

# Overby Odyssey

November 2024

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We hope this email finds you well as we head into the holiday season. We are so grateful for your prayers and support, which encourage us daily in the ministry God has called us to here in Germany. I (Heather) am writing this month's update, so I hope this encourages you and lets you know how to pray for us.

This fall has been a season of both accomplishment and sweet family moments. Our last foster baby left at the end of September. While we remain on call for another placement, we've been savoring time as a family of six. Scott and I have been intentional about weekly dates and one-on-one time with each of our kids, which has been such a blessing. We've also enjoyed continuing to host others in our home regularly—hospitality remains a special way we feel called to serve.



At the end of September, I helped lead a women's retreat where I had the opportunity to minister to and connect with German women. The retreat went very well, and I truly felt like I was able to bless the women who attended. It was a privilege to see God moving in their lives and to spend time building these relationships.

Scott is thriving in his role teaching math and science at Black Forest Academy. He is enjoying his classes and the students he gets to disciple as a teacher and coach. He was thrilled with how the cross-country season went and how he saw the students grow. The boys' team finished the season on a high note, placing second in their division championships. We're so proud of their hard work and teamwork throughout the season! Looking ahead, Scott is excited to step into the head coach role for cross-country next year, and we're eager to see how God will continue to use this program to shape students and build community. After the championships, Scott received this text message from one of the dorm dads, who had two athletes competing at championships. For context, K had collapsed after the race and needed help from the paramedics.



"Hey Scott, just wanted to say thank you for all you do for our guys. All our cross country runners have said how much they appreciate you and how knowledgeable you are about running and how much they have improved because of you. Most importantly they have expressed and we have seen how well cared for they are by you and Bill. So thank you, you are making a difference in our guy's lives. I especially wanted to thank you for your care for K today. You were super calm and professional.

You definitely seemed like you'd seen and been through this before which was very reassuring and helpful. It was great to see again first hand what caring and capable hands our guys are in."

After the cross-country season ended, Scott took some of the students on a hike to the Sausenberg Castle ruins. Though the day began cloudy and foggy, God gave us a reminder of His goodness. As I drove up to join the group with hot chocolate and treats, I prayed that the Lord would clear the skies. When I arrived, I found that we were above the fog, and we were treated to an incredible sunset above the clouds, which looked like a sea stretching out before us. It was breathtaking!



Just a few days later, we took a family trip to the Alps in Switzerland. Again, the day began foggy, but as we rode the world's steepest funicular (the Stoosbahn) up the mountain, we rose above the clouds to find the sun shining brilliantly. The views were stunning, and our hike together was one of the most enjoyable family moments we've had in a long time.



During the fall, our big kids have been staying as busy as we have. Stanley (16) was the head manager for the cross-country team while also navigating his first dating relationship. He has been helping lead a Saturday worship night and will be going on a BFA short-term team to Malta during spring break. At this moment he's having Bible study in our home with his guy friends. Stanley, Holly, and Stanley's girlfriend will also be performing a 3-person Christmas play on December 11.



Holly (14) has had an exciting transition into high school this fall. She served as one of the production assistants for the middle school play, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She's also been navigating the increased academic load and adjusting to the new class dynamics, as her class doubled in size this year. Remember, the BFA boarding program begins in ninth grade which adds many students. We're so proud of her growth and perseverance during this transition!

Stuart (almost 12) and Samuel (almost 9) continue to be our two little boys but they are not so little anymore. Samuel has been gaining a sense of independence and will often walk over to friends' houses alone. Stuart is looking forward to his birthday on December 6th and was so excited when he learned that all six friends that he invited to his party said yes.

On Thursday, we experienced our first snowfall of the season—and the most significant snowfall in Kandern in multiple years! We received over 6.5 inches of snow, transforming our little town into a winter wonderland. You don't get snow days in Germany, but I decided to keep our two younger boys home on Friday so they could fully enjoy this rare treat. Watching them build an igloo, sled down a hill, and savor the magic of a snowy day was such a joy.



As we prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we're seeking ways to serve others and keep our eyes on Christ. Please pray for continued wisdom in parenting, open doors for ministry, and hearts full of gratitude for all God is doing.

Here are some upcoming events and specific prayer requests:

- The BFA dorm project continues to move forward. If you'd like to be part of this exciting initiative, please visit [bfacademy.de/give](http://bfacademy.de/give).
- We are co-leading a German 3 class trip to Weimar from February 28 to March 2. Please pray for the planning process and for a meaningful experience.
- The BFA service project trips (short term teams) during spring break are approaching. Stanley's trip to Malta is just one of five destinations, including locations in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean.
- For our financial support needs.
  - We are needing a few extra monthly supporters for \$100 or \$50 a month.
  - Stanley needs to raise \$1100 for his short term team to Malta.



Thank you for being part of our ministry through your prayers and support. We are deeply grateful for you!

With love,  
Heather for Scott, Stanley, Holly, Stuart, and Samuel

