 - We currently are working in one refugee accommodation. We would like to see that expanded to a second team in another area of the city, specifically working with refugees from the Middle East.
 - Continue working in Reinickendorf by using sport as an opportunity to disciple.
 - We would like to continue support to the Ukrainian church by supporting gospel workers there. This past year we have done this by delivering aid to these workers in Kyiv and Lviv.
 - Continue to develop leaders who have a calling for evangelism, through evangelism training and participation in city-wide outreaches.

- 2) **Growth of the Church:** Our desire is to see disciples built up from many nations who present Christ to the nations.
 - Growth and strengthening of the Berlin Church and Potsdam Church.
 - Developing a leadership structure that would not only create a more sustainable model of leadership for our Berlin church, but also be a blueprint for future church plants.
 - Guide new leadership in men's ministry to develop a culture of godly manhood in our church that develops men of integrity, who will lead their families and communities well.
 - Continue to support church planting efforts in different people groups across the city and actively recruit and resource these initiatives through the local church.

- 3) **Family Discipleship:** We desire that our family not be a casualty of our ministry.
 - Consistently teach the truth of God's Word and have spiritual conversations about how we can live counter culturally to the world around us.
 - Consistently pray together as a family.
 - Encourage each member of our family to step into what God has called them to and encourage a spirit of togetherness in service.
 - Encourage one another to use our time wisely, specifically to understand a healthy balance between work in rest, that impacts our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being.

- 7. List succinctly several specific prayer requests. (Discernment will be used in what is shared publicly.)**
 - Wisdom for new opportunities in church leadership and discernment for next steps.
 - Discernment for our family in which opportunities we should pursue to shine the light of the gospel to refugees and those seeking hope in this city.
 - Wisdom into how we can plant gospel churches in different people groups.
 - Grace in leading our family well.

8. Financial update

- a. Monthly support requirement: \$6,150 + Payroll taxes = \$6,725

We receive payroll (3,750), housing allowance (600) and ministry allowance (1,800) for a total of \$6,150 a month. We also pay \$575 a month in payroll to the US Government, which brings our total monthly expenses to \$6,725.

- b. Average monthly support received over the past 12 months: We currently are receiving \$6,781.55 in monthly support, for a monthly surplus of \$56.55.

- c. Do you have any significant account deficits?

No, we have a surplus this year due to special gifts and will be using these funds to help cover increased energy costs, support to refugees, and church planting. We also are helping to fund an apartment in the city alongside our church in Berlin. This apartment, which is centrally located in Berlin has been used over the past year to build community and provide a meeting place for discipleship and meetings. We have also been able to house ministry guests and use the apartment for emergency housing for those in need. We are contributing \$9,890 to this expense for the next year. Approximately, \$7,300 has been raised through housing interns in the past year to go toward this cost, so in reality our contribution for this next year is \$2,590.

- d. Do you anticipate any significant adjustments in support requirements or contributions during the coming year? If so, please explain.

No, we are hoping that inflation and energy costs will stabilize in the coming year. We currently have an opportunity to apply for a rebate that the German government is giving for excessive heating costs that family incurred this past winter, we are hoping to put this money toward unexpected costs that we may incur.

- e. Do you have any projects that need to be funded?

We are currently trying to find a new place to meet with our church plant in Potsdam. We recently were raising money to meet a match of \$6,500 that had been given toward startup expenses and we have been able to raise this amount through generous donations. If anyone would like to give a special gift to the church plant, this would definitely have an impact on helping us secure a location in a really tough housing market.

Thank you for your investment in the ongoing work in Berlin. We pray that it is a sweet savor for God's glory. Thank you for partnering with us to this end.