

ted & dawn siemens' journal

serving God with TWR Europe and CAMENA

March 2023



CRISIS: WAR... EARTHQUAKES

Matthew 24:7 (NLT) "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places."

"This is EXACTLY what we need!" That is how the woman voicing some of our crisis content for refugees fleeing Ukraine last spring responded when she saw the book, *Beyond Disaster*, in her mother tongue. Having just arrived in Western Europe, she knew what her audience was going through. She didn't know how God would meet her needs in a completely strange place. And neither did her audience.

Not long after the invasion of Ukraine one year ago in February, Ted's supervisor asked him to help coordinate the gathering and distribution of trauma and crisis content. This February strong earthquakes caused widespread crumbling of buildings and homes in parts of Türkiye and Syria. The severity of the quakes and destruction will mean months and months for the initial recovery process. Some of the Russian and Ukrainian trauma materials used over this past year aren't available in Turkish or Kurdish Kurmanji. While recovery efforts in Syria may be complicated, thankfully there are Arabic resources and programs already in use in this troubled area such as *Hope for Syria*. Special editions are being created by their team.

Pray for our teams in Türkiye and Syria, as they bring hope from God's Word at a time when people are hungry for hope. Pray for Ted as he meets with teams to coordinate these efforts.



Different Location, Same Role

As you read in our December prayer letter, in April we will be relocating to the US. Though our address will change to South Dakota, Ted will continue to:

- Coordinate crisis content for TWR
- Serve on the development team for Men of Courage
- Serve as Team Leader for the TWR Global Media Training Team



**Where is home?
Home was that place
I left yesterday,
likely never to see again.
Where is home going to be?**

We heard this question at our 'Returning or Repatriating Well' seminar a few weeks ago. My heart was racing, my mind was overwhelmed as we listened to our speaker. "We aren't going home to retire. We still have years ahead of us. We certainly aren't going to sit in rocking chairs." Then she said this: "Which comes first? Reacclimating to your passport country or finding fulfillment?"

We will continue to serve with TWR. I think that covers the fulfillment part of the equation. South Dakota was where I was born and where two of our children were born. It is very familiar. Yet, we have lived overseas 38 years and lived in six different countries.

So, I would say that reacclimating back to our passport country will be our biggest challenge. You see, we will miss many things about life overseas and living on Cyprus. We will miss the refreshing walks along the seaside, the unhurried Cypriot culture, the amazing food, the Greek language, the opportunities to volunteer with refugees, our church and most of all our relationships.

And life back in the US? We are certainly looking forward to some things like being that place where our adult children and grandchildren can come and hang out, new relationships, and re-establishing old ones as we settle into a community long before retirement is upon us.

We will arrive in the US on April 11. Our address is: 48190 265th Street, Brandon, SD 57005

TWR has opened a transfer fund to help with the cost of transferring back to the USA. It will be used to cover our plane fare and shipping costs for our household items. To help with this you may use this link: <https://twr.org/sub-account/siemens-transfer-fund> We appreciate your prayers for us as we prepare for this 'final' move back to America.

- Please pray for Micah as he finishes up his junior year at Moody Bible Institute. He is raising funds to perform with Moody Chorale in Poland. If you'd like to help him do this or if you'd like to hear more, please write to Micah: micah.you.s@gmail.com
- Pray for Kerith and Brendan as Baby Sunshine is due in early May.
- Pray for Tabitha and Andrew and our trip to Taiwan for their wedding in July.
- Pray for Justin, Brittany, Kennedy and Hailee with Envision in Berlin, Germany.

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To give toward our support online:

TWR.org/global-staff/tdsiemens



Speaking Hope to the World

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