



May/June 2022

MORE!  
THERE IS... 

## *Joy and Sorrow Together and Alone*

The last few months have given us the opportunity to experience great joy, beauty, happiness, sorrow, grief and loss. Sometimes these emotions happened all at the same time or on the same day which are real and appropriate. Some of these happened very close to each other and it felt a little strange being able to go from one emotion to the other, yet it is possible and sometimes freeing. Is this what Jesus encountered as he walked on this earth? Sharing in joy and grief with His disciples and stepping away to be alone with His father?

We invite you to reflect back with us on our journey in the last few months as we served :

- A dear friend passing away and grieving the loss of her presence.
- Easter brunch was full of laughter and gratitude of Christ's love for us.
- Getting sick, feeling helpless and stuck.
- We hosted Emily's bridal shower in April. It was a joy to gather and bless her.
- The Women's retreat was filled with beautiful memories, joy and tears as our hearts were comforted.
- Sending Megan off to America with hopes and sadness as we miss her.
- A special weekend with a friend sharing life, love and ministry.
- Saying goodbye to friends we have journeyed with for 6 years looking forward with joy for a new season.
- Men around a fire, eating, laughing and praying for each other.

- The joy of celebrating birthdays of those we love and are growing to love.
- Sadness over birthdays and family gatherings we have not attended in the USA.
- Being confronted with the war in Ukraine on the news and then seeing refugees at the grocery store, on the playground and about town. Feeling at a loss of what to feel, say or do at times. They seem content, safe and are sharing their journey with one another. We have about 100 Ukrainian refugees in our town as they filter through and either move to another location or a more permanent home. Some go back as they are from an area that is not being attacked and they want to go home. We have several organizations and churches that are hosting weekly activities for the women and children. There are 350,000 refugees being housed and provided for here in Germany and 70,000 Ukrainian students in our schools. As we pass each other we smile, greet each other and in our hearts we pray for each one of them.
- Reading about a school shooting in Texas and grieving with the families and the community while trying to navigate how to pray and hold this in our hearts.
- The joy of watching our young women grow into mature leaders, wives and mothers.

Some days were harder and a numbness wanted to protect us but in community we get to share our despair and loss as well as joy. In solitude we rested in His presence and lifted our hearts to Him, who cares for us. In all of this we feel His presence and grace as we attend to our own hearts and those we minister to. Is this what Jesus did? Is this what it was like for Him?

Diane Butler Bass writes in her book *Freeing Jesus*: "... I hope none of us will ever forget the Jesus we have met in our own lives, who has been with us in fear and confusion and loss, in forced isolation and in the surprising moments of joy, and through the ministrations of our shared human priesthood. It all matters. All of it."

Is that is what Jesus thought and said then and is still now?



Easter brunch with our usual crowd,



We made some Paska breads

guests and new ones



Emily's bridal shower

(Easter bread) for our ukrainian refugees for Easter. Its their tradition too, so we shared it with them. The XB is Ukrainian for Christ is risen.



She got married May 21st in Canada. We watched it via live stream.



Womens retreat



Men's fire



Anna had the opportunity to watch this little guy once a week while his mother got a needed break.



Reflecting while watching the sunset on all the losses and the brokenness of this world.

## Praises

- The retreat was amazing! Thank you for praying, we felt it.
  - Celebrating things again in community is such a joy.
  - Hannah has found an apartment and will move in June! Thank you, God for your provision of Christian roommates and an affordable rent.
- 

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for wisdom and discernment as we wrap up this semester of the year and shift into helping missionaries leave and transition, also a summer of new missionaries coming to serve here. Discernment on how involved we are to get and what/who to focus on as there are many needs. Wisdom for our current ongoing missionaries and leaders as they journey through difficult seasons.
- Pray for Megan as she is looking for a job now in Huntsville, AL. For the right fit for her.
- Pray for Hannah as she is looking at jobs in the creative field and feeling overwhelmed.
- Pray for unity in our BFA parent community that lives here. There are some missionary families who have moved here last year (most of them from the USA) that seem to have brought a divisiveness and discontentment with them. That sounds harsh but it is the only way to describe it. They are hosting secret meetings and are attacking the school and staff about COVID regulations (yes we still have some) and other topics that they don't agree with and are trying to force change that is not necessarily appropriate or needed in this context. Mind you the issues they are demanding change in are about their personal convictions and they don't seem to consider the diversity of the whole community or the regulations of Germany. It has created such division and stress on the leadership and staff of the school and division in the community. It is not helpful and not needed. Pray for wisdom, truth and humility. Pray that we keep a good attitude as we do get to minister to some of them and when to speak the truth in love.

**Donations are a blessing!  
Thank you, for supporting our Ministry!**

[Donate](#)



[view this email in your browser](#)

*Copyright © 2022 David & Anna Mansfield, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you may be interested in the ministry of David & Anna Mansfield  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

This email was sent to [info@globalhz.org](mailto:info@globalhz.org)

[why did I get this?](#)   [unsubscribe from this list](#)   [update subscription preferences](#)

David & Anna Mansfield · Waldeckstrasse 73 · Kandern 79400 · Germany

