



# Unterwegs and Corona

You have probably gotten a lot of emails in the last months about what different organizations to which you are connected are doing to adjust to life during a pandemic. We had a bit of an advantage of being able to watch what the world was doing before our summer semester started. We tried to plan at the end of March, a couple of weeks after Germany implemented their strongest restrictions, and were able to adjust those plans as we saw how the lives of our students were unfolding as well.

The University's Semester was supposed to begin two weeks ago, but won't actually begin for another week. Many students had their final exams from the previous semester postponed and others who were studying abroad the semester before were itching for something productive to do.

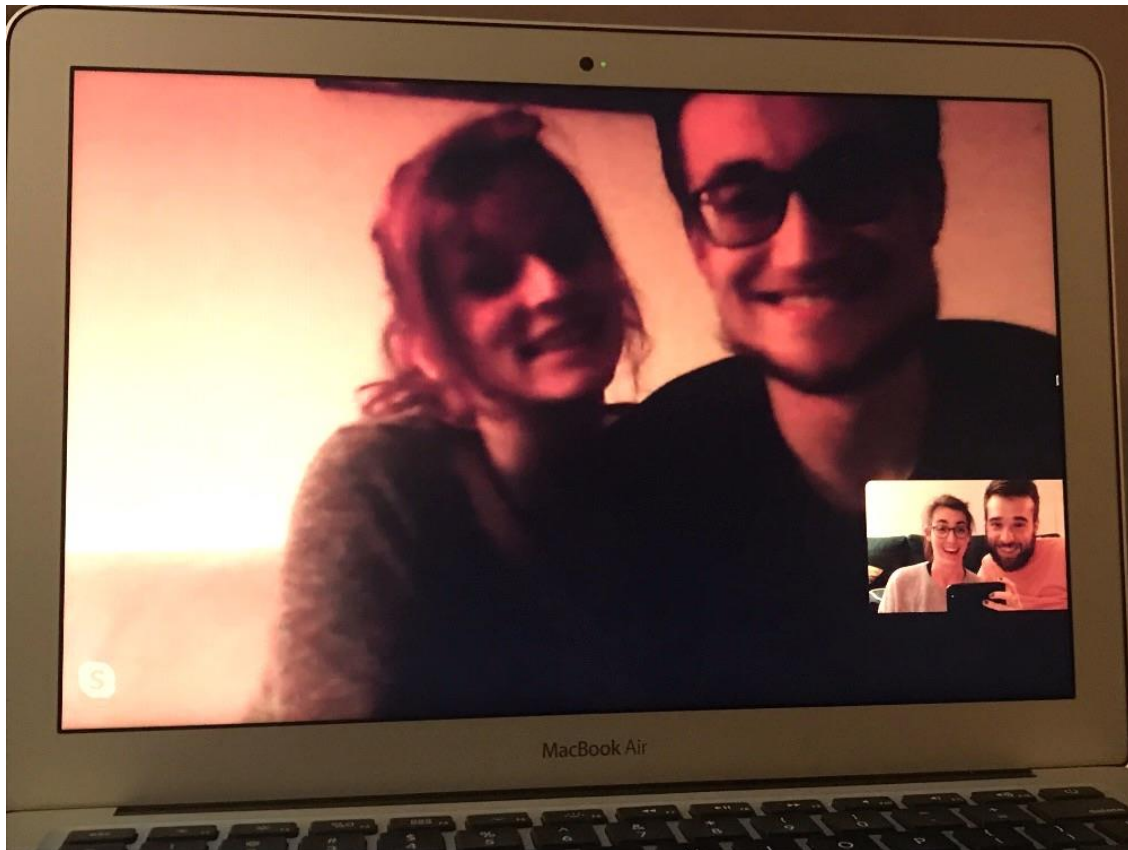
So, we decided to begin with our semester during the same week that the

University should have opened before the pandemic broke out. Of course, everything we're doing is online!

"How exactly does one do college ministry online," you might be asking. We asked ourselves the same thing! And this is what we decided ministry in Freiburg would look like until restrictions were lifted:

- Our free lunch, called "Studentenfutter", happens at the normal time each week (Tuesdays from 12-2pm) but we broadcast the cooking over Instagram Live and then send out a Zoom invitation so that we can all eat together. We post a recipe for people in case they want to cook along with us!
- Our faith-based event, called "Tafelrunde", we turned into small groups that meet each other every week to discuss bible stories. The stories are the same for each group and all have the theme of "Finding hope in the midst of uncertainty" because this is something we can all relate to right now. Each teammate has their own group with whom they meet with over video chat until restrictions are lifted. Our hope is that these groups will translate easily into post-quarantine life.

Those are the regular things we are doing each week and we have the expectation of each other that we're also keeping in contact with students not yet connected or offering other ways to virtually connect with people (i.e. movie nights, books clubs, etc). Which looks a lot like the picture below!



Of course we miss personal connection, but we are so thankful for this technology to be able to communicate easily with those involved with Unterwegs Freiburg (including you!!!). We are already seeing God using the small groups to, first, form new friendships between students who may not have known each other before and, second, spark a curiosity for a life with Jesus in students we wouldn't have expected beforehand.

In one group, a student was sharing their frustration in not being able to express their faith clearly and another student in the group could relate and immediately recommended a book written by a French monk. In another group, students came having already researched the cultural context, original languages, and were open to hear how others had interpreted their research. In yet another group, a student asked the others, "How do you pray?" We are finding peace in the midst of these conversations and I hope that this update, and the stories in updates to come, bring some peace to you as well during a weird time in our world's history.

God is here and God is good.



From our virtual semester planning at the end of March.





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# MEGAN IN MISSION

MISSION NEWSLETTER



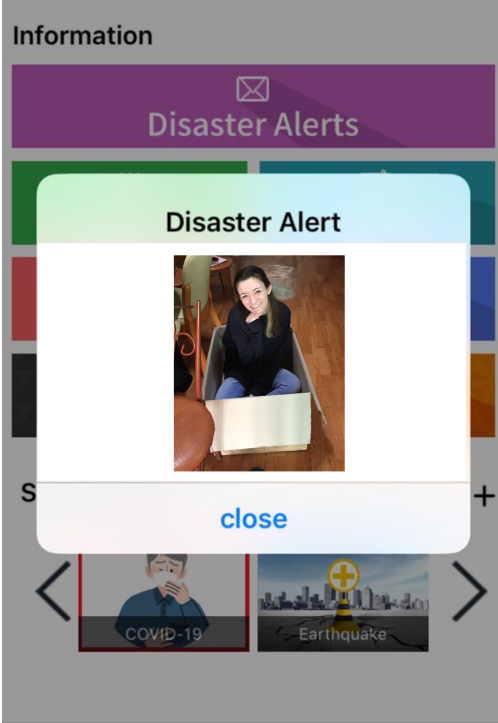
(LEFT) THE GUYS SETTING UP THE WIFI. I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE ROUTER PERMISSIONS AND SETTINGS ON THE COMPUTER AND IT WAS... A LOT

(RIGHT) JOHN IS ON VACATION SO I WAS THE WORSHIP LEADER AND THE PREACHER THIS MONTH. AGAIN, IT WAS... A LOT

## Everything is Fine?

Hello everyone! It feels a little weird saying that everything is fine while the world is dealing with a pandemic, but it's true. I feel constant fear for my friends and family in America, but beyond that I live a lifestyle that lends itself well to quarantine. I go grocery shopping with Mrs. Ahn and Ms. Lyu once a week, go to church on Sunday and Wednesday (the church is also on the school campus) and spend a lot of time at school and at home. My work hasn't changed because the students are all much safer at the school than they would be at home.

I've tried to use some of my newfound free time to try new things and do more of my hobbies that make me happy. I've gotten back into reading/listening to (I'm a huge fan of audiobooks) genres that I love and I'm trying to read more books outside of my comfort zone. I'm back to reading thrillers and mysteries, and I've tried some spy novels and horror stories.



***We get 10-15 emergency alerts a day, so of course I made it into a meme***

***Getting used to wearing face masks whenever I go out.***

***Cherry blossom season is here!***

I've been painting a lot and doing jigsaw puzzles. I also went out with my camera for the first time in a long time. Of course I wish that everything was back to normal (whatever normal is), but I've been really happy doing things I don't usually make time for. At the end of this newsletter, I'll put a list of books I've enjoyed during this time. I'm always happy to recommend books to the people I love (all of you).

And on top of all of this madness, it's still Lent. It seems fitting that we would have to do our Lenten practices in a time that makes it really hard to try and give something up or add something new to your life. We really have to challenge ourselves to keep the promises we made to ourselves at the beginning of the season. And then we have to work even harder to show ourselves grace when we make a mistake. I've committed to speak Korean out loud every day. It's a really small goal, but I have seen amazing improvement in my language skills since I started doing this. Can I say a full sentence? No. Can I understand even 10% of the conversations happening around me? No. Am I more willing to try and use the small bit I know in my every day life? Yes! I've worked really hard to get to this point and I'm thrilled.

***Book recommendations:***

Dracula – Bram Stoker  
Daddy Long Legs – Jean Webster  
Casino Royale – Ian Fleming  
The Spy and the Traitor – Ben Macintyre  
The Broken Girls – Simone St. James  
Movies (and other things) – Shea Serrano



# KEEP IN TOUCH!

## Follow my journey on social media and through my newsletters!



netflix\_and\_cry\_



Megan Rust



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Look out for my newsletters (hopefully) once a month. Feel free to send me your prayer requests, good news, book recommendations, and ways you're staying busy in quarantine. I want to support your journey as well. Learn more about the Global Mission Fellows program at <https://www.umcmmission.org/explore-our-work/missionaries-in-service/missionary-profiles/3022483> or reach out to me on social media or through email. If you feel led to donate to my advance, my advance number is **3022483**.

All my love,

*Megan Rust*

# Grace Dennis @ GEORGE MASON



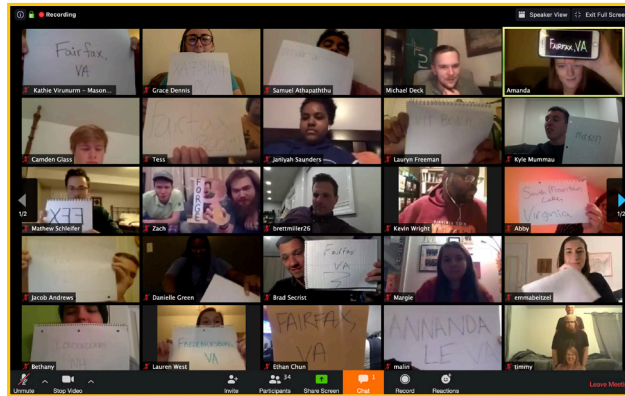
APRIL 2020

## *Hello everybody!*

It has been great to hear from some of you about how you are doing during this time. I am praying for health, safety, and security for you all in this season! Please let me know if there are any specific ways I can be praying for you. Thank you for being a part of continuing our mission in these uncertain times!

### **ZOOM CRU**

Our team has continued moving forward in our goals of winning, building, and sending students despite the change in venue. We have continued all of our normal activities on Zoom, a group video chat platform. I meet weekly with my small group and disciples. We have had as many as 45 students together each week for large group to spend time in community and hear messages from our staff members on the book of James. We have also had many social activities like playing online games or even doing origami together on zoom. It is so encouraging to see how eager students are to continue growing in their faith and friendships during this time!



***Our first large group meeting on Zoom!  
Students are holding up signs showing where they are watching from.***

### **BRI**

Those of you who saw our Vision Event this past week heard one of our students, Bri, share her testimony. Bri came to Christ last year after getting involved with Cru and hearing the gospel from one of my teammates, Kathie. This semester I've had the blessing of being able to disciple her. It has been so beautiful to see her hunger to know God and the ways she is growing.

A few weeks ago, we did a lesson together on reading God's word. Before we started, I shared a bit about what God has been teaching me lately, that this is a part of the plan that God has had since the beginning of time, and that he is working it for good, even if we can't see how. The next day, she texted me to tell me that she had learned something new about God's will during our time together. This was such a great reminder that I am just a vessel God uses to speak to these students. I planned to talk to her about how to read the bible, but God taught her about who He is through a few minutes of me saying how He has revealed himself to me recently. She went on to share an encouragement about these truths in her testimony at the Vision Event, a beautiful example of spiritual multiplication. Bri has decided to apply to lead a small group next year and I am so excited to watch the Lord use her to help others grow!

*Grace and peace*

## *Prayer Requests*

- The healing of our world from Coronavirus
- That our last few weeks "on campus" would be fruitful
- Students' continued growth over the summer
- For me as I transition back to raising support and for God's provision to get me back on campus as soon as possible

### **SUMMER PLANS**

Somehow it is already almost the end of the school year. Soon we will be wrapping up with our students and I will be transitioning to raising support full time until I reach my goal to join staff. Due to the pandemic, I will now be attending New Staff Orientation in late July instead of April, but I will start raising support in just a few short weeks. I am so grateful for your partnership throughout this year, and I look forward to talking soon about continuing that during my time on staff!