

**“...let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good  
works and give glory to your Father  
who is in heaven.”  
Matthew 5:16**



Photographer : Lyuda Stinissen / LS Fotografie

*Dear Friends,*

### Who are the Puijssen Family?

We are Gerwin and Cathelijne Puijssen. God blessed us with six children. Our children are Gerjan (18), Nieke (15), Matthias (14), Joëlle (10), Davita (7) and Chiel (5). All our children, except for Chiel, go to the Free Christian School in Frankfurt.

Almost two years ago now (Summer 2015) we as a family moved from Holland to Germany. Previously, I had been a pastor in Holland from 2000 till 2015. At the end of 2014, I received a call from the Mosaik Church in Frankfurt am Main. From September 2015, I worked as a pastor for two of the Mosaik Churches.

At this moment, we have lived and worked for almost two years now in Frankfurt am Main. As a family we have had the opportunity to know the German culture. We also learned the German language (and we're still learning). Our children got to know their new school. The Lord has blessed us so abundantly!

### Our next step towards the start of a new church plant

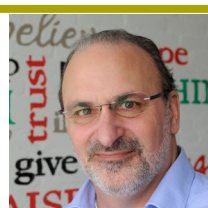
At the end of the two years now, with the encouragement and support of the lead pastor Stephen Beck and the Mission Mosaik Movement, we want to plant a church in what is undoubtedly one of the most undesirable parts of the city: Frankfurt am Main-Fechenheim. We already started with street interviews and making a context analysis. At the end of the summer my wife, Cathelijne, and I are going to prepare for this church plant. The Lord laid this plan on our hearts and others confirmed that.

It's important for us that we have an official assignment to start to work on this church plant. We don't want to work unattached from a church.

In the last year we received training to become church planters. We read and worked through the 'Church Planting Manual' of Tim Keller (Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City). Gerwin is part of a group of church planters, a so called 'Learning Community'. It is so helpful and instructive!

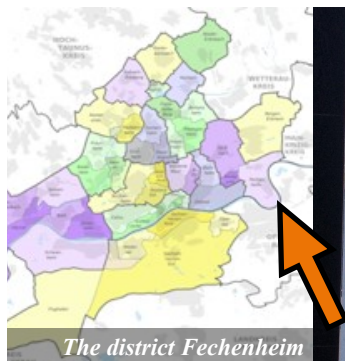
### Recommendation of Stephen Beck

This is a special and surprising time in Germany and in the life of the church. By reaching out to and consciously integrating immigrants and refugees into our churches, or by planting new churches that intentionally bring strangers and nationals together in intercultural reconciliation, we have stepped into a gospel river by which the Holy Spirit is flowing to many hearts today, especially to Muslims' hearts. To plant a new Mosaik church in Frankfurt-Fechenheim, with its high population of Muslims, second generation Turks, many other nationalities, and the absence of any gospel witness in past years, is undoubtedly a risk. It takes boldness and courage, it takes a deep love for people who are different, even hostile, and it takes wisdom and pastoral skill. We have a number of very good church planters in training for key places. But for this place, I am convinced, Gerwin and Cathelijne Puijssen and their 6 children are the perfect fit. The Lord has given them the needed character and competence. What they need is people and churches who will take ownership of the Puijssens' mission to a lost part of the city of Frankfurt.



### The Mosaik Church in Frankfurt am Main

What is the Mosaik Church? You can learn more at: [mosaikkirche.jimdo.com/englisch/](http://mosaikkirche.jimdo.com/englisch/) Mosaik has a particular set of values. To plant a Mosaik church you have to embrace these values. The values are: 1. To bring the Germans and immigrants and refugees into one church. We call this the mono-cultural aspect of being church. Revelation 7,9 says; "After this I looked and behold a great multitude from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne..." Mosaik churches are called to be church for the native Germans and the immigrants, and refugees. 2. Another



The district Fechenheim



Frankfurt am Main - Fechenheim

# Longs for hope

"Our desire is that through our living with our God, and our talking about Jesus, others will see and experience that it's good to live with God."

## From our HomeFrontTeam in Holland

As missionaries send out from Holland, we have a team in Holland that helps us spiritually and administratively. Here the words of the presider of this team:

"We are so happy with Gerwin and Cathelijne that they can give all of their time, energy and love now to the new to build church plant. Gerwin and Cathelijne need financial partners, so they can fully commit themselves to

this job. They need 92,400 Euro at the beginning of this fall. 30,000 Euro has already been raised in Holland. We are looking for partners to come alongside them to build a solidly biblical and missionary church in Frankfurt Fechenheim. For more information, contact us: [voorzitter@pruijssen.de](mailto:voorzitter@pruijssen.de) or [pr@pruijssen.de](mailto:pr@pruijssen.de)

Greetings in Christ, Fred Werkman (Stedum, Holland)

*give Glory to your Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

What are we going to do for the many refugees in our part of town? First, we want to connect with them through German classes to help them integrate into the German society. We would also love to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray for prepared hearts on the part of refugees and Muslims!

## 'Answer to many prayers'

We met a couple in Fechenheim who told us our plans for a church plant in Fechenheim is an answer to their prayers. They prayed for more than ten years now for a vibrant church that wants to reach the Germans and the immigrants. The first reason we are so happy that we met them is that they have lived for more than ten years in Fechenheim and know the place. Another reason is they have experience working with Turks. They lived as missionaries in Turkey. Fechenheim is actually known for having the highest percentage of Turks in Frankfurt, and no church intentionally reaches out to them with the Gospel of the Savior. We pray for ways to reach out to them.

**Greetings, Gerwin en Cathelijne, Gerjan, Nieke, Matthias, Joelle, Davita en Chiel (and our dog Misty)**



*Learning Community of churchplanters*

principle in the vision of Mosaik is not to be one big church, but to have several churches in an area to serve the city. To multiply. 3. We will be gospel-driven: we want to lead people to Jesus and teach them how to construct their entire new life around the gospel.

## Frankfurt am Main - Fechenheim

Where is Frankfurt am Main? Frankfurt is in the middle of Germany. It's also in the middle of Europe. The city is widely known because of the European Central Bank. In this way Frankfurt is the financial heart of Europe.

Fechenheim has historically been a fishing village, till it was incorporated by the big city of Frankfurt in 1928. Till this day you see this. On the one hand, Fechenheim feels very rustic. On the other hand, it has a huge area with industry. The part where the people live looks very German, but Fechenheim became in the last forty years very multicultural.

Fechenheim is partly a deprived urban area with many high buildings. A part of the population is from the lower parts of the society. For example, it's the only borough of Frankfurt that has not one but two food banks. Even some of the people who live there call Fechenheim a "dark place". Fechenheim really needs Jesus.

We plan to move to Fechenheim before the summer of 2018. We want to be amongst the people we plan to lead to Jesus and into his church community.

Many refugees live in Fechenheim. In one place, they live in containers. It's heartbreaking. Because of all this, we want our church plant strongly to reach out with deeds of mercy. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and



*At my Turkish hairdresser*



*Welcome in Fechenheim*

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