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A new semester

There is great continuity between last semester and this semester. I'm thankful that some things can stay the same!

High School Orchestra: I have 5 students in this group: 3 violinists and 2 cellists. They blend well together. It is a good group for working on chamber music.

Intermediate Orchestra: They continue to improve and grow as a group. Now there are 10 students involved!

Private Lessons: We have Music Festival coming up in March, so all the students are doing a 45 Day Practice Challenge. The goal: practice 45 days before Festival.

Guitar Class: There are 9 new students in class this semester. I have the chance to refine the units I taught last semester with this new group.

Beginning Band: This duo is having fun learning about slurs ("slurp!") and new rhythmic patterns.

ACSI Honor Choir: In March I will be traveling to Vienna with Marit Swanson and 6 choir students to chaperone this audition-only event. Until then, I work with the tenor and bass students on learning their music.

Community Band: After seeing our Christmas concert, a senior flute student at BFA asked if he could join Stadtmusik Kandern. It is a good opportunity for him to play in the group, and I get to translate for him! I have also spent some time hanging out with a couple members of band, building those relationships.



WORLDVENTURE

Currently Reading:

- *The Courage to Teach* by Parker J. Palmer
- *Lord, I want to Know You* by Kay Arthur
- *Beowulf*
- *Cinderella* (German version)
- The Bible

Home for Christmas

My whirlwind trip home was an encouraging time with family and friends. It was great to be home to celebrate those little moments of togetherness, moments I miss being so far from my family. Somehow I also managed to catch up with friends from high school, youth group, church, college, and even BFA staff!



Currently Playing:

Violin Works:

- *The Lark Ascending* by R. Vaughan Williams
- *G Major Sonata* by L. van Beethoven
- *B minor Partita* by J.S. Bach
- *Caprice Nos. 13, 14, 21* by N. Paganini

One more year: More support needed

Last month I mentioned that I will be returning to BFA yet again, extending my 2 year term to a total of 4 years. My extension has been approved, but for various reasons I need to increase my monthly support level by about \$250.

Would you be willing to commit to monthly support? I would love to talk with you if you have more specific questions about needs. You can sign up to donate online at:
<https://worldventure.com/donate>

Prayer Corner

Please pray for....

- Support for next year
- Joy and strength during the cold winter months
- Energy and rest for all the activities in March
- Wisdom as I lead devotions for HS Orchestra

Praises:

- A restful Christmas break at home
- A great start to the new semester
- Fun learning opportunities for students
- An excellent adjudicator secured for Music Festival

What's Up Ahead

- Feb. 21-24 – Guest string teachers give input and observe at BFA
- Feb. 29 – Guitar Class plays at the nursing home
- March 2-4 – HS Retreat (I go as a counselor)
- March 11 – Music Recital
- March 15-18 – ACSI Honor Choir trip to Vienna
- March 19-22 – Music Festival
- March 30-Apr 15 – Spring Break
- April 21 – Staff Music Recital