



# NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

## DEAR FRIENDS,

As I write this, I am sitting on a plane in San Antonio waiting to take off to Denver and then on to Vancouver. Gaby and I are travelling in North America for a month. I say this because it is the team at Bodenseehof who carries the load in our absence for which we are so thankful.

We are better together. I am reminded that Colossians 1:27, "Christ in you the hope of glory" is written in the plural form. Christ is too big for one life, and He needs many lives through which to reveal Himself and do His work in this world. We will soon be welcoming many young people to Bodenseehof who will take part in our conferences for confirmation kids. This is a wide-open door to share the gospel and we can pray in particular for the kids, pastors and our staff (Andy, Kilian, Thomas and our team of students) who will be hosting them. This is a very busy time, but very important in the lives of

these young people. Please keep them in your prayers. We are also excited to welcome two new staff members in our housekeeping and kitchen teams. Praise the Lord for His provision! As mentioned above, we are better together.

Thank you for your support and interest in the Lord's work at Bodenseehof. We greet you in the love of Christ and look forward to seeing some of you in the coming months.

On behalf of the whole team,

*Mat + Gaby*



PETER &  
GABY REID

## A NEW DAY

PETER REID

**"The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)**

Time is the best means by which eternity is appreciated. Time is measured by change, whereby eternity is changeless and cannot be measured. All that happens in our time-material world is temporary and measurements of time help us realize this. Our heavenly Father has created a framework for our lives which is a great, but often overlooked, blessing; **"And there was evening and there was morning, one day."**

Endless work, endless burdens, and endless consciousness of sin would be a horrible, unbearable burden to bear. Without morning and evening, we would be crushed under the constant pressure of corruption and imperfection. When the end of the day arrives, not only does the sun set, but things

which we bear during the day come to an end: our work, our activities and our burdens. Then comes the night when we are allowed a time of rest from all that happened during the day. But there are some who take the cares of the day into the night; rest does not come and they are conscious of the burdens of the previous day... all night. It is just these ones who need the blessing of a new day.

The wording of scripture is so extreme because God's sufficiency is so complete. The words, "Never" and "Every" are words fit for eternity and God's character. Our days have beginnings and endings, but His care does not. His love never ceases, His compassion never fails and His faithfulness never comes to an end; indeed they CANNOT end. For those bearing a great burden, it is of infinite value to know that there will be an end to the burden and a new supply of God's care in the morning. **"Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning."** (Psalm 30:5) For God's own, a morning is coming which will usher in an eternal, new day.

"Hearts on earth may say in the course of a joyful experience, 'I don't want this to end.' But invariably it does. The hearts of those in heaven say, 'I want this to go on forever.' And it will. There is no better news than this." J.I. Packer

# MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

WALDEMAR SCHMOLLA

By God's grace and help, we were once again allowed to carry out minor renovations in 2022.

Through Jesus' faithfulness and care, the necessary funds were available. In addition, the Lord gave us success and great cooperation with the companies involved.

One of these measures was the replacement of the carpet in the dining and lecture hall. Christoph Hils was able to remove the old flooring and do some sanding work with our FSJs and some student volunteers. Thus, it was possible to save some of the estimated costs through our own efforts. Through good planning

and preparatory work, this action could be completed in only one week, despite the narrow time window before Christmas.

The second project we undertook was in the dorm bathrooms. In the 3-person showers, the tile joints had been deteriorating. To prevent moisture from penetrating the walls, urgent action was required. A quick and good solution for this was to glue thin plastic sheets onto the existing tile surface. This method has already proved successful in the Bodenseehof kitchen. The seamless surface has also made cleaning much easier. We carried out this work on the

ground floor and 2nd floor in the week before Christmas, and in January and February, we completed this work in the basement and 1st floor.

Thus our faithful Lord Jesus provides daily, in large and small things, glory be to Him and to our Father in heaven for all of this!



## STUDENT TESTIMONY

MERNA MOSAAD

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Kilian Müller and Tabea Messner took a team on outreach to Neubrandenburg in northeastern Germany. This is now the fourth time Bodenseehof has partnered with a Brandenburg ministry called "Oasis" to organize youth day camps in the midst of a large apartment-block neighborhood. Merna, a student from Egypt, was part of this team and shares:

Imagine this scene: a place full of darkness, hurt, wandering, hopelessness, pain, and souls crying out for help. This was what I felt emanated from the youth and neighborhood we visited in Neubrandenburg. As soon as we arrived to lead day camps for the youth, I had the expectation that only a few kids would come, or maybe no one at all. But God had other plans.

During the first day, we walked around the youth center talking with each other and

having fun. To my surprise, the kids seemed to think we were cool and this encouraged them to come to the youth days. I had prayed for the youth, but I had especially asked God to bring someone across my path who spoke Arabic, my mother tongue, so that I might be able to share the life of Jesus with them in our heart language. This didn't seem likely in this neighborhood.

But on the second day of the camp, I walked a teenager. Within a minute of conversation, I came to discover that he was an Arab Muslim! I was thrilled, but also nervous, as I didn't want him to no longer listen or refuse to come back if I started to talk about Jesus. But God's Spirit gave me the boldness and words to share. To my great surprise, he didn't disengage, but instead asked who Jesus is and how he could talk with Jesus! This boy did not surrender his life to Jesus in this moment but we did pray together. He heard the Good News of Jesus

and I pray that this seed might come to bear fruit in both his own and others' lives.

During this week, our team had the tremendous joy of welcoming one of the other youth into God's family! God is most certainly at work. He keeps taking care of His children, shows up in the darkest places and reveals that His power is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9). Please pray that the Oasis staff would be strengthened and unified as they continue to proclaim the excellencies of Christ, that those who've surrendered to Jesus would persevere, and finally that those who have yet to know His hope would be drawn near.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone" (Isaiah 9:2).



# BIBLE SCHOOL 2022-23

STEVE VOLLE

Early this year, one of our students informed me about why he decided to come to Bible school. He told me that he wouldn't normally want to come to a place like this, but explained that there was someone from his hometown who had come to Bodensee Hof a few years ago.

He said, "Steve, this is what I know: when this guy left for Bodensee Hof, he didn't seem to care about me at all, but when he came back, he genuinely loved me. Something happened at Bodensee Hof and that's why I decided I wanted to come."

I was encouraged because that's what I want for all of us – that we would have ever deepening encounters with Jesus that increasingly transform our lives and expand our love for others.

As the year progressed, the time with the students went well and they were incredibly open to learn, grow, and take steps forward—as well as to serve. The main word that comes to mind to describe the situation here is "ripe." Although many things we face are not easy, there still is a great readiness to respond to Jesus and His way, His kingdom, LIFE and all the hope He brings. Both with the students and on outreach, it feels like every time we host, pray, serve, teach, preach, counsel...people are eager and hungry to grow, move forward, and take steps of faith. At the same time—both among our students and the others we work with – we are encountering more and more people who are

affected by serious trauma of various sorts. In some cases, the pain of their situation has been exacerbated by people in the past who misapplied "Bible ideas" in some very complex and sensitive matters. As important as prayer and Bible reading may be, they certainly are not magical spiritual fairy dust; you can't simply wish yourself out of trauma with some



Bible verses and your pre-frontal cortex.

We are learning and growing as we walk with our students and guests in engaging with some of these situations. In the process, we are seeing Jesus bring freedom in people's lives in ways which seemed impossible. In fact, the phrase "I'm free!!" encapsulates what we've heard over and over again in the last couple of years as people express their exuberance – having experienced freedom from bitterness, addiction, sin, anxiety or depression.

This is one of the great joys of the work here: seeing people meet God and walk in new freedom, hope and life in Christ.

Actually, that's what our year verse is about – God doing the seemingly impossibly good. It comes from Ephesians 3:20-21. "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

As is often the case, the content of this verse and its context have been the theme of much of what we've been experientially learning this year.

One situation after another has led us to think: Wow! God is able to do more than we can imagine! And the incredible power to do this is already available and at work within us by His Spirit.

We – (US! NOW!) can actually experience by faith the "life-to-the-fullest" promised in Christ.

As we walk in this, we discover that the love of Christ way surpasses everything we could ever comprehend...and the testimony demonstrates how wonderful Jesus is.

One of the fruits of this? People who didn't care – now love.

## WELCOME SMT

CAMERON TATE

We are so grateful to have our Summer Missions Term (SMT) students serving alongside us once again. This year, we have 8 students from 5 different countries including Germany, Albania, the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom and Belgium. They have selected a team name, SIADANT from Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I Am Doing A New Thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." It's no doubt going to be a learning experience for all involved to have so many different cultures working in such an intensive program, but we are looking forward to what amazing, new things God will do in and through this unique combination of gifted people.



## FAMILY NEWS I

MIMI & ANDREAS RIEHL



Welcome, little Noa!

We're very excited to introduce our daughter Noa. She was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. Noa and momma are both doing well. Our family is looking forward to getting to know one another as we explore the world together. We're so thankful for our joyful daughter! Thank you for your prayers!

Greetings from Mimi, Andreas and Noa



## FAMILY NEWS II

CONSTANCE  
MATTIX

We are getting married! We are looking forward to this new chapter of both our lives as I get ready to leave Bodenseehof and move to Austria in June. I will start work at a youth hotel in July and will be helping Mathias on his small farm at home. In the fall, we plan to start a farming apprenticeship course and are looking forward to doing that together. As sad as it is to leave my home here at Bodenseehof, I am full of joy knowing that the Lord is with me and will continue to use us both faithfully. Thank you for your prayers!

## REUNION WEEK 2024

We're inviting all former students back to Bode (July 1-7, 2024)! We want to gather for a time of remembering, reflecting, refreshment and rejoicing – back at the very place where you and so many others encountered Jesus.

Find out more under [www.bodenseehof.de](http://www.bodenseehof.de)!



## OUTREACHES

21-05-2023	<b>Bible Teaching, Balingen-Weilstetten</b> <i>Andy MacDonald</i>
26 – 29-05-2023	<b>Pentecost Conference, Bobengrün</b> <i>Peter Reid &amp; Steve Volle</i>
16 – 20-05-2022	<b>Bible Teaching, Triefenstein</b> <i>Peter &amp; Gaby Reid</i>
07 – 11-06-2022	<b>Bible Teaching, Freie Christen Bissingen</b> <i>Peter Reid</i>
18-06-2023	<b>Bible Teaching, Rommelshausen</b> <i>Andy MacDonald</i>
18-06-2023	<b>Bible Teaching, Lebenswert</b> <i>Steve Volle</i>
25-06-2023	<b>Bible Teaching, Owingen</b> <i>Thomas Günter</i>
02-07-2023	<b>Bible Teaching, Friedrichshafen UEG</b> <i>Steve Volle</i>

Subject to change.

### Online Giving:

[www.torchbearers.org/give](http://www.torchbearers.org/give)  
(select „Centers“, then „Germany – Bodenseehof“)

### Giving by Mail:

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

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

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**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, ...)

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