

# Overby Odyssey

Christmas 2022

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Guten Tag von Kandern,

As I write this, I am looking out the window at the Black Forest, watching the snow come down. This semester has been a whirlwind of activity, as we settle into our new home and find our roles in this community. Working at BFA, there is never a dull moment. God is working at BFA, but any number of disruptions can occur. In the middle of November, we had a student riding his bike to school in the rain. As he came around a blind corner, he rode right into a bus. The front of the bus was severely damaged, but miraculously, the student was able to come home that evening with no broken bones or concussion. We are amazed at how God is working.



He is drawing students to Himself, and showing up in amazing ways.

November saw several home improvement tasks happen. After nearly two months with a broken sink, it was finally replaced. We are so happy with the work done and how much more practical the new sink is. We were also able to finally fix up the entry walkway that was overgrown with weeds. We had a four day weekend the first week of November, and the weather was just right for a project like this which we had been wanting to do since we moved in. One day I was able to take a day off work so Heather and I could make a trip up to IKEA without kids to finally get a bed for ourselves. We had been sleeping on mattresses on the floor for over three months, and it was finally time to get a bed. It was a wonderful day just the two of us.



We were able to get out as a family and explore a castle ruins that is only three miles from Kandern. We drove to a spot that was a little over a half mile away. Just the right length of a hike for our family. When we got there we met a couple who were also new to Kandern. A week later we were able to have them over for dinner and hear more about their story and their work in Kandern with Greater Europe Mission. Because of BFA, there are several mission organizations that have offices in Kandern, and

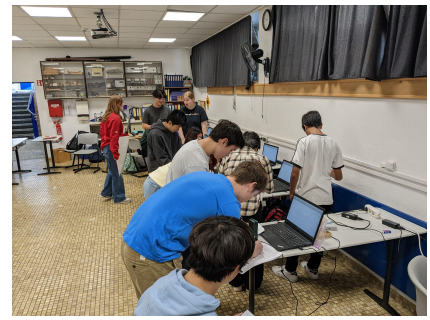


missionaries who are not affiliated with BFA.

Stanley and I were able to participate in the German FeG church fall cleaning day. Stanley probably did the most work between the two of us, because he was at the top of a ladder cleaning the dust and cobwebs off of the lights and beams. Meanwhile, I was assigned to holding the ladder Stanley was on. We had a great time, and it was fun working shoulder to shoulder with our growing son. He's 14 and a high school freshman.

For Thanksgiving this year, we were not sure who we were going to have over, if anyone. In the end we had a dad and two of his sons join us, plus four single gals. We are so thankful for new friendships being made and a new community.





Here are some other highlights from our family.

I (Scott) finished up the cross country season with the European Championships in November. Both the men and women's teams qualified, and they finished 2nd and 3rd respectfully. It was a privilege to be an assistant coach this fall, and to dream about my involvement in the future. With my teaching, I have been able to settle into my role as both a Math and Science teacher. While learning the science curriculum has not been easy, I have received help from colleagues and school resources. I have enjoyed some of the unique conversations that arise in Science that don't necessarily come up in Math. I have also been connecting with some of the other men at BFA having weekly lunches together.

Heather has been connecting with many women in Kandern through various women's Bible studies. During one such Bible study Heather was open and authentic with the other moms in a way only Heather can, which allowed the other moms to drop some of their shields. They all had a sweet time together and deep conversation and connection. Heather also continues to build relationships in the German community through her German Bible Study and other areas. Heather had a special opportunity this past weekend to take a quick trip up to Weimar to visit



some friends. She left early Saturday morning and got back late Sunday night, but had a wonderful 24 hours in Weimar for a ladies Sauna night, to visit our home church Weimar EFG, and to see some other dear friends. It was a refreshing time for her, but also felt good coming home to Kandern.



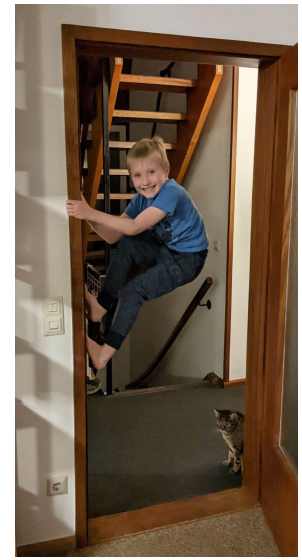
Stanley continues to grow and mature into a wonderful young man. BFA has very strong academic checks for missing work, so Stanley has been in and out of the Academic Work Room, but the teacher in charge commented the other day of how respectful and well spoken Stanley is in all of their interactions. Stanley feels like he is finding his place within his class and the community. He did switch small groups in November, but this was a really good move for him, as he didn't mesh very well with his original group.



One of our big changes coming up is that we are looking at adopting a dog from within the Kandern community group. This has been Stanley's dream his whole life, and he is really excited about welcoming Jake into our home. Jake is a 9 yr old Golden Retriever who is well trained, but needed a new home for various reasons. This will be an adjustment for our family, but one that we have been praying about for a long time.

Holly had her "Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe" performance at the beginning of November. She played Lucy Pevensie and did a marvelous job. She received so many encouraging comments, from friends and community members. It was a great growing experience for her and she rose to the challenge amazingly. Now she is starting basketball, and is enjoying the practices and new skills that she is learning. She continues to develop new friendships, and has found a great group of girls that she enjoys hanging out with.





Stuart and Samuel are continuing to do well in their respective schools. We just celebrated Stuart's 10th birthday, and we are so thankful for this kid. Stuart loves his teachers at his German school for kids with special needs., and has been recommended for an integrative school at a German Gymnasium for next year. For those of you who are not familiar with this, the German school system has students streamed at the beginning of fifth grade. The Gymnasium track is for students who are University bound and is more academic in nature. An integrative school is where students with special needs are blended with neurotypical kids. For academic classes such as Math, English, and Science the kids with special needs will be pulled out for their own lessons, but during other parts of the day all the kids will be together for various activities. This is such a blessing for Stuart as he is very social and loved, but not able to do the academics. The school Stuart will be at is also a Christian school, the same denomination as our church.



Samuel has been making lots of friends at his school, and has been working very hard. He is a bit of a perfectionist, which causes him to be very slow and meticulous with his work. His German continues to improve and he is feeling more confident in being able to communicate at school and at church.

As we move closer to Christmas, we are looking forward to three weeks off, and a visit from my parents (Steve and Sue). We are hoping to check out some of the local Christmas Markets. We are excited for our first Christmas in Kandern, and the wonderful memories that will be made. Here are some prayer requests.

- Please be praying for several building projects BFA has coming up. Pray that they are successful so the BFA facilities will be able to serve their purpose effectively. See the attached links for more information.
- Pray for our Christmas plans as we seek who will be in town and needs to be with a family this Christmas. We already have some singles planning to come for Christmas eve dinner.
- Pray for safety as my parents travel. Pray that it will be a fun and rejuvenating time.
- Pray for the upcoming BFA spring break service projects. There will be teams going to Bosnia, Kenya, India, and Vietnam. Pray for wisdom as Stanley is considering going on one of these trips.

Serving Him in Kandern, Germany and at BFA,  
Scott for Heather, Stanley, Holly, Stuart, and Samuel

