International Community of Integration (ICoI) e. V. April 2017



Dear friends and supporters of ICol,

What can we do with almost 3,000 refugees living not more than 20 km away from us?

There are some options. For example there is the *passive approach:* "If I am not getting involved I will also not get into any troubles." or the *more extreme approach*: "I want to have a clean Germany without any foreigners no matter at what costs." or also the *theoretical approach*: "I am for/against refugees in Germany and for this I support appropriate mindsets and parties with my words only." But we were not satisfied with any of these mindsets existing in Germany.

The doors are open!

We have chosen the *Christian approach*: "Loving one another and having community with all people in practical ways." A celebration at Christmas 2014 with more than 100 people was the starting point. Christian values were always on our side while doing this work. We had endless celebrations with refugees from over 15 different nations, we made hundreds of visits in all kinds of accommodations where we now take care about over 350 refugees on a relationship basis.

The doors are closed!

"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." So says the bible. We experienced that many Muslims are getting persecuted and also for us as volunteer workers people do hinder our work since 9 months already. This is not nice. But the question is: Are we ready to

take this risk for the sake of the people who we serve?

God opens new doors!

For us the answer is profound as simple: Without taking a risk there is no beginning and without a beginning there is no change! So we are still living our vision everyday which basically means to connect people to a community where they can find comfort and peace. In addition we help the refugees to build up their countries and for this we build up partnerships worldwide. We also had voluntary support from USA and Brazil.

Further we want to understand the refugees and their culture better. We want to help to reduce the causes people are fleeing from their country. We do this through social, political, and religious partnerships with the countries the refugees are coming from. We already made trips worldwide to get a better understanding of how people are living in different parts of the world, e.g. in poverty in Gambia, oppressed by a dictator in North Korea, persecuted in Iran or China, in prison in Mexico or Indonesia, etc. Soon we will be travelling to Northern Iraq and also Syria is already on our hearts! We are very thankful for these experiences and that we can provide real help that way. The ICol-Gambia is in progress.

Insider Tipp:

We are looking for a fulltime volunteer – we have a challenging and much diversified work! If you are interested we can send you a job description with requirements and further information.

Kind Regards from Thomas, Silke, and Simeon



Roberto aus Brasilien: 31 performances / 650 attendees



Sandra USA: Eating at Ramadan



the new president

of Integration