

Overby Odyssey

Christmas 2023

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Merry Christmas from our family to yours!
It has been a crazy last 7 weeks for our family, but we are thankful for God's provision, and how He meets us where we are at.

Our last update ended with us bringing in a new 13 month old foster baby (toddler). This is older than we usually take, but we felt that we had no reason to say no. In general we also give ourselves a break between babies equal to the time we had the last baby. Since we had the first one for only a week, God gave us the new one a week later. Our little guy is a sweet toddler, who engages well, is healthy and active, and in general has a sweet happy personality. However, he is an active toddler, and that age is just hard. Kudos to all you families with toddlers right now. There are days when we are tired and done, and we have to remind ourselves why we are doing this and that God is refining us through the hard. We memorized James 1:2-3 as a family earlier this year, "Consider it pure joy my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may become mature and complete, not lacking anything."



To make things more difficult, Heather, the baby, and I got very sick with Covid at the same time over Thanksgiving. Our kids were super gracious and kind in the midst of our sickness, and it was by the grace of God that we made it through that hard week. Then the Christmas season hit, and it was one event after another with neither of us ever getting 100% well. We're still trying to get well.

Now we have the post Christmas lull to reflect on how we are doing. When I look back to this past month, part of me feels guilty not having people over, and that we did not do more to create community. But then I remind myself that we have welcomed a little 1 year old into our home who needs a family to love him. To see how God is using foster care to build community with other families who want to help us is humbling. We can also recognize that God is giving Heather opportunities daily to share God's love with this toddler's mom, dad, and Grandma, in addition to all of the social workers with whom Heather regularly interacts.

I am also reminded of the lives of the students I get to speak life into. The families around the world whose ministries benefit from the work I am doing in this little town of Kandern at Black Forest Academy. The other workers I get to encourage and pray for when they are feeling discouraged. Then there is the ministry we have to our family. The time, energy, and intentional discipleship that goes on in our home. On December 10th Holly got baptized, and I had the honor of baptizing her. It was a wonderful experience and a joy to see our children choosing to follow Jesus.

Sometimes, what we envision that we should be doing, is not necessarily what God is calling us to do. I have to remind myself that we cannot do everything in life. We cannot have a deep meaningful impact on every person we come in contact with. But we can be intentional about the relationships and opportunities that God does give us. And what he calls me to do will look different to what he has called the person next to me to do because we are all wired differently.

So may I encourage you this Christmas season to look around and see who God has placed in your life that you are being called to minister to. Thank you for supporting us both in prayer and financially. We cannot do what we do without you.

As we move into a new year, here are a few other things to be praying for.

1. For our foster baby's situation. That he would be able to be reunited with his mom soon, and that we will have perseverance, joy, and love in abundanc. We are anticipating at least another 2 to 3 months with him.
2. Our rental house in Oregon. Thanks to some amazing people in Oregon, the home has been getting a huge renewal. We are hoping that it will be completely ready for new renters by the end of January. Please be praying for that work, for the many volunteers, and that God will continue to provide financially.
3. For BFA as we are raising money to purchase a new building for three new dorms, with plans to retire two of our older (not quite up to code) dorms. God has so far removed all of the red tape, and it should be available to purchase at some point this year. For more information please go to bfacademy.de.
4. We have been facing some long term staffing challenges recently due to health and other issues. Please be praying for God to provide long term substitutes for the staff who are out, and new teachers for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. For our monthly support. As is normal for missionaries who rely on the financial support of donors like you, every year some support is lost for a variety of reasons. If you have wanted to be part of our monthly support team, but have never taken that first step, now would be a great time to partner with us and help support the ministry God is doing in Kandern, and around the world.

From Kandern Germany,
Scott for Heather, Stanley, Holly, Stuart, and Samuel



Second Advent time as a family.



Christmas Morning



Holly's Baptism



Walking to church



Our boys