


The Moellers to SCOTLAND



Appeal For Help

As we shared in our last prayer letter, we will soon file for our **"leave to remain"** in Scotland. This means we will not be bound by visas that have to be renewed **every 3 years** and will be considered **"permanent residents"** of Scotland/The United Kingdom. This will allow us to travel freely in and out of the country.

It is a very detailed and expensive process, but we feel it is what the Lord wants for us to continue to answer His call to Scotland. **All told, we are looking at an expense of \$21,000 for our family to get our "leave to remain."**

Would you prayerfully consider what your church could do to help us with all of the expenses that come with getting our leave to remain?

Hate Speech Bill

I wanted to update you on something I shared and asked for your prayers about in October of last year. A **"Hate Speech"** bill had been proposed by the Scottish Government. Now, I am sure most people would agree that **"hate speech"** is not a good thing. So on the surface, a law protecting people from **"hate speech"** doesn't seem like it should be a problem. However, it becomes an issue when people try to define what constitutes **"hate speech."**

For instance, there is at least one atheist group here in Scotland who has already said that they intend to use this legislation to **"comb through"** the sermons of Pastors in Scotland so they can find things that they can try to label as **"hate speech"** in order to shut them down. A great worry is that Christians may be prosecuted (even if not convicted) and dragged through the courts for **expressing traditional Biblical, Christian views**. The bill also gives powers to the government to potentially prosecute you for what you say **in your own home**. In theory, there are some who could use this law to keep parents from teaching their own children Christian values in their own homes, if the government feels those values could be construed as "hate speech."

Last week, the Scottish Parliament **officially passed this bill**. The government has made assurances that language will be put into the bill **to protect churches and pastors** from those who would try to use this law to **attack their freedom of beliefs**, but this is the **same government** who has **"made it a criminal offence in the highest tiers for churches to hold services in-person and, for example, to conduct baptisms."** To be perfectly honest, I do not have a lot of faith in this government to protect my rights, **but I have total faith in my God's protection!**

Please pray for us as we navigate these new waters.

Church Services Allowed to Resume

Speaking of not being allowed to meet together, the Scottish government recently announced that churches could *reopen at the end of March*, but with **limited numbers** and **social distancing** in place. Churches **will still not be allowed to sing, take communion, or baptize** until further notice. As grateful as we are that we can reopen our doors, it just won't feel right to not sing **"Up From The Grave He Arose"** on Easter Sunday!

Please pray that these restrictions will fully go away soon.

Your missionaries to Scotland,

Matt, Ericka, Ellee, and Graycee Moeller