

Dear friends and family,

We are writing to ask for your prayers and input as we face some important decisions.

Last week we went to Sunday school in Ankeny, Iowa, where the lesson was from Crown Financial Ministries. The gist of it was that our possessions should not control our lives. It occurred to me that maybe we should not be letting the sale or non-sale of our home control whether we go forward with ministering in Germany.

Between Sunday school and church I told Mark, "Feel free to stomp on this idea!" and told him what I was thinking. He said, "Let's pray about it," which I took as not wanting to "stomp," so I just decided to let it go. After church he told me he had been thinking along those lines for quite awhile, but did not want to bring it up to me, so he just prayed that if it were God's idea he would impress it on me independently.

So we are grappling with the question of what God wants from us now: patience (to wait for the house to sell) or a step of faith (to move forward even without having sold the house).

Attached is a copy of our budget as estimated two years ago. We currently have \$30,000 for initial expenses plus monthly pledges totaling \$1690. The cost of maintaining our unsold home is about \$1200/month. Twelve weeks of language school, including housing, will cost about \$8700. We will not need to get a car, apartment or furnishings for at least the first 12 weeks. So after travel, language school and maintaining our stateside house, we would have about \$19,300 plus \$490/month to cover our insurances, taxes, food, public transportation, and other expenses.

Please pray about this matter and let us know what you think. We are very thankful for what God has provided, and for the privilege of being part of this mission of sharing the gospel in Germany. We are conscious of the importance of being financially responsible ambassadors among those we seek to reach. As our hearts go out to those who have lost their possessions in recent disasters, God seems to be asking us, "Do you have as much concern for those whose possessions are intact, but whose souls are devastated? What will you sacrifice for them?"

Thanks for your prayers and input!

In His service,

Mark and Corinne