

## About Us

### Ryan & Elyse Dillon



We met while Ryan was on an internship in Napa, in the fall of 2006. We then started dating that December, and the rest is history! Elyse later moved out to Lincoln, Illinois to finish her Bachelors degree at Lincoln Christian University, while Ryan worked on his Masters degree from the seminary at the same university. We then got married in the summer of 2008! Elyse later finished her degree from LCU with a BA in Intercultural Studies with a focus in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) in 2011, and Ryan completed his Masters of Divinity degree with a focus in philosophy from the LCU seminary in 2012. Ryan had previously graduated with his BA in Worship Ministry with a focus in percussion from LCU in 2007. God has taken us on a crazy path toward ministry in Germany, which started for both of us long before we even met! God has blessed us both with hearts geared toward reaching the German people for Jesus, and we are so excited that we get to be on this journey together.



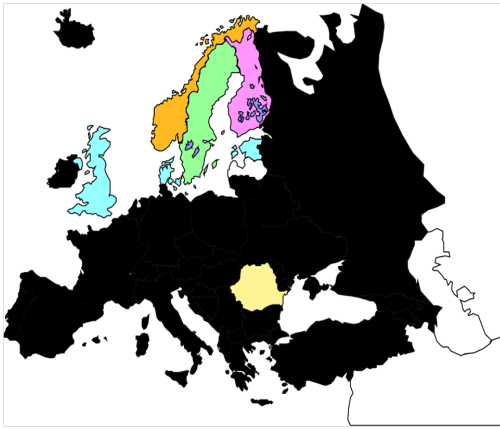
Together, we have completed a 6 month long internship in Jena, Germany in 2010 and have also led a short term trip to Germany, Austria and Belgium in the spring of 2011. Since the year before we got married, we have been traveling to and from Germany at least once a year for mission trips, conferences, internships and so on. We are so blessed to have had so many opportunities to learn about Germany's culture and people. We also have a lot of great language learning already under our belts but still have a ways to go!

We are both very different people who are skilled in very different things, but we think that makes us a great team! We have been enjoying life together just the two of us the last several years, but we are now so excited to have welcomed our son Oliver into this world on December 13, 2012! We know God wants to use our little family for His Kingdom. We are learning everyday more and more what it means to trust in God and His plan while we respond to this calling He has put on our lives to minister in Germany.

# The Situation in Germany

James 5:19-20 (NIV)-

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, <sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.



Europe: A Dark Continent

Black = Less than 4%  
Christian

Many are less than 2%



## Germany: A Country

Size: 137,847 square miles  
(Similar to Montana)

Population: 82 Million (Much  
larger than entire U.S.  
Midwest)

Fact: Approximately 3%  
have a personal relationship  
with Jesus Christ!

Fact: Many Germans view  
Christianity as part of their  
past and only something  
that is holding them back!

Germany lies in the heart of  
Europe and borders nine  
countries: France, Poland,  
Austria, Denmark, Czech  
Republic, Switzerland,  
Luxembourg, Belgium, and  
The Netherlands. Replacing  
the Deutsche Mark in 2002,  
the Euro became the official  
currency of Germany.

Even though rich in culture  
and with thousands of years  
of history and traditions,  
Germany is still considered a

relatively new country. The  
Federal Republic of  
Germany was founded in  
1945 after World War II  
with East Germany being  
added in 1989 after the  
fall of the Iron Curtain.  
Today Germany is an  
influential player in the  
European Union and a  
world leader in exporting  
quality products.

Germany is a beautiful,  
powerful, affluent, and  
educated country. Is this  
enough? Isn't Germany a  
Christian country? In  
name, yes. In relationship  
and practice, hardly!

When looking at the  
landscape of Germany,  
you see beautiful  
churches, cathedrals, or  
basilicas in every town.  
What you don't see is the  
empty pews behind those  
doors or the liberal pastors  
who are sometimes not  
even true believers  
themselves.

Continued...





# Germany Information Continued...

Sadly, only a tiny percentage of Germans know Christ personally: just under **3 percent** to be exact. Germany may look well from the outside but what matters most is the heart of the people on the inside. Germany is a wealthy country with a fairly stable economy and whose cities and towns look a lot like ours in America. **But is it really the financial wealth of a people group that we as Christians should be MOST concerned about?** In a study done in 2005, teenagers around the world were asked if they believe that the Bible is in fact the true word of God. In Israel 50% said yes, in Poland 49%, and then there was Germany with a staggering 2.3%. For most Germans, God isn't even on the radar screen anymore. In one survey Germans were asked whom they find most trustworthy. At the top of the list were gas station attendants and store workers... at the very bottom were politicians and the church. We believe God wants to change this perception of the church and Christians, and we want to be a part of that change.

Since there are so few people in Germany who have a personal relationship with Jesus, we have decided to answer God's calling and go join Him there. We will be working with a church planting organization called Kontaktmission, helping share the message of the Gospel to the German people. **Kontaktmission is a German-based transnational organization** that currently consists of over 240 missionaries from Europe, the US, and the world, serving in 34 different countries.

A look at  
the world:  
  
Putting  
things into  
perspective

Country	Total Population	Evangelical
Kenya	25.1 million	26.5%
Uganda	18.4 million	24.9%
Chile	13.1 million	21.6%
Guatemala	9.1 million	43%
El Salvador	5.2 million	30%
Puerto Rico	4 million	22.5%
<b>Germany</b>	<b>82 million</b>	<b>3%</b>

Our Soon To  
Be Home...

## Dresden, Germany



Dresden is the capital city of the Free State of Saxony in Germany. It is situated in a valley on the Elbe River, near the Czech border. Dresden is a city with a heartbreaking history, to say the least. Once one of the artistic and architectural gems of Germany, during World War II, the city of Dresden was fire bombed and completely destroyed. Since the German reunification in 1990, Dresden has regained importance as one of the cultural, educational, political and economic centers of Germany. The population of the city of Dresden is 530,000, and the population of Region Dresden is over 1 million. Today Dresden is one of the few German Cities that have more inhabitants than ever since World War II.

When looking at eastern Germany in general, we see a great amount of spiritual poverty. In Germany as a whole, 27% of the population claims to be atheist, but in eastern Germany by itself over 50% claim to be atheist. This is a sure sign that it is time for a spiritual renewal and a revival in Germany!



Dresden Population: 530,000

# of Evangelical Churches in  
Dresden: 20

Total Membership in Evangelical  
Alliance Churches: 2,800

Official State Church Membership:  
106,000 (actual numbers for  
attendance/active faith are a small  
fraction of this)

Approximate # of People Still  
Unreached: *at least* 421,200, or 80%

# #1

Ministry Goal #1



Culture, Learning, Language,  
Adaption, Prayer, Growth...

**“... I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means, I might save some”**

**(1 Cor. 9:22 NIV)**



Although we have spent time in Germany before, there is no substitute for long-term immersion into a language and culture. For our first 1-2 years, we will be working closely with established churches in the Dresden area. This will be different from our internship: since we have some experience already and know some German, we will be able to jump in quickly and become a part of the church body, investing our time and building relationships. We need to not only learn more German – and the particular version of German spoken by the Dresdeners – but also to learn what it takes to “do” church in the city. Working with established churches gives us the opportunity to come alongside them, to learn, to grow personally, and to see first hand what a growing, thriving ministry looks like. And hopefully, along the way, we will begin building a team that will...

# #2

## Ministry Goal #2



Building a Team, Starting a Church,  
Long Term Goal Development...

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all you soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30 NIV).**



...branch out and establish a new church somewhere in the city of Dresden. We are convinced that God is working and has been working in the city of Dresden all along. We are not going to “bring” God to the people there; we are going in order to join God on His mission to restore and renew His people. With this in mind, a large portion of our planning for this phase is simply to keep our eyes open: are there areas in the city where we see God clearly at work? Are there people who He is bringing into our lives who may be able to partner with us? One key thing we need is to find other Germans to partner with. We are not looking to plant an American church, but to start new German churches. We will consider our ministry successful if we are involved in the starting of new churches in Germany that then go on to plant new churches of their own. Whether we have the opportunity to be involved in a house church, a coffeehouse ministry, or something that God has yet to show us, we are excited to see what God has in store for Dresden. We are just as excited for you to be able to be a part of that ministry yourselves, by partnering with us and with what God is doing in Germany!