



BODENSEEHOF
BIBELSCHULE & CHRISTLICHES JUGENDZENTRUM

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022



DEAR FRIENDS,



PETER & GABY REID

PETER REID

It was with great joy that we opened the doors of Bodenseehof to over 80 students last September. Praise God, we have not had one case of Covid among students or guests while they have been attending a program at Bodenseehof throughout 2021. Our students returned from their Christmas break on Jan. 8th, and we continue to trust Him for all we need. Please pray for wisdom as we seek to care for our students this term, it is not without its challenges.

We were able to have our annual New Year's Conference, for which the guests were very thankful. With other conference centers having to cancel, the

guests were very appreciative of the opportunity to listen to God's word through Reiner Wörz from Langensteinbacher Höhe and to enjoy fellowship with one another over the New Year. We are thankful for a group of former FSJler who volunteered to help us, when they could have been celebrating at home. It's a great sign when former staff return as volunteers and it is also a huge help to us as they already know the ropes!

Thank you for your support of and interest in the ministry of Bodenseehof. Enjoy the reports by the different staff members in this issue of our newsletter.

Warmly in Christ,

and the Bodenseehof-Team



THE PUPIL OF HIS EYE



PETER REID

“He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.”
(Deut. 32:10)

Personal crisis is a heavy burden to bear and when one bears it alone, without a hint of concern from others, the distress can be crushing. This is an affront on top of aff-

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER HAS GIVEN US A PICTURE OF HIS CARE, WHICH CAN BE UNIVERSALLY UNDERSTOOD: HE IS AS PROTECTIVE OF US AS WE ARE OF THE PUPIL OF OUR EYE.

liction and the desperate are sometimes even blamed for their own plight. It's easy for our reason to assume the greatness of God, but what troubles our hearts is the question of His personal concern. This undermining of our trust goes right back to Eden when Satan slandered the character of God, suggesting He doesn't have our best in mind. Hence, it is natural to distrust God. We sometimes echo the disciples cry in our own storms, **“Master, don't you care that**

we're drowning?” (Mk. 4:38) We bring our concerns in prayer but can simultaneously doubt His concern.

The pupil is one of the most sensitive points on our bodies. The smallest grain of sand, or particle of dust, can cause serious irritation and pain; hence we're careful to protect our pupil. Our heavenly Father has given us a picture of His care, which can be universally understood: He is as protective of us as we are of the pupil of our eye. We are His personal concern and even when no one else in the universe cares about us, the Maker of the universe does!

A walk in the woods is enough to remind our troubled hearts of this truth, **“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?... Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin...”** (Matt. 6:26,28)

Although we are taught to live by faith and not by sight, He appeals to our sight to encourage our faith! He takes pains to assure our hearts of His care and inclines His ear to our voice. **You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon Him, for you are His personal concern. 1 Peter 5:7 (Philipps)** Prayer throws a sack of worries at God's feet and faith leaves it there.

BIBLE SCHOOL 2021-22

STEVE VOLLE

Our year verse this year comes from 2 Peter 1:2-4, which says:

“May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

As I reflect on the time we’ve had together this Bible school year, it seems to me that our experience has reflected several elements of that passage: together, we have been growing in the knowledge of Christ and have been (re-)examining his precious and very great promises. We’ve experienced much supernatural grace and peace, even in a stress filled, uncertain season. And we are growing in our understanding of what it means to have been granted “all things that pertain to life and godliness.”

It’s been an adventure, but a good one.

After the last two years, the very fact that we can write a Bible school report about a (mostly) normally running Bible school is a tremendous gift and blessing. We experienced the provision of God last year with our partly online, partly in person, very small school and we discovered that the Lord had something for us even in the middle of those circumstances. Last year’s students, who eventually became our neighbors, will always hold a special place in our hearts.



At the same time, I wasn’t sure exactly what would happen as our starting date approached this Fall. We were able to have a full summer program, but things were tightening up as that season drew to a close. And yet, we miraculously welcomed a full complement of international students here in September.

We’ve had to work with masks, generate all kinds of documents to keep up with the ever-changing health laws, and even had to change various elements of our program... But! It’s been working beautifully.

We are so thankful that we’ve been able to do many of the things that we usually do during Bible school, albeit a little differently. Some of the changes we’ve had to make have actually been a significant improvement on “normal” life! It fascinates me that in many times of crisis or

challenge, the Lord leads us to creative solutions that actually contribute to improving our program.

The students this year have been open, hungry, and delightful. The first term was a tremendous blessing for our students and by the grace of God, we did not have one case of COVID-19 among them. We look forward to see what the remaining time is going to bring, and we are praying that we can do some of the outreaches / activities that we had to cancel or do in a different format during 1st semester. As we live out our Christ-centered-counter-cultural-community experiment, we continue to pray for safety, growth, and new depths of experience in what is described in our year verse. Thank you so much for praying for us – it brings so much joy to be doing what we were created to do!

STUDENT TESTIMONY

HANNAH LENUIK

When I walked into Bodenseehof, I had expectations of what this time would be. Specifically, the gifts I thought God would strengthen me in. Over these past three months, God has shown me to let go of these expectations and trust Him instead. Looking back, I see His expectations of this time were bigger than mine. I had assumed that what God had for me was not even close to the magnitude of blessing He wanted to pour out on me. This was revealed to me in a conversation with one of the staff. At that time, I was worried about where God was leading me, wondering if I was somehow missing Him.

working. During this conversation, the topic of expectations came up. I walked away with the feeling that God was directing me to lay down my own expectations, which were primarily in worship. From then on, I could see God was gently putting His hands over mine and showing me, I could put down this box I had made for God and hold on to His hands instead. Later that week in my daily devotions, I read Jeremiah 2. In this chapter, God was using Jeremiah to explain to the people of Judah their sins. He explains in verse 17 that "...you have brought this upon yourselves by rebelling against the Lord your God, even though he was leading you on the way" (Jeremiah 2:17). The people of Judah had abandoned God by not only making idols for themselves but also by trusting their own way. Similarly, I had trusted my own hands and the plans I had for God more than God Himself. In this verse I realized that God was still leading me and it wasn't Him who had left me, but rather, I had started to follow what I anticipated from God, limiting God to what I thought He could do. In this moment God brought me to face him, giving me a picture of His hands being bigger than mine. So instead of trusting what I think God can do I'm learning to trust Him without those limitations.

I cannot appreciate all He is doing or take hold of the gifting He gives if I restrict Him to fit my expectations. For He is over everything, beyond all things and loves me far more than I could ever anticipate. I've learned over this time to lay down my expectations, to hold His hands and be led into His plans.



In hindsight, I can see I had created a box for God to fit in and because He wasn't fitting into it, I questioned if He really was

more than I could ever anticipate. I've learned over this time to lay down my expectations, to hold His hands and be led into His plans.

PARTICIPATING IN LOCAL CHURCHES

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TABEA MESSNER, KATHARINA &  
KILIAN MÜLLER

One pillar of our work is to support Christian communities in Germany and we are very happy about all the opportunities we have had throughout Germany in recent years. At the same time, however, it is also important to us to be present here in Fischbach and Friedrichshafen and to provide support to local churches.

In recent years, we have been able to participate in the children's and youth work of the Protestant church in Manzell. Three years ago, a small-scale kids club for children from preschool age upward started there. This group has grown so much that it could be split into two groups in 2019. Unfortunately, the lockdown did not leave this group untouched, as no program could take place for months. Nevertheless, we were able to start again on a small scale in the Fall of 2021 with one kids club group for preschoolers and elementary school students and one group for children from 4th grade and older.

We are also very happy that since June 2021 there has been a youth group which meets every two weeks in Manzell. A small but consistent group meets regularly to get to know Jesus better. The young people are very interested and enjoy being there.

During the Advent season, we also had the opportunity to provide music for local services in the Protestant and Catholic churches in Manzell. Again and again we experience that the mere presence of our international students alone is very much appreciated and a joy to those present.

Furthermore, we were very much looking forward to an evangelistic week in cooperation with the EJW (a youth organization) and other local churches. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, this could not take place at the beginning of December. We hope that this will be possible in the Spring of 2022 and are grateful for your support in prayer.

# BIBLECAMP PLANS FOR 2022

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CHRISTOPH HILS

We want to take up the overall positive feedback we received from the Biblecamp in Tanzania in August 2021 and respond with another iteration. We have seen and experienced how our faithful Lord has prepared, provided and granted success. Trusting in God's guidance and provision, we want to continue moving forward, so that this year, a new group of participants will get to know the richness of God's Word and His love a step further.



FAMILY NEWS I

RUTH & KAI MÖWERT

On October 25th, 2021 we welcomed Liyah Anna as a new family member - praise the Lord!

The meaning of her name is both our wish for Liyah and our testimony: Liyah, Arabic "miracle/light"; Hebrew "my God is Yahweh"; Anna means "God is gracious". After a difficult pregnancy full of valleys and questions, we praise Jesus for His goodness and help. Liyah is a miracle for us; a gift of grace from God.

Greetings from Kai and Ruth with Zoey, Matteo and Liyah.



FAMILY NEWS II

SALOME & THOMAS GÜNTHER

We are incredibly grateful to Jesus for our little Josia. He was born on November 20th, 2021, weighing 3260g (7 lb, 2.99 oz) and 51cm tall (20 inches). Thank you for all the prayers!

Salome & Thomas with Noemi and Josia



OUTREACHES

- 06 – 11-02-2022** **Teenweek, Mecklenburg**
Kilian Müller, Tabea Messner & team
- 12 – 16-02-2022** **Church Outreach, Neubrandenburg**
Kilian Müller, Tabea Messner & team
- 13-02-2022** **Preaching Engagement, Spielberg/Egenhausen**
Thomas Günter
- 15 – 20-02-2022** **Bible Teaching, Geroldgrün**
Peter Reid
- 24 – 27-02-2022** **Church Outreach, Neuenmarkt**
Thomas Günter & team
- 25-02 – 02-03-2022** **English-Camp, Frießheim**
Kilian Müller & team
- 10 - 13-03-2022** **Church Outreach, Betzenstein**
Andy MacDonald & team
- 16 - 20-03-2022** **Bible Teaching, Spalt**
Peter Reid
- 18 – 20-03-2022** **Church Outreach, Schwarzenbach**
Thomas Günter & team
- 18 – 20-03-2022** **Church Outreach, Rentweinsdorf**
Kilian Müller & team

Subject to change.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
RECEIVE FUTURE NEWS-
LETTERS BY EMAIL PLEASE
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US!

Contact: Jonas Wolf
jonas@bodenseehof.de

THIS YEAR'S FRIENDSDAY AT BODENSEEHOF

... will happen online again on March 26, 2022.
 We'll start at 10 am on **community.bodenseehof.de**.
 Further information (in German) is available there as well.

Online Giving:

<http://www.torchbearers.org/donate/ministry>
 (select „Germany – Bodenseehof“)

Giving by Mail:

Checks payable to:
 Torchbearers USA
 PO Box 280727, Lakewood, CO 80228-0727 USA

Write in memo line the project you would like to support:

Bodenseehof General

Bodenseehof Building Project

Bodenseehof Student Funds (students who cannot finance Bible school)

Missions (Bodenseehof mission projects)

Please do not forget to leave us your address so that we can issue a donation receipt.

***General Donation :** Donations for general purposes (renovations, cars, ...)
 IBAN: DE35 6905 0001 0020 1189 49

*Student Funds:

Donations for foreign students who are not able to finance Bible School.
 IBAN: DE67 6905 0001 0020 1253 57

*Torchbearers India:

Donations for supporting the work of Satish John in India.
 IBAN: DE75 6905 0001 0023 5372 85

*Missions:

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