



Dear Friends,

We have been in Germany for almost four weeks now and grateful for the chance to stay in the lovely, peaceful guesthouse of one of our partner organisations. While it's been good to be out of the country, it's been hard to be away from our friends and our team. It's been hard to read the news of what is happening and to hear updates from our friends struggling to sleep through the noise of planes and drones and distant bombings. It's also been challenging to know how best to make decisions for our family and our team. But we have been so encouraged by the ministry that has been able to happen in the midst of this awful situation.

Most of our team is still living and serving in country. One of our team members has been helping lead a large church's crisis response which has been providing shelter, food, medical care and pastoral care for many, many displaced families. Schools eventually restarted after a short pause. At one of our partner schools while the school and the teachers from our team are in a safe location, many students have left their homes for places further away or outside of the country. This has meant teachers have been trying to teach half their class face to face while offering live and recorded online lessons.

Being in a safe place has enabled Bec to care for our team while not worrying about our own situation. She has been checking in, advising and praying with our team regularly. We were able to help get one of our team members and her young son flights out to seek rest and counselling after experiencing trauma from the bombings. Bec has also been getting to know our wider team, meeting with team leaders online, talking to potential new team members and dreaming about how to strengthen and grow our regional presence.

Our kids' school started allowing students to join classes via zoom a week ago. For Mac and

Tad they are the only ones missing from their class as life continues relatively normally in the area we live. Jem has one other classmate joining him online whose family has fled to a neighbouring country. It's far from ideal and they spend a lot of time wishing they were with their friends rather than watching from a distance.

Andrew is the only one who can't do his job remotely. The league is on hold but his team continues to hold and he gets lots of messages from his players who miss him a lot. He has been watching some games and training here but it's been hard to be away.

We have decided that we will stay out at least until the end of October but that it makes sense to be closer to the Middle East, particularly so that we can be in the same time zone for the kid's school (this week their first class has been at 6.30am). We are flying to Athens tomorrow planning to stay for at least 10 days and would appreciate your prayers as we uproot ourselves yet again.

Keep praying for peace and for compassion for all those with power and influence. Pray that the way would be clear for us to return and rejoin our team. Pray for grace and patience as we navigate this uncertain period as a family. Pray that we would be able to lead and encourage our team across the region.

With love, Andrew, Bec, Jem, Mac and Tad

Financial support

We are so grateful for all our generous partners who make it possible to serve and thrive in a difficult location. We are thankful that we have been able to have this strategic retreat out of our region and that so many of our needs have been provided for. This period of instability has unsurprisingly created some additional costs while we continue to need to pay rent and school fees back in our home. Additional one-off contributions or new regular giving will enable us to keep serving our teams from here and help us as family return as soon as we can.

For more information, a link to our giving page or for any questions please email us at andrewandbec@outlook.com or contact the Australian Partner Relations Team on 1300 746 580

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