

# UBF NEWSLETTER



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## (Germany) Joint Easter Disciple Retreat of UBF Karlsruhe and Cologne

Report for the 2026 Easter Discipleship Retreat in Bad Herrenalb

From March 27th to 29th, 2026, the Karlsruhe UBF Easter Retreat took place at a youth hostel in Bad Herrenalb in the Black Forest. During the three days of the retreat, we studied chapters 19, 20, and 21 of the Gospel of John together, listened to the corresponding messages, and shared grace with one another.

On the first day, Shepherd Dr. Tobias delivered the first message from John 19 in a very gracious manner. His message sounded like a top-notch academic paper—logically precise and coherent from beginning to end. The Bible verses he quoted perfectly matched the points he wanted to convey. I personally listened with great admiration. He confessed that at the age of 23, he had already been so hopeless that he believed he belonged in a nursing home. He was strict with himself and led an unhappy life. But before the cross of Jesus, who said, “It is finished,” he discovered himself as a forgiven person and as a child of God and began to live as a new creation.

Sister Milka from Cologne spoke as a guest witness. She comes from the UBF in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. After arriving in Germany, she suddenly became ill with uterine cancer and had to undergo surgery and chemotherapy. In her twenties, this devastating event was the reason she urgently turned to God. She encountered God as her healer and was completely healed through chemotherapy.

On the morning of the second day, everyone gathered for a group Bible study and shared grace with one another. It was impressive how detailed the questions were and how strongly they emphasized actual decisions and practical application so that the participants would truly use the Word. It was clear that the Bible study was geared toward the growth of the sheep and the new converts.

The second message was given by Sister Maria (from Mexico, TU Karlsruhe, Bioengineering, 5th semester) on the first part of John 20. She conveyed that Mary's fear and despair are actually meaningless because Jesus has risen. I pray that Sister Maria continues to grow in her faith. I also pray that through the WMC she can better understand God's work through UBF.

After a walk together in the afternoon, Noah from Cologne gave a special presentation on the topic of "The Resurrection." He is someone who thinks deeply and can only believe when it makes logical sense. Having had a profound encounter with Jesus, he approached the topic of the factual reality of the resurrection in a very professional manner—this personally impressed me greatly. In preparation, he had, among other things, studied the nearly 1000-page book "The Resurrection" by the world-renowned theologian N.T. Wright. Through his profound understanding of the resurrection, I was able to learn anew how the resurrection was witnessed by the disciples and how this witnessed truth was not lost or suppressed, but rather passed on to posterity.

In the evening, Sh. Dr. Andreas delivered the message on the second half of John 20. As a mathematics professor at the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences, he said that Jesus came through the doors that the disciples had tightly shut out of fear. He, too, confessed with tears that there are doors in his own life that he has tightly shut due to various problems, but that he wants to believe in the risen Jesus and open these doors.

In the evening, the Cologne Lichtblick team led the time of prayer and praise with great grace. Afterward, they drove back to Cologne that night to serve the worship service there.

On the last day, 2nd Gen Missionary Joseph delivered the message from John 21 with tears in his eyes. From a young age, he had lived as a model student and received love and recognition. Deep down, however, he carried the burden of having to meet people's expectations and the resulting anxiety. Even after graduating from a top university and securing a position at a leading company where he found recognition, he suffered burnout due to excessive workload. But in tears, he received Jesus, who had sought him out again, and made the decision to live a life dedicated to serving the risen Lord.





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