Vienna Tidbits:

Vienna's Prater district is well known because of the giant Ferris wheel that is the main attraction. Erected in 1897 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee (50 years reign) of Emperor Franz Josef I. You can find out more at www.tourist-net.co.at/w_pr_3e.htm

Prayer Requests:

Language Study

Settling of each family

Formation of new relationships with neighbors

Building relationships with existing churches and Christians

August 31, 2007

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The Giant Ferris Wheel- Das Riesenrad

www.viennateam.org

Vienna Team Newsletter

TIMELINE

On July 1, 2007, eight American adults, five children, and four dogs all landed in Vienna, Austria to initiate a new church planting effort on the east side of the city. While some of the group did lose luggage on the way, missing luggage was found later in the week and delivered to the proper owners. We are all very thankful for a safe and enjoyable flight.

· JULY IS FOR HOUSE HUNTING

We all spent a great deal of time in July looking for permanent housing, and by the end of the month we all found an apartment or house that will serve as home for (at least) the next five years. Our team is spread throughout the east side of Vienna giving each family a unique sphere of influence. Hopefully, this will benefit us as we begin our ministry here by connecting us with a greater number of people than otherwise. While house hunting in Vienna was not without its challenges, all are very pleased with their living quarters, and we all are excited to settle in.

· AUGUST IS FOR PAPER WORK

Moving to another country involves a great deal of paperwork more annoying and time consuming than any of the Vienna mission team anticipated. It isn't just a matter of *doing* paperwork, but also it is a matter *learning* how to do paperwork. It is a matter of learning the policies and procedures of another country and that takes time.

The members of our team have opened an Austrian bank account, registered with the Austrian government, the U.S. Embassy, and those with dogs were required to register their pets with the City of Vienna. Also, each family shipped a number of items from the U.S. and moving those things through Austrian customs involved a great deal of paperwork, as well as a great deal of patience. (cont. on next page)

District 22 (outline blue) with the location of each family

TIMELINE CONT.

There is still paperwork to be done as we are in the process of applying for a permanent residency visa. Under our current visa, we must leave the country every 90 days. Once leaving Austria, we may re-enter the country after having our passports stamped. While this is not a difficult obstacle to overcome, it will be better in the long run if we are able to secure a long-term visa. Your prayers on this matter are very much appreciated.

· SEPTEMBER IS FOR LANGUAGE STUDY

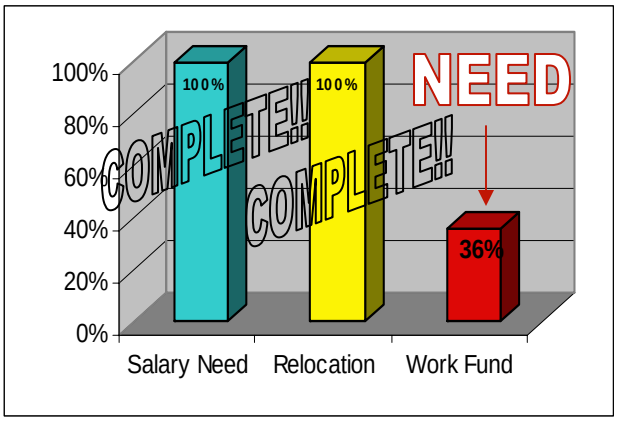
During September we will begin studying the German Language, though at different places. Some will study at the language school *DeutschAkademie*, some at the University of Vienna. The most important aspect of our evangelistic strategy is to learn the language and communicate to the Austrian people in a manner they understand. We feel this is vital so that we may establish trust and develop friendships. Please keep us in your prayers as we learn the language and culture. ~ *Brian*

FUNDRAISING STATUS

We are extremely blessed to be a part of Memorial Road Church of Christ (MRCC) not only because of their role as our overseeing congregation but also because of their heart for missions and their generosity. In July MRCC held their annual special missions contribution which included a significant amount allocated for our work fund. This has given us a needed boost as we continue to seek individuals and churches to help support our work fund.

Please continue to pray about AND consider supporting our work. If you are interested in supporting our work you can go to our website at www.viennateam.org, click on the "Team" button at the top, then click on "Support Form" link on the left. Or you can always e-mail us at viennateam@viennateam.org.

Team Fundraising Status



EXISTING CHURCHES

A key part of what we want to do in Vienna during this first year is to establish relationships with the three existing congregations. At Mondscheingasse there is both a small English worship as well as the more established German worship. At Inzersdorf the worship is in German with the sermon being translated to English depending on availability of a translator and if anyone needs it. They also have some kids classes depending on availability of teachers. Each of the four families will be visiting these congregations throughout our time of language study, and meeting together as a team for worship as well. At this time at least one family has been to each of these congregations and began the process of building trust and encouragement for our respective works.

We have also had the opportunity to be involved in their worship to a limited degree with Josh reading scripture at Inzersdorf and Jake struggling to lead a song in German at Mondscheingasse. Even though it is awkward at first when we are at these congregations and most the time we do not know what is being said, we work through those struggles because we firmly believe in the unity of God's people and the importance of having these existing church families as a part of our work. "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me." John 17:20-21 NAS ~ *Jake*