

March, 2024

[View this email in your browser](#)



Special Update

Dear Rope Holders,

Becky and I hope you are doing well! We want to share with you some important news regarding our lives and ministry. We've already communicated the following information to our churches and individuals who support us financially, but we want to bring the rest of you up to speed as well.

We have known for some time that the summer of 2024 would be sort of a watershed summer for us. We knew that this summer we would have to leave Germany for at least a year, due to the Totalization Treaty between the U.S. and Germany. Additionally, our landlord put our apartment up for sale. He asked us to vacate the apartment, and we agreed to do so by June 30th this summer. So, we knew we'd be facing the question of what to do with all our household goods.

Just as the Lord made it very clear that we were to return to Germany after our year in the U.S. back in 2019-20 (again due to the

Totalization Treaty between the U.S. and Germany), our plan was to continue to serve on the field after this year away as well.

However, in the last few months, the Lord has gotten our attention through a few stateside ministry opportunities that have come our way without any initiative on our part. Of these, one opportunity has especially gripped our hearts. Cedarville University has reached out to me about the position of Associate Vice President of Christian Ministries, a role that includes overseeing chapel operations, worship teams, discipleship ministries, global outreach, and teaching a course each semester. I've gone through the interview process and have decided to take the position, starting August 1st this summer. We will stay on with ABWE and remain on the field here in Berlin through the end of June, and then in early July, we plan to return to the U.S.

Early in the process, I began communicating with our church leadership here in Berlin. We and they believe that our church is prepared for us to pass the baton. We praise the Lord for the good team of elders, deacons, and ministry leaders He has put in place. We have also been in consultation with our sending church, Berean Baptist in Grand Rapids, MI, as well as with leadership at ABWE. Becky and I have also shared this news with the missionaries that I oversee in my role as Regional Director of the Middle East and North Africa.

While it is with heavy hearts that we prepare to leave the field after nearly 23 years, we believe that just as we followed the Lord of the harvest to come to Berlin, we're now following Him in returning to the U.S. While we're going to deeply miss serving on the field, we are looking forward to pouring into hundreds of young people with the hope that we will replace ourselves many times over.

We want to let you know that my role at Cedarville University will be a salaried position; thus, we will not be dependent on missionary

financial support after June 2024.

Many of you reading this have been our “rope holders” for a long time—some even before we left for the field in May of 2001—either through prayer or financial support (and some, both!) Without God’s people faithfully holding the rope, we could not have remained in this ministry over all these years.

Before signing off, here are a few prayer requests:

1) Pray that we would finish well at CrossWay International Baptist Church here in Berlin. This past Sunday evening, we had a church meeting in which I literally passed a baton on to my 3 fellow elders.

Before leaving, there are several ministry opportunities coming up, including:

- **Easter outreaches in the city**-March 28 & 30
- **Women's Retreat** that Becky is overseeing (with our friend Anne Bachle Fifer coming from the U.S. to speak)-May 3-4
- **English Day Camp** for children (with a team from Cedarville University coming to help us)-May 9-11



Steve passing the baton to fellow elders at CrossWay

2) Pray for the provision of a couple to take our place in our Regional Director of the Middle East and North Africa role with our mission organization. There is a gifted, godly, and experienced couple who is moving along in the process of taking on this position.

3) Pray for the Lord's enablement to take care of all the logistical stuff that goes into an international move.

Marveling at God's grace, and thanking Him for you, our dear rope holders.

The Dyes



Sending church: www.bereangr.org | (616) 363-9824

Missions organization: For info. contact us at Dyesinberlin@gmail.com

