

February 2014

FAITH IN FOCUS

Faith Stokes

Serving MKs at
Black Forest
Academy in
Kandern, Germany.



This is the
classroom I share
with another teacher
in the Social Studies
Department.

GETTING INTO THE SWING OF THINGS

Greetings from Kandern! I have now been in beautiful southwest Germany for almost six weeks. I arrived one day later than anticipated as my original flight out of Michigan was cancelled due to snow. However, the Lord graciously worked everything out to get me on flights just one day later. I certainly enjoyed having an extra night at home with all the packing already done. I left the cold and snow of Michigan behind and landed here on the 4th of January. Germany is certainly cold but we haven't had more than a light dusting of snow since I arrived. One of my fellow Social Studies teachers picked me up from the airport and welcomed me into the Black Forest Academy community. I had a few days to unpack and settle in before beginning preparations for my classes. The students returned the second week of January and finished out the last two

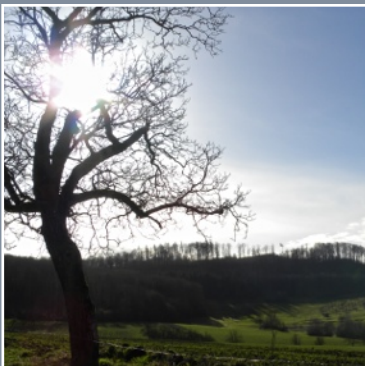
weeks of the first semester. During that time I was able to do some much needed planning for my classes and I even got to do some substituting for a teacher who had to be out of town unexpectedly for a week. I'm very thankful that the Lord gave me those weeks to settle in and get to know my fellow teachers. I began my regular teaching duties on the 27th of January. I am teaching Geography and Canadian History this semester. Both of my classes are quite small but that has provided good opportunities to get to know each of my students. I've especially enjoyed Canadian History as the class is all girls. Last Friday we took a short break from studying the early North American explorers to watch a little Canadian Olympic coverage. What did my Canadian girls want to see? Hockey, of course!



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KANDERN



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And outside the classroom...

In addition to keeping busy at school I am also getting used to life in the quaint town of Kandern. The Lord provided a great living situation for me this semester. My roommate, Erin, is from Washington and she's been a huge blessing as I settle in here. Unfortunately, this is her last semester at BFA so I will be looking for a new roommate for next fall.

Kandern is a very small little town and nearly everything is within walking distance of my little apartment. I have had a few adventures shopping at our tiny local grocery store with my German dictionary app open and ready on my phone as I wander through the aisles.

I have also been blessed with opportunities to get to know some of the students outside of school. As you may know many BFA students board here locally. Two of the dorms are just a few blocks away from my apartment. Last week I was invited to substitute for a dorm parent in the boys dorm for the evening meal. I thoroughly enjoyed getting a glimpse of dorm life and getting a better understanding of the important ministry of the Residence Advisors that serve alongside the dorm parents.

I thought I'd finish up this newsletter with a quick recap of some of my biggest praises and a few prayer requests from my first month here in Germany.

Praises!

- Safe travels to Germany with all my luggage present and accounted for.
- Helpful coworkers who have been a blessing as I am learning the school routine in the middle of the year.
- A great living situation with a roommate who has been very helpful as I get used to daily life in a new country.

Prayer Requests

- Energy and wisdom as I prepare for my classes.
- That the Lord would provide another great roommate for next fall.
- For an affordable used vehicle for me. I am thankful that I am able to walk to things here in town but I have realized that because Kandern is so small it would be very helpful to have a car to be able to get out to the surrounding towns.

Home Sweet Home...my apartment is half of the top floor of this house.

