

Site Report: Wiesbaden, Germany

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Introduction: The targeted area is Wiesbaden, Germany. It is a large city along the Rhein River between Frankfurt, Germany and Mainz, Germany. It is also one of 4 locations chosen for the consolidation of American forces in Germany.

Need: Wiesbaden needs a Presbyterian and Reformed Church to serve the American Military community primarily. However, due to the close proximity of other large cities and with English as the business language, it is entirely possible that this work could also become international in scope. There are approximately 20,000 to 25,000 Americans in the area to include service members, family members, Department of Defense employees and civilian contractors to support the Army mission. The majority of the members would be young, married and with children. They are highly motivated professionals and well educated. Two chapels serve the area and they provide basic services for Roman Catholics, General Protestant, Islamic, and Jewish soldiers and family members. There is one off post Baptist Church and an Episcopal Church. There are about 5 families that could form the core group of a Presbyterian and Reformed Church. These families must travel over two hours round trip to get to the one and only PCA Church in Germany to worship. We are trying to identify the man to go and then link up with one of the presbyteries Dr. Hudson is working with to oversee the work. Interest level is high for presbyteries to begin such works following the model of Trinity Reformed Church in Landstuhl, Germany and Southeast Alabama Presbytery.

Project Description: God is raising up a covenant community to worship and serve Him in one of the major cities in Germany. The church will impact the community and bring glory to our Heavenly Father. The 5 families would constitute the core group for the church. An under shepherd is needed to help bring the vision for this church to a reality. He is needed immediately to begin leading the core group in Bible studies and outreach to the community. He will choose leadership to help him begin advertising the ministry and finding a location so the group can begin gathering for worship as soon as possible. Monies to support this effort will come from the core group, the presbytery that adopts this mission effort and from others who might be interested in supporting this effort to the military community. We need someone who is a self-starter, willing to work hard, who will preach the Word of God without shame, who has a burden to help the saints mature in the faith and worship God, who desires to reach the lost with the gospel, and one who will promote close fellowship among the covenant community. We are looking for someone who is strong in the Christian faith and at the same time tender and loving toward the flock.

Conclusion: The military community is a wonderful community that needs what the Presbyterian and Reformed community has. The Chapel system has significant problems brought about by its mandate. It must minister to all faith groups. It cannot elevate one

above another. All faith groups are equal in the eyes of the government. The Chapel is not a church. It cannot by US law meet the marks of a true church. Chaplains are needed in the war fighting units, but in settled communities both in the States and overseas, such communities are best served by the church. I believe those in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition can best serve the military community. It would be good if the pastor had a working knowledge of the military. But such knowledge is necessary. A quick learner can be brought up to speed on the military culture quickly. This ministry will require hard work and prayer. Soldiers and their family members are usually assigned for 2 to 3 years and then move to their next assignment. Others will come in to take their place. Fellowship with like-minded ministers may be a bit challenging. The closest PCA pastor is in Landstuhl, Germany. However, there are a number of reformed ministers being sent by the reformed community to plant churches in Germany. The land of the Reformation is a delightful place to live and work.