

Dear Friends, Family, & Detwiler Missionary Supporters,

I just received some great news in my email Inbox! The US Citizenship and Immigration Services office just notified us that my friend and colleague, Bianca Duemling, has been granted approval for a Religious Workers Visa to come work with me at EGC. This is so cool! And a wonderful answer to our prayers of the past few years!

A little backstory to this answer to prayer. This past March in one of the most intense times of ministry I have ever known, God sent Bianca to us as one of His unexpected grace gifts. Bianca came from Berlin, Germany to work with us for two months (at her own expense) as an Intercultural Ministries intern. And what a blessing she was! I was amazed at Bianca's ability to understand the complex work of intercultural ministries and to take up complicated tasks with great effectiveness; all in a language that is not her native tongue! Bianca was not a typical intern. She has her PhD in Intercultural Studies and has been a pioneer in identifying and nurturing the emerging immigrant churches that are now springing up in Germany (similar as in the U.S.).

As Bianca was preparing to return to Germany we debriefed her experience in Boston and discussed her future ministry plans. As the conversation ensued we both became convinced that she had come to Boston for more than just a two-month internship. On my side, I had been praying for the past few years that God would provide a younger colleague who could serve with me as a much-needed co-laborer in our work. On Bianca's side, she expressed how her time in Boston had been a "professional paradise" and that she had learned so much that would impact her work in Germany. As the conversation continued we began to dream about a win-win partnership that would benefit both Boston and Berlin, the U.S. and Germany.

By faith, we are moving forward in pursuing this partnership. An organization in Berlin that we have worked with in the past called "*Together For Berlin*" has signed on as our primary German partner and two other German Christian organizations are also supporting this project. Amazingly, Bianca has already raised over half of her monthly mission support to return to Boston. The plan is for Bianca to serve with us for an initial three-year term with occasional trips back to Germany. Ministry will be happening simultaneous in both locations and we will create a learning team that will benefit ministry development in both Boston and Berlin. After the three-year term has ended we will evaluate the status of the partnership and consider steps thereafter.

We believe this new partnership is a strategic one that can have far-reaching impact for the Church in Europe. Many of you may know that the European Church has been in decline for the past several decades but similar to the U.S. there is a growing number of immigrant churches (similar to our own "Quiet Revival"). Also, similar to the U.S. Church, the European Church has not known what to do with these new churches! In light of this, Bianca's expertise is much needed in the Church in Europe!

To see this dream realized we need to raise an addition \$25,000 per year to assist Bianca, the ongoing work of Intercultural Ministries, and this new project. I know that some of you have already helped us toward this goal and please don't feel obliged to give again. But for those who have not yet given and would like to we would be most grateful! If you are able and would like to celebrate with us by giving a one time, monthly, or annual gift that would be awesome. If you are unable to give, we completely understand!

You may give by sending a check to EGC (address below) and indicating in the memo line "Intercultural Ministries". Or, if it is easier for you, you may call EGC (# below) during normal business hours or give online at our giving page at http://www.egc.org/giving/donate_online.html, click "Intercultural Ministries" on the "Purpose" menu.

Thanks for being one of our partners and for celebrating this milestone with us!

Joyfully yours,

Gregg

P.S. Please continue to pray for this process to come to 100% completion quickly. Bianca will now need to take her visa approval document to the Consulate in Berlin to receive her actual Visa to travel.

"Connecting the Body of Christ...across cultural lines...to more fully express and advance the Kingdom of God...in the city, region and world"

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