



Musick Notes

February 2010
Out of Darkness

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My beloved family and friends,

Thank you for reading these updates and being a part of what God is doing in Germany. For more stories from the month: <http://musickfamily.net/jill/blog/>.

Clouds

February has been a difficult month, a month of much darkness. There seemed to be no end to the cloudy days. It rained and snowed, but the sun rarely shone through the clouds.

The darkness at BFA was not only due to literal cloud cover. There was some hidden darkness that was revealed this month.

Masks

“Nothing that is covered up will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known” (Luke 12:2).

“BFA is going through a difficult time. There has been an incident involving a male student who was physically involved with several female students. He is no longer at BFA.

This is a difficult time for all – students and staff alike. Please pray for our administration, faculty, residence and counseling staff, and students as we work

through this issue.”

Tim Shuman, Director, Black Forest Academy. 10 February 2010.

The clouds of confusion, hurt, and anger gave BFA the most gloomy atmosphere I have ever felt. The student involved had been wearing a mask of light to cover up his deeds of darkness. As his mask was taken away, the entire school reeled in shock at the horror revealed. Sin is ugly. Secret sins resulted in the pain of a community.

Brokenness

These dark days of February are here for a purpose; God does not abandon us to despair. In the darkness, we see His light shining more clearly. I was reminded of this in our Candlelight Dinner program this weekend.

Candlelight Dinner is an outreach to the German community. We present the Gospel through testimonies, music, and dance. The theme of the production this year: “Brokenness to Beauty.”

There were amazing testimonies of how God turned broken, dark situations into glimpses of heavenly beauty. There was an artist who gave up painting until she realized that God had put artistic ability in her; she just had to die to herself to start using it for God's

glory. There was the man whose son was born with a severe genetic defect; the son lived a short life, yet within that short time came to know God. He experienced the pain of loss, yet the hope of knowing his son was safe at home in his Father's arms. There was also the woman who told the story of her time of deep depression to the point of suicide; God used her darkest moments to show her that she needed God.

All these people took off their masks and revealed their struggles and times of brokenness. God used every single instance of brokenness to reveal His beauty.

Sunshine, Revealed Beauty

Just like a potter working on his clay, God is working to strengthen and heal the students of BFA. They have had time to process their grief and pain; they are on the emotional upswing.

The days have been dreary and wet, yet the sunshine is coming out at last. Just when I had forgotten what a sunny day felt like, God gave us a week of sunshine.



The first beautiful day came during the last week of February.

I appreciated the sun so much more because of the extended period of cloudiness. God may be bringing BFA through a time of darkness so that we are forced to turn to

Him for any hope of light. As we turn to Him, "we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18). We can no longer look to any false images of hope; we must fix our eyes on the one true God, and He shapes us from our brokenness into a beautiful, glorious creation.

What's Up Ahead

March 3-8 – ACSI Honor Strings in Budapest

March 13 - Schliengen Band concert

March 15-19 – Music Festival

March 25-April 11 – Spring break, Teaching & Mission Conferences

I ask that you pray for the following:

- **Praise** God for the sunshine that comes after storms
- **Praise** God for His healing power
- **Pray** that those who heard the Gospel at Candlelight Dinner would be transformed
- **Pray** that my trip to Budapest this week would go well and be a good experience for the students there
- **Pray** that God would give me wisdom in planning all the activities of the semester, especially an orchestra field trip to Berlin

God bless you all!

~Jill Musick

