

# The Klaus Family in Germany

Dear praying family and friends,

Oh my goodness! I thought we had a prayer letter out before this, but looking back I realize I need to get you all up to speed. I am so sorry about the delay...but there is lots of good news to report. Our return to Germany in October was fairly uneventful and anticlimactic. After the months of back and forth, the German Embassy in Atlanta was a great help and instrumental in getting us permission to return to Germany. We arrived here to a very dusty apartment (that had been vacant for over a year). The good news? We had a two week quarantine to get everything cleaned up and running as normal. We are very grateful for those who filled in in our absence - Luke and Bethany Snell stepped in for the bulk of the time we were away, and Rick and Elaine Fessel were such a blessing and stood in the gap after the Snells returned to the US for their furlough in July. Our church family here was so sweet and provided us a "starter" grocery pack with many of the German goodies we missed during our time in the US. Our first Sunday back at church was amazing - the church was at capacity (with the distancing) and we were so refreshed to be able to see everyone. Upon our arrival here, I began getting up to speed on the rules and laws regarding the COVID-19 situation. They have been shifting every couple of weeks, and we immediately began working on our church infrastructure to be able to accommodate them. We now offer a live You-Tube stream online for every service, as well as a closed circuit viewing in our church kitchen. Every week I receive a list of those who will be present in the service and spend a part of Saturday organizing and assigning seating. We rotate people through the kitchen viewing area, so that no one has to always be separated from the normal service. We are so blessed to be able to have the space to continue having services. Many churches here have limited the number that are allowed to attend, and many churches have moved to an online-only format. As the Lord allows, we are able to continue as we are and have no problem seating people (or family groups) 1.5 meters apart from each other. In fact, we have had several visitors coming faithfully and also bringing other visitors. We have two ladies planning to join the church on each of the next two Sundays. One thing that has been difficult was the institution of a singing ban for churches starting in December. We are allowed to sing special music, but the congregation is not allowed to sing together. We have been recording music and playing it (with the lyrics) in the service



Passing out calendars on a rainy Sunday.

to help people feel like they are a part of the service. The "Einschränkungen" (restrictions) are in place at least until the end of January. Along the way we have still been able to carry out the ministry here. We have passed out Scripture calendars yearly on "All Saints Day" at the local cemeteries. This year our outreach was limited in scope, but we were still able to give out over a thousand calendars (we are allowed to put them in mailboxes as well). In December, the church was able to organize a "Christmas Shoebox" outreach for our missionary in Romania. We had hoped to get 100-130 boxes together for the poverty

stricken Gypsy villages in Romania where he ministers. Several other churches also got involved and we were able to send around 600 boxes/packages to our coworker in Romania. We were so blessed to see the Lord's hand in everything. (renting a larger vehicle for transport, allowing for border transit, etc.) We have a short video presentation with pictures - answer the bonus question below if you would like to see it. 😊

On the family front, the kids are doing well back in the US. Kaleb lives and works in central Alabama and is currently looking for a new apartment. Bethany and Titus are serving the Lord faithfully in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and have adopted two very fun dogs! Levi is officially a US Marine - he graduated from boot camp on 04. December and is currently finishing his infantry training in NC. We have been blessed to have several "Group FaceTime" calls and love the time we can spend with them very much! We look forward to the time when travel will be easier and folks can come visit! Thanks so much for your continued prayer and support. There is no way we could be here doing what we do without our faithful prayer warriors and supporters. We are looking forward to a great year and praying that the Lord will help to expand our ministry and outreach here. God has been using the COVID-19 situation to open people's hearts, and we are amazed at some of the conversations we are able to have with people outside the church. Please pray that these will grow into an understanding of the Gospel and the need for Christ. May the Lord continue to bless you and your ministries as we work through these different but exciting times!



Prepping for a Marine graduation  
(online only)

In Christ for Germany,  
Keith and Julia Klaus

**Bonus questions:**

For the prize: What is "Schuplatteln"?

Just for fun: Do you know any sons-in-law who are good at it? (I do. 😊)

**Email me your answer at: [pastorklaus@googlemail.com](mailto:pastorklaus@googlemail.com)**

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