



Vienna Tidbits:

Vienna is home to the legendary Original Sacher-Torte. A chocolate torte with apricot filling. Created in 1832 by a 16-year-old chef's apprentice for Prince Metternich's court it is now served daily at the Hotel Sacher.

Prayer Requests:

Language Study

Settling of each family

Formation of new relationships with neighbors

Building relationships with existing churches and Christians

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The Giant Ferris Wheel- Das Riesenrad

www.viennateam.org

Vienna Team Newsletter

AUF DEUTSCH

Over the past month, each of the members of our team, as well as the children have invested significant time in beginning or furthering their ability to communicate auf Deutsch (in German). For the adults, this has meant three or more hours in the classroom almost every day and an hour or two travelling to class and back. For the children, this has meant an all German-speaking school setting (kindergarten or 1st grade), cartoons and movies in German, and playing with newly-made Austrian friends. How exhausting!

Some days the idea of learning German and the time required to actually understand and speak in this foreign language lead us to wish that we, like the apostles at Pentecost, could simply miraculously communicate in German. For example, if we could already speak German fluently, how much quicker it would be to acquire our Visas or even internet access at home. We could then read the important documents we receive from the bank or those that our children bring home from school. Making friends and sharing our lives with those around us would be much simpler, and telling the story of Jesus would be less of a challenge, but most of these aspects of life actually require time anyway. Through our long-term commitment to learning this language and our constant presence in these German classes, God provides us with opportunities to form relationships with our classmates and our teachers. Visas will come (and hopefully the internet access too).

Documents can be translated, and friendships with the neighbors are already developing. Sharing the gospel of Christ verbally may still take some time, but shining as His light by our example is hopefully evidenced daily in our interaction with our family and others. So, though we do not expect to be able to speak miraculously, we do believe that God is blessing our efforts to learn German and to use this tool as a primary way of sharing the love and message of Jesus with those living in Vienna.

The end of September marked the conclusion of the first step of language training for most of us, and we all "graduated" on to the next level. Some of our team even received prizes for superior performance. The children have also begun to interject German words and phrases (cont. on next page)



Jake studies hard in a typical intensive German course

AUF DEUTSCH CONT.

into their daily conversation, so I guess they have “graduated” to a new level as well.

Not only have we experienced God’s blessing in our efforts to learn German, but we have also been blessed through the prayers of so many of you. We thank God for you and for your commitment to lifting us up to the Father. Please continue to remember our language training and our children’s adaptation and growth in your conversations with God. Danke schön. ~ Josh

ERNTE DANKFEST

This month, many Austrians around the city of Vienna celebrated *Erntedankfest*. This festival celebrates the harvesting of all the crops and produce from the land. Our street, normally full of passing cars and buses, transformed into one long dinner table filled with places for everyone to sit and share a meal with their neighbors, family, and friends. Along the sidewalk, the vendors displayed their produce, meats, cheese, and baked items for everyone to buy. It was truly a joy to share in the harvest even though I had not actually steered a plow or picked any fruit. I also appreciated the emphasis on family time because there was no shortage of things to do for the kids.

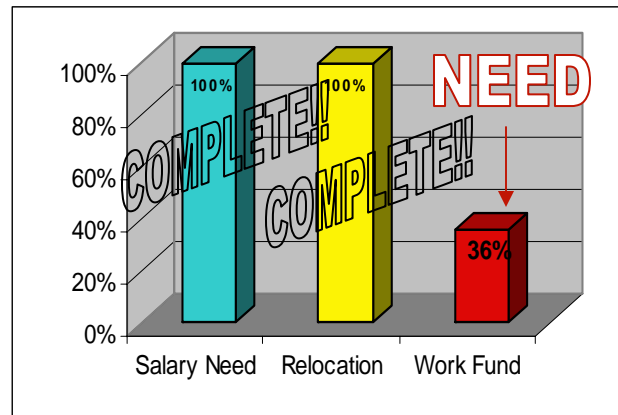
At first, the celebration reminded me of our own Thanksgiving feast in America because there was so much good food and desserts to enjoy. I am sure the harvest celebration has a long history here in Europe—maybe even longer than our traditional time of Thanksgiving, but it also reminded me of an even older harvest celebration found in the Bible. One of the three main feasts that everyone in Israel was supposed to celebrate was the Feast of Tabernacles. It was commanded by God to celebrate and enjoy the harvest time during this feast.

TIME FLIES

Yes, it is true, we have completed our first German course with passing grades and will start the next one (the 2nd of a 12 course curriculum) on Monday, October 1st. Abby has also completed her first month of kindergarten and life is beginning to normalize.

Amanda and I study German at Deutsch Akademie four days

Team Fundraising Status



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.

What a great God! He provides all the supplies for the party and then He simply asks us to celebrate and give thanks for the good things He provides. In Deuteronomy 16:15, it says that our joy will be complete after we receive the blessings from the Lord and give thanks in



Hensal Family enjoying Erntedankfest

celebration. I am thankful we enjoyed the harvest celebration here in Austria. It once again reminded me to enjoy the blessing of serving the generous and loving Father.~ Ira

a week for three hours. At first this sounds like an easy schedule except that in addition to our three hours of German everyday we spend an additional three hours on public transportation going to and from school. Of course the first question one may ask is why does it take so long?

(cont. on next page)

TIME FLIES CONT.

Well, as you already know (because I'm sure everyone who receives this newsletter has tirelessly studied our strategy paper and/or website) we live in District 22. Even though this district is growing rapidly and the city is currently building a new city center and subway (underground train, not the sandwich shop) they are not completed yet so we must ride the bus to the nearest subway stop which is a 20-30 minute ride depending on traffic. Add to that getting to the bus stop, waiting for the various transportation vehicles, dropping Abby off at kindergarten and it equals about 1.5 hrs one-way. After everything is said and done and we spend an hour or more on homework we find ourselves collapsing into bed from exhaustion. We are very thankful to God for a three day break when we have time to catch up on much needed chores, family time, or relaxing a bit before the week starts over.

Both the Deutsch Akademie and the kindergarten are GREAT! They have both been a prayer answered in so many

NEW FRIENDSHIPS

As you all know, our children are far from shy. They have quickly made friends and have been invited over to their friends' houses after school to play. Through these friendships, God has given me the opportunity to spend some time with the mom of Carli's friend and the mom of Caleb's friend. Before moving to Vienna, we heard that it would be very difficult to make friends. We were told that the people are hard to reach because they already have their friends and their routines. I have had a very different experience so far. When I went to pick Caleb up from his friend's house, the mother invited me into her home for coffee and cookies. This mom does not speak any English, and I can't speak much German, but much like our children, we somehow found a way to communicate.

It was a great reminder that God is in control and I am not. If God was not already working in this city, then friendships would not already be forming. I look forward to spending more time with these moms, and others, and sharing the love of Christ with them. ~ Kim

ways and we thank all of you who continue to offer up prayers on our behalf. We have all begun to build relationships with people in our class. It is very challenging to remember everyone's name as well as nationality. We have classmates from Poland to Azerbaijan (north of Iran). Of course, this can bring some tension to class. For example, a young man from Italy in Jake's class, had a problem with a young lady from Hungary when she informed him that making her wait on him for a class excursion was not the correct way to treat a lady. Apparently, Italian men do not like to be told how to act by the ladies. Thankfully the United Nations did not have to be called in and this issue was resolved without incident. Please continue to pray for us as we start the second course and continue building the relationships we have started because a few of our classmates are continuing on with us. ~ Jake



Carli and her friend making pizza at our house

Because of the children playing in our street, I have also had the opportunity to meet adults who often pass the evening hours talking in the street as they watch the kids play. One of the guys I have met lives

next door and is the uncle of our children's Austrian friends. He and I have had the opportunity to talk quite a bit about sports and life in Vienna and the United States.

Just the other night as we were talking with another neighbor a few houses down, the other neighbor began to speak to me in English and invited me and the kids to see his house and Garten (back yard). After showing us the Garten, he brought the kids some drinks and a snack and I sat and talked with him and his wife over tea and pretzel sticks as the kids played in his Garten. Please continue to pray that God will bless these relationships. ~ Josh

SUNDAY IN VIENNA

Each Sunday Alisha and I worship with one of the three groups of Christians here in Vienna. The Inzersdorf church (of approximately 20 members) is in the far southern part of the city—Inzersdorf is actually a suburb of Vienna. It takes us an hour or more to travel from our apartment to where the congregation meets. The Mondscheingasse congregation meets closer to the city center, and this trip takes us about forty minutes. The Mondscheingasse is actually comprised of two separate groups of people: an English-speaking group (of approximately five members) and a German-speaking group (also with approximately five members). The two groups of people each participate in Sunday worship services in different rooms of the same building.

We met with several of the Christians of these congregations during our 2005 survey trip to Vienna and they are excited for us to begin working to reach the lost for Christ. One of our stated goals in coming to Vienna was to not only to lead people to Christ, but also to encourage the Christians already present in the city. Our desire to cultivate a strong relationship with these brothers and sisters so that when we begin our evangelistic efforts in the east side of Vienna they will feel like they are sending us to

do God's work just as our church families in the U.S. sent us into the east side of Vienna to do God's work.

Obviously, non-Catholic Christianity does not hold a strong presence in Austria, but our prayer is that God will use our mission team to bring about the reign of God's kingdom. We also pray that our presence will encourage the Christians here to reach out to Vienna with a new evangelistic fervor as well.

In July, Alisha and I traveled to Inzersdorf to worship with the Christians there. In August, we worshipped with the German-speaking Mondscheingasse congregation. Throughout September we have been worshipping with the English-speaking congregation at Mondscheingasse. In November, our mission team will begin our own worship services in one of our homes. This will start a gradual process by which we will eventually conduct our own worship services each and every Sunday in Vienna's east side. For us, this is kind of exciting (even though it will just be our team meeting together) because it will be the first step in initiating a new congregation. It will be a first step towards the ministry we wish to conduct in Vienna. ~ Brian