



**Mennonite
Church**
Canada

Witness

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Mission Action Profile (MAP) in **Niedergoersdorf, Germany**

- Niedergoersdorf – Flugplatz is a military airbase re-developed into housing for immigrants of German background from the former Soviet Union and other countries.
- Many of these “Aussiedler” (immigrants) seek new spiritual life and Christian Community as they struggle to adapt to a new culture and re-establish their livelihood.

Mennonite Church Canada involvement

- Since 1994, Walter and Anni Thielmann, John and Marian Friesen, and James and Henriette Schellenberg have worked with a congregation relating to the immigrants settling here. They have helped the Aussiedler bridge many of the cultural and theological gaps between the immigrants and German society.
- Today the “Evangelische Glaubensgemeinschaft” congregation includes immigrants with various denominational backgrounds. It conducts weekly worship services, children’s clubs, and Bible studies. It hosts community services for men and women, children and youth.
- The spiritual and social ministries in Niedergoersdorf are supported by a partnership of several Mennonite congregations, conferences, relief agencies in Germany and the Netherlands as well as by the municipal government and regional Lutheran church. These partners have provided housing, local transportation, a building, program costs, and volunteers. In 2004 our German Mennonite partner churches will also cover half the salary for our workers.
- Witness workers Jake and Dorothy Unrau will continue this ministry beginning in fall of 2003. They have previously been Witness workers in Ukraine. Before that, Jake pastored at Rosemary Mennonite Church, Alberta.

Mennonite Church Canada Witness has committed \$30,000 to supporting the Unraus’ work, in partnership with others. Your support helps this community with spiritual leadership and coordination of social services.

*You are invited to send your contributions to Mennonite Church Canada Witness, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Please note **“Germany”** with your donation cheque.*