



# BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS, INC.

ED HEMBREE, EUROPE DIRECTOR

May, 11, 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters of Kevin and Stacy Byers,

This letter is to inform you that Kevin and Stacy Byers have changed fields from Europe to USA Missions. Their plan is to plant a church in Astoria, Oregon.

The Byers family began with Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), in June 2005 as missionaries to the military in Germany. In May 2013 Brother Byers felt led to change from military missions to Europe missions. Since then they have labored faithfully in Germany reaching many different ethnic groups. Kevin and Stacy have had a productive ministry in Germany reaching not only German nationals but also several Iranian and Syrian immigrants as well as a few other immigrant groups. The work that they have had in Germany has been turned over to a German national pastor in the area.

There are several contributing factors which have led to this change of field:

1. One reason is the health of their 14-year-old daughter, Bella. Bella has severe allergies and the climate in Germany is not conducive to her health. On several occasions, Bella has been hospitalized for breathing difficulty.
2. Another problem in Germany is the restrictive laws put in place concerning homeschooling of children. The Byers had a homeschooling exemption which allowed them to teach their own children at home, but it was recently revoked.
3. Yet another issue was being forced out of the building which had been used for ministry by them and former missionaries for more than 15 years. It is now occupied primarily by Muslim men and the Byers were told that they were no longer welcome to actively evangelize in this area.

Finally, I will mention that at the very beginning in 2005 when Kevin and Stacy applied to BIMI, Kevin clearly stated that someday he felt God would use him to plant a church somewhere in the Northwest. This change seems to be the Lord's calling to do just that. Astoria, Oregon, is a place where the climate is excellent for allergy sufferers and, of course, it is a place with a tremendous need for the Gospel as are almost all cities and towns in the Northwest United States.

I pray that you will continue your support for the Byers family. If your church requires an updated presentation of a change of field, I am sure they would be pleased to come and present their burden and calling for this new field of service.

Kevin and Stacy's sending church, Greater Portland Baptist Church, is firmly behind this decision and is planning on partnering with the Byers in this new church plant. If you have further questions, you may contact the pastor, Dr. Rick Adams, at 503-761-1136 or cell 503-880-4173.

Your Friend,

Ed Hembree  
BIMI/Europe Director

PO Box 9  
Harrison, TN 37341  
Phone: 423 344 5050  
Fax: 423 344 4774  
[www.bimi.org](http://www.bimi.org)