

Gary & Karen Craft

Veteran Missionaries to the US Military

August 2021

Dear Co-laborers in Christ,

We are grateful for your prayers and support as we minister to the US Military here in Germany! We are excited about all that God is doing in our midst!

A PERMANENT MEETING PLACE

As you recall from our last letter, Sunday July 25th would be our last service in the Mennonite building. We have been praying and searching diligently for a meeting place and did find another German church that we could use. However, this situation came with several limitations. In the meantime, we continued to pray and search for something better. On Saturday evening, July 17th, we learned of a vacant building that had been used by a church. They had just vacated the facility 2 weeks prior. On Monday, July 19th, my wife and I met with the realtor and looked at the building. We invited several of our families to walk through the building on Wednesday evening July 21st. We all knew this was an answer to our prayers! The building is located just five minutes outside the west gate of Ramstein Air Force Base. The Ramstein area has the largest number of military and civilians outside the United States. Because this building had been used as a church, it would save us many hours of tearing down walls and renovating. On Monday, July 26th, the day after our final service in the Mennonite Church, we picked up the keys to a permanent meeting place! We were able to negotiate with the owner to rent the building for 500 Euros per month LESS than what he was asking. He also agreed to allow us to use the building the month of August but begin paying rent on September 1st.



GOD'S PROVISION FOR OUR FIRST SERVICE

We all agreed we wanted to meet in our new building that very next Sunday; but we weren't sure how that would be possible. The only furniture we had was a pulpit and a piano. In the following six days, God provided in an amazing way! Two different nondenominational churches in the area gave us chairs for the auditorium and we were given tables and a refrigerator for our kitchen/fellowship hall and Sunday School classrooms. Several of our families came and cleaned and planted flowers on Saturday for our first service Sunday August 1st. God gave us



a great day with a good attendance in spite of many families traveling; and a new family visited our services that day. We rejoiced in all God had provided that day and following our service, we enjoyed ice cream in the church yard. We do covet your prayers that God will use this building as a lighthouse for Christ. To those of you who have given previously to the building needs, your giving will allow us to do some needed upgrades. Thank you for your gifts for that purpose.

COVID-19

It appears that we will be dealing with the coronavirus and the Delta variant for some time to come. The news here in Europe that things will become more restrictive again. The Lord is able to do great things regardless of the circumstances.

Yours for military souls,

Gary Craft

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