



Musick Notes

December 2008
December's Daunting Decisions

Issue at a glance:

- Student teaching in Belgium January 2009 – March 2009
 - Possibly teaching at Black Forest Academy in Germany in the fall of 2009
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Hi friends,

I'm at a transition time in my life, and I want you to be involved in what is going on. I am a music education major at Wheaton College, and will graduate in May 2009. I need your prayer support as I make some upcoming decisions. Allow me to catch you up on my life thus far.

You may remember hearing about my mission trips to the Czech Republic in 2005 and 2006. These trips gave me a chance to interact with Czech high school students as I taught English lessons in a camp setting. Many of you prayed for me and supported me through my trips, and for that I am deeply grateful. While on the trips, my team members told me I related well to the Czech students. Some of the Czech students themselves said that I was "like Czech."



(Above) My English class in 2005

Student Teaching: The connection

After this experience, I began to wonder if God was calling me to go overseas. I tucked that idea away in the back of my mind and focused on schoolwork. Sophomore year, I heard about an opportunity to student teach overseas. I applied and was accepted to the program. Though I hoped to find a placement in the Czech Republic, there was not an available school that would take a student teacher. Eventually, a placement became available at the International School of Brussels in Belgium.

At the end of this month, I will be leaving to do my student teaching. Lord willing, from January until April, I will be working with the middle and high school orchestras at the International School of Brussels. In April, I will be back on campus to finish up a couple classes, and then graduate in May.

Black Forest: An opening

Many people ask me if I have plans for next year, and I usually just reply that I will see what jobs open up. Recently, however, I found out about a job at the Black Forest Academy in Germany that

is “opening up.” A representative from Black Forest came to Wheaton. By “random” chance, I met the representative and learned that BFA needs a violin teacher for next year. They sent me an application within a few weeks. I was hesitant to apply at first for many reasons, including the fact that I would like to teach orchestra, not just private violin lessons. Well, it turns out that Black Forest is adding an orchestra program next year, and they need someone to direct it the year after that! The timing just seemed too coincidental for this to be something random. I am not sure what exactly this means yet, but right now it seems that God may be calling me to teach in the Black Forest Academy. I mailed my application in on Thanksgiving.

Support

Going to teach at BFA would be a big step of faith, as teachers at the school go as missionaries and raise support rather than getting a salary from the school. This seems to be a rather daunting task for me, as I will be in Belgium with other things on my mind. As I contemplated making this decision, I came to realize that it is not so much a “decision” that I have to make based on whether or not I think I can raise enough money by the fall of 2009. Rather, if God wants me to go, He will bring in the support. The only “decision” is determining whether it is God’s will for me to go, and trusting His decision to be right. I would appreciate all of your prayers with regards to this matter.

As part of the staff application process, I also need to apply to a mission board to help me through the process. Again, God blessed me with yet another

“coincidence.” My uncle is the Africa director for World Venture, a mission board whose cabinet also includes a person who serves on the school board at Black Forest.

World Venture supports missionaries with the cooperation of their home church. In dialoguing with a mission coach from World Venture, I learned that many missionary schools are far behind American public schools in terms of quality and updated materials. It is exciting to me that BFA is going to offer an orchestra program. The school will be able to offer missionary kids many opportunities that missionaries previously had to sacrifice.

What now, you may ask? I will officially apply to World Venture, finish my last full semester on Wheaton’s campus, visit BFA on my way to Brussels, and interview at BFA once my references are secured through World Venture.

To reiterate, I ask that you pray for the following:

- Safe travel to Belgium
- A slightly complicated situation needs to be worked out with regards to staying in Belgium 90 days or fewer.
- Determining whether or not God wants me to go teach at Black Forest Academy
- Faith to go if He does call me there

Thank you for your prayers, and I would love to hear some updates from old friends. Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year!

~Jill Musick