

# The Heinemanns

January 2015

PROCLAIM!  
INTERNATIONAL

Dear Friend,

A belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family from the Heinemann family! We hope this finds you all encouraged in the Lord. There have been many changes since you last heard from us that we would like to tell you about and we hope we hear from you in return!

First, I have left teaching in the public high school arena and have been hired by my church, Northwest Bible Church, to reach out and minister to refugees as part of a team of four. As a consequence, we have moved into a rented condo in an area of Dallas where many refugees live. We had already decided to sell our house and "downsize," but little did we know what the Lord had in mind. It has been an interesting transition and it is still going on. We've sold, given away, and thrown away so much stuff! Where in the world did it come from? Both Mark and I have commented how good it has been to be forced to do this. And I love what I am doing.

I am in charge of teaching English classes (we have 5 at the present time). I also organized a Christmas Dinner for the refugees, their families and our volunteers from church. At this dinner we explained the difference between a secular and real Christmas celebration and extended an invitation to return the following Saturday to see the Jesus film online in any one of over 1200 languages (thanks to cru's Jesus Film ministry). We had around 60 people attend this pot-luck dinner with eight people coming back to see the film. Two are now interested in studying the Bible from seeing the film. Pray for this time, as their English is limited. The people I work with right now are from Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, Rwanda, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Wow -- I could sure use prayer to be His hands and feet to all these hurting and needy people!



For example, I asked Katia from the Congo about her journey to the US as well as her spiritual journey. She told her story in good English with a French accent! Near the end, I asked her if she thought she would go to heaven. She had talked about

her religious upbringing and told me she loved people and tried to help them...but she wasn't really sure if she would get to heaven. What fun it was to tell her about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for all our sins and the gift of forgiveness that no one can boast about, only accept by faith. Pray for this 19-year-old young woman as she thinks about this and as we continue this conversation.

Another example is a former translator for the American military from Iraq whose wife knows no English. They were so excited to find our center. Mark and I have been to their house for dinner and introduced him to a friend of ours who works with OSHA in hopes of getting a job with them. They had to leave Iraq, their lives being in danger from helping the American Military. Pray for this couple that the Lord will send them dreams of Jesus and that they, strong Muslims, will be willing to trust Jesus to forgive their sins and know they will be going to Heaven for sure.





I will also be gathering information about the possibility of starting a Trauma Counseling Center. The public schools the refugee children attend are seeing in them the effects of being oppressed, living in refugee camps, trauma, etc. I will be talking with counselors in the schools, Christian counselors and art therapists to see if we can somehow do more to help them.

My team also does after school help for kids from first grade through seventh, has a very successful soccer team, and runs computer classes. One team member is a former refugee himself. He helps with job training and the how-tos of job interviews. We have a store front that enables us to meet people off the street who need help.

I still hope to travel back to Germany and other places where the Lord could use me to make ministry contacts with art. As always, my goal is to share the good news of Jesus and to encourage believers to keep on walking with Him. May His ever-present grace surround your lives! Thank you so much for your support and prayers on our behalf.

Blessings,  
Leah and Mark Heinemann

