

# A Year in Germany

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Hiya,

*This note is a little different, because today marks one whole year that I have lived in Germany. I have a draft of a January update I will send you soon, but this note is what felt important to share today....*

Today marks one whole year of living in Germany. One whole year of living where God has called me to serve.

It's 9:30pm, I just got out of my German class, and am sitting on my couch as I write this out and reflect.

Today was routine. I made my breakfast, I had office hours and a meeting, I had lunch out with a friend, I wrote emails and scheduled, I prepped for a leader meeting tomorrow, I had Kat over to make cookies for our neighbor who shoveled the snow yesterday for us, and I had language class. These have all been regular activities— nothing new.

A year ago today, however, my flight landed at Frankfurt airport, my luggage got lost, a group of new teammates picked me up from the airport and took my jet-lagged self to lunch, I introduced myself to everyone I met, I brought the one suitcase I had with me to the guest room, I sat down, and I cried. I cried out of excitement, then I cried out of

panic. I thanked God for bringing me to where he called me, and I asked God what the heck we had just done. Everything was new.

This year has held an overwhelming amount of transitions, changes, and introductions—a lot of good, but also a lot of hard. I could share countless lessons and gratitudes from the year, and there is much I could say to sum up or mark this anniversary.

The 30 minutes I had between my class and sitting down to write, I prayed over what God would have me share in this message to you—what is important that I could put here that might be an encouragement. The verse below came to light.

James 1:16-18 NIV

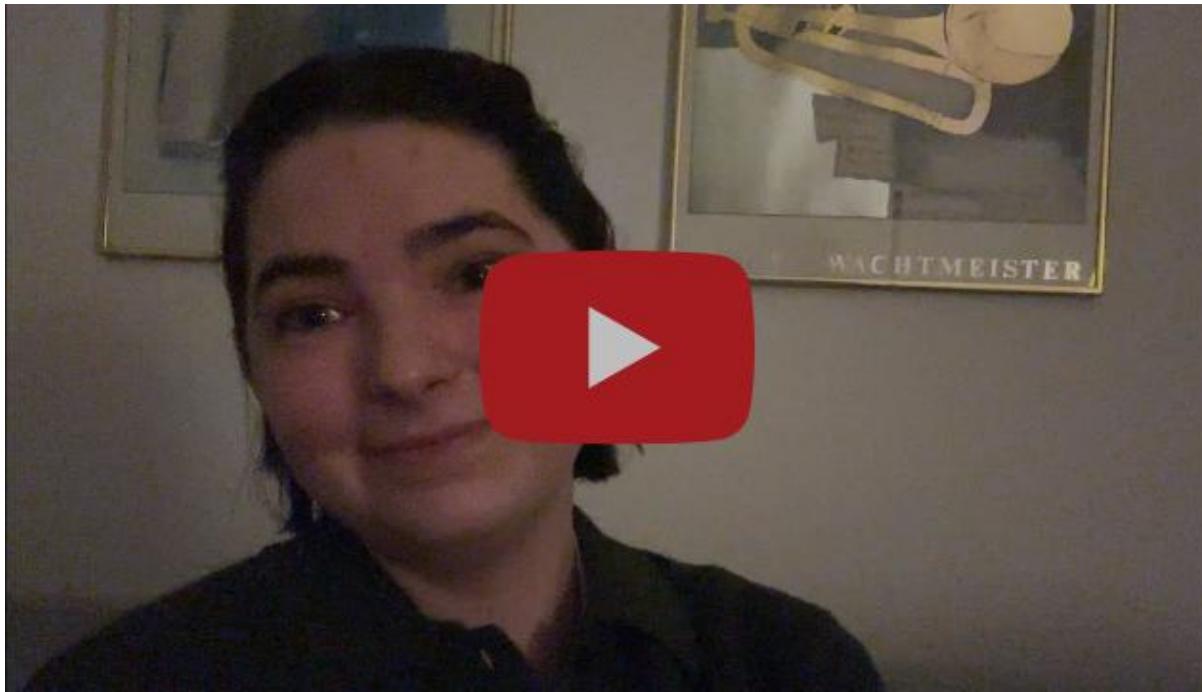
“Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

**Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.**

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”

In particular, I want to highlight the part where this scripture says that God doesn’t change, like how shadows will shift.

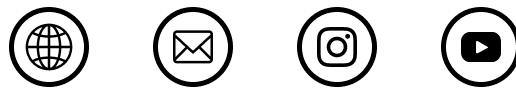
In a year where almost every aspect of my life in some way changed, the one thing that didn’t was God. It is so easy to get overwhelmed with the constant changes life brings, **but God doesn’t change.** God is a Father who loves us unconditionally, who is generous, who provides for us, who keeps us safe, and who is always there for us. **That is never going to change.**



I can't reflect on the year without being overwhelmed with the kindness of God's provision in bringing me to you. What a blessing it is that God's way of providing for me, was to bring me a team who cares, prays, gives, and blesses me beyond what I feel I deserve! God is good. Thank you for being a part of God's provision.

I'll catch up with you again soon. May God bless the day before you, and bring you peace with the reminder that He, who loves us far beyond what we could ever comprehend, will never change.

*Emily Anderson*



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