

About two-thirds of Germans belong to either the Lutheran or Catholic state church; however, membership has been declining at an alarming rate. About 5% of the population attends a worship service on Sundays and only about 6 out of every 100 Germans are evangelical Christians.

World Team desires to establish four new multicultural church planting teams in Germany.

Two of the teams will work with migrants and refugees who recently arrived in Germany during the migration crisis. Two other teams will serve in formerly socialist East Germany.

All four of the teams will work in partnership with the German Church Union of the Bund Evangelischer Gemeinschaften (BEG).



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# **Germany** A Nation of Influence

# Post-Christian Homeland of the Reformation

Germany, the homeland of Martin Luther and the Reformation, has become a post-Christian country and a new mission field in Europe.

#### **Former Socialist East Germany**

More than 40 years of socialism in East Germany took a toll on the church. While the church was not extinguished, it struggled to survive.

The church played an important role during the time of the fall of the wall, but the percentage of believers in East Germany is still much lower than in the rest of Germany.

New church planting initiatives are few and have proven challenging to existing churches and church planting groups. World Team, in partnership with BEG, would like to place two new church planting teams in East Germany.

#### **Refugee Crisis**

During the refugee crisis in 2015 over one million refugees came to Germany.

Germany's basic law grants victims of political persecution an individual right of asylum. Germany allows people from war torn countries to ask for asylum and integrate into German society.

The refugee crisis is a great challenge for the government, social workers and the existing church. Refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq are migrating to Germany in large numbers.

Work among the diaspora community demands a holistic approach with consideration for the body, mind and soul. If God has given you a heart of mercy towards those that

# **Engaging a Changing Nation**

# **Germany Today**

Germany is the most populous member of the European Union and has massive influence in Europe and on the global scene. It is geographically located in the center of the Europe continent.

As a major economic and political power, Germans have developed a very high standard of living. It is home to many influential philosophers, music composers, scientists, and inventors; and is known for its rich cultural and political history.

Germany's strategic position in the world could be significant for the advancement of the gospel. However, the country is largely engaged in secular humanism and materialism.

Although religious freedom is guaranteed by the constitution, Christianity is increasingly marginalized, and false religious teachings such as Islam are on the rise. The church is declining rapidly as spiritual indifference increases.

Of the 82 million people who live in the country, less than 6 percent claim to be evangelical believers. Only 10 percent believe that personal faith is of any real value.

### Love and Acceptance

Germans and refugees, like all people, need love and acceptance. But they often look for this in temporary, material alternatives like money, entertainment, freedom and status to fill a void in their lives. They have a longing for more, but do not know how or where to get it.

World Team desires to partner with German believers to plant reproducing churches. These churches will be led by national believers as they are equipped through evangelism, discipleship, leadership training and development and multiplication.

# **Ministry Overview**

People	German and Diaspora
Language	German
Location	Germany
Opportunities	<ul> <li>Evangelism and Discipleship: primarily focusing on young families and students</li> <li>Networking: working together with evangelical churches and ministries for leadership training and to foster church multiplication</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Refugees: holistic ministry meeting the needs of the body, mind and soul</li> </ul>
	Church Planting

Martin Luther said, "Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.

If he have faith, the believer cannot be restrained. He betrays himself. He breaks out. He confesses and teaches this gospel to the people at the risk of life itself. "

World Team desires to see a culturally relevant church planting movement in Germany. Is God asking you to 'break out' and join the team?



Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focusing on the unreached peoples of the world.