

# A Summer of Empty Schedules & Full Days

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Hi!

Happy October 1st! My first Summer in Germany was a blend of empty schedules and full days. The country slowed down as people spent lots of time outside and my language class took a pause, leaving me with extra time to explore the area, continue building friendships here, and wrap up my apartment hunt.

## My Home

Possibly the most exciting update I have is that I found an apartment to call home!! It was such an interesting journey, and while I did not end up where I thought, no surprise to me, God had a much better plan and place for me than I could have imagined.

I had limited my search the last several months to the neighborhood where my church is, so when a colleague in a different part of the city mentioned their neighbor was moving out I didn't leave room for much hope. However, knowing I had told the Lord I would open any door he placed in front of me, I scheduled a time to see the place anyway. Stepping into this apartment, I immediately felt at home. The building itself has some uniqueness, being several

hundred years old (with the necessary updates), it is next door to a family I have adopted as my own, and the landlady skipped all the formality that is typical of a landlord/tenant relationship and hugged me, offering me the place on the spot if I wanted it.

I have now had a little time to settle in and am every day more grateful to be where I am. I have gotten to practice my German with my landlady and neighbors who don't speak much English, trade drawings back and forth in the mailboxes with my 6-year-old neighbor Kat, and have even had an opportunity to host a friend who needed a space to stay for a week. I know a big part of God placing me where I am is to bless others with the space as well, and I look forward to hosting dinners, Bible studies, and overnight guests as I get the chance.





## Language Acquisition

My class started up again at the beginning of September, and I was encouraged to find out I had not lost as much language as I had thought! As the Fall starts up, my language helper is back from her holidays and is eager for more coffee and cake together as we practice conversation. Having neighbors who speak German has encouraged me to practice talking with them, despite how broken my sentences are and how silly I might sound. Over the Summer, a colleague and I started a biweekly Disney auf Deutsch night where we have dinner together and watch some of our childhood favorites in German. It's an evening that always produces a lot of laughs, and we have enjoyed inviting others to join us! I love finding second-hand stores and just yesterday popped into one and happened to find my favorite Bible story book from when I was a kid—in German!! This was such a fun find, and I was excited to bring it home to practice with and get to read with kids who visit me.



*The first “Disney auf Deutsch” night we had a snack board and watched the Lion King. This has become one of my favorite regular activities!*



*I got to attend the presentation my language helper gave for her doctorate degree (I am not a sciency person and didn't understand one bit of it, but in short it was on bumble bees 🐝) I was so happy to get to support her!*

## My Work & Visa

These two have been more tied together than I would have thought. I helped coordinate a missions leader conference that took place in the UK a couple of weeks ago. This was intended to be one of my first big steps into my role, but a delay in getting my physical visa prevented me from attending. I was approved for a 4-year visa in May and was told it would take up to 12 weeks to get the physical card that would allow me to travel outside of the country. Unfortunately, we are now well outside that window, and I have still been unable to get an

update on the process. I continue to pray that it comes soon and doesn't interfere too much more with my job.

Other than the inability to travel, I have loved taking on more responsibilities in my job and working with my organization's missionary leaders all over Europe!

## **My Church**

I have stayed at my house church despite the 40-minute commute on Sundays, but am keeping an open heart for if God may have placed me in my new home for another church community that is in this neighborhood. My house church was encouraged that God answered our prayers and provided me a home, and despite the further distance than anticipated, they are patiently waiting for me to find enough chairs to have them over for the occasional church at my place!

When my house church spent the day with others in the area this Summer, we were able to celebrate 4 baptisms! These never fail to bring me to tears, and I was so encouraged by the testimonies they all shared.





## My Health

I am so grateful for how the Lord has looked over my physical health since being here. I have had a few sick days and minimal pain caused by my endometriosis.

I met with a psychiatrist here to continue the support I had from my doctors in the US, and we discovered a change was necessary due to one of my medications not being available here. While this was a difficult transition to make and I experienced more significant mental lows over July and August, ultimately, I think this was a change that is much better for me in the long run. I have been feeling great this last month and much more capable of taking on the stressors that come with adjusting to a new job/language/country. I am thankful for the support I have found with my new friends here, who were so encouraging this Summer.

I am also grateful for the conversations this low season produced. **I have often felt like one of my biggest opportunities to talk about Jesus with non-believers is through conversations around mental health.** This season was no exception. I had one friend in particular that I felt God was using my experience as a witness for her. We talked about God and faith while I sank into my low season, during, and as I got better. I shared with her how, despite where my mental state was, I knew God was with me.

## Some of My Favorite Summer Moments



*Playing in the courtyard with my neighbor, Kat, and her sister Verena*



*Picking apples at some public trees near my new home*



*Hosting my friend for a few days when she needed a place to stay —>*



*Making dinner with the friend I hosted :)*



*Having Kaffee & Kuchen (coffee & cake) with friends to celebrate one of their birthdays!*



*Spontaneously met the Earwoods from BCF for dinner in a neighboring city as they made their way through Germany!*





*Made 6 new friends at a retreat in the  
Black Forest for first-term missionaries*



*Bringing new plant babies home 🌿*

## Prayer Requests

Thank you so much for your prayers. I feel them and they are so appreciated. Over the next couple of weeks, here are my biggest praises and prayer requests:

- **Prayer:** I am still waiting for my physical visa to be ready, which will allow me to travel outside the country. Please pray it comes soon.
- **Praise:** God has blessed me with abundance in giving me the home I am now in.  
Thank you Lord for this blessing after a season of waiting.

Thank you for your continued support! If there are any ways I can encourage you, pray for you, or any questions you have for me, please don't hesitate to reach out. As you support me, I hope to be a support for you.

Till next time, *tchüss!*

*Emily Anderson*



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