

Overby Odyssey

February 2025

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Merry Christmas and Happy 2025!

[Here is a special family greeting](#)

We've just wrapped up the first semester of the school year and are excited about what God has been doing, is doing, and will continue to do here in Kandern and around the world. Overall, life has been moving at its usual pace—busy, but in a good way. Nothing too extraordinary, which has actually been a blessing. As we approach mid-February, we feel like we're catching our breath before the rollercoaster ride of the next few months.



To start, we've been grateful for our little break from foster care these past months. We were able to enjoy a quiet Christmas as a family and get the recovery time we needed. Just a few weeks ago, the topic of foster care came up at the dinner table, and our kids shared that they are ready to welcome another baby into our home. This is an answer to prayer, as we've been waiting for the right moment when all of our children are prepared. Now, we wait for God's perfect timing, knowing it will be just right for us. We've been on the on-call list this whole time but haven't received a request to take a baby.

Our kids are doing well overall, experiencing the usual ups and downs. They each have their moments of tears, joy, laughter, and frustration. Every day, we pray for them, listen to their hearts, and are thankful for the amazing adults in their lives who speak love and truth into them.

Heather has stayed busy with various Bible studies and has been actively ministering to the women in our community. At the start of January, one of the older teachers at BFA had a serious fall. Heather has been one of the key people helping Elizabeth with doctor appointments, walking the dogs, delivering meals, and visiting her in the rehab center. She has also been mentoring a young, first year female teacher on a weekly basis.



I've been meeting with a group of dads on Fridays to pray for BFA, as well as connecting with other men throughout the week. It has been such an encouragement to link arms with these men and support each other in our walk with Jesus.

In our weekly Bible study, we welcomed a young man from Pakistan into our group. We met him at church one Sunday, and of course, Heather invited him over for lunch. His father is a pastor in Pakistan, and he's working in a nearby town.

Now, we'd appreciate your prayers for the upcoming events that are approaching. Here's a breakdown of what's coming up:

February 10-16: A busy week at BFA with several major events:

- Accreditation visit from ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) from February 10-13.
- Our basketball teams will be competing in the European championships from February 12-14.
- The BFA theater department will be performing the musical *Bright Star* from February 14-16.

February 21-23: High School Retreat. This retreat is a key event at BFA, and last year it was a turning point for Stanley spiritually. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of the students and for protection against any spiritual or physical attacks.

February 28 - March 2: Germany 3 Field Trip. Heather and I will be helping lead a trip to Weimar for the German 3 students. We're working with the German teacher at BFA and hoping the students will stay with families from EFG Weimar while visiting museums in our former hometown. Please pray for the students, the homestay families (we still need one more host family) and for the trip to be safe and successful.

February 25 - May 23: Track Season. The season is nearly here, and I'll be the head distance coach, which means an extra 20ish hours a week volunteering with the team. It's a great opportunity for discipleship, but it can be challenging for the family. Please pray for wisdom as a husband, father, and coach, that I can be intentional with my family and effective with the team.

March 19-24: International Music Festival. Holly will be traveling with a group of musicians from BFA to Budapest for a music festival. Please pray for safety, fun, and good experiences for the students.

March 21-28: Malta Trip. Stanley will be traveling to Malta for a BFA Service Project Trip. He will be helping with surveys for the church, working with the youth group, and participating in various activities. Please pray for preparation, effectiveness, and the hearts of all the students traveling for these service trips. This Malta trip is one of five Service Project Trips (SPT) that BFA organizes around the world. [If you would like to support him financially for this trip he would truly appreciate it.](#) He is still several hundred dollars short.



As you can see, the next few months will be quite busy for us. Thank you for your prayers and support. We deeply appreciate your partnership, and we know your prayers are vitally important to us. For those interested, we would like to start a WhatsApp prayer group. If you'd like to join, please email us your WhatsApp phone number, including the area code. Also, let us know how we can be praying for you.

Serving Him in Kandern, Germany at Black Forest Academy,
Scott for Heather, Stanley, Holly, Stuart, and Samuel

