



The Giant Ferris Wheel- Das Riesenrad

Vienna Tidbits:

Austrian National Day (Oct. 26th) celebrates the restoring of national sovereignty at the end of WWII and the passage of the permanent neutrality law on October 26, 1955. The law also includes a ban on foreign military bases in Austria.

October 31, 2007

Prayer Requests:

Language Study

Settling of each family

Formation of new relationships with neighbors

Building relationships with existing churches and Christians

Unity

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Vienna Team Newsletter

A LOOK BACK, A PRAYER FORWARD

Our team formed and committed to planting a new church in Vienna, Austria in the spring of 2004. Since that time we have established and attained many goals. One early goal about which our team fervently prayed was that God would bless us with a single congregation to oversee each family of our mission team. In April of 2006 our prayers were answered when the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, OK agreed to oversee our team and, in so doing, provide 50% of the salary need for each family. Accompanying this blessing was another goal—acquiring the remaining 50% of our salary need. While this seemed like an overwhelming goal, God and His people proved faithful and in June of this year our team departed the U.S. for Austria with our full salary support.

· EARLY GOALS NOT LIMITED TO FUNDRAISING

We also prayed diligently that God would bless our team with a deep faith in one another and a bond of love strong enough to withstand the temptations of Satan. While reaching our fundraising goals could prove challenging, we knew (thanks to great mentorship) that being fully funded was useless if our team was weak or driven by pride, envy or jealousy rather than service, faith and love. This has been our constant prayer: that God would use our team for His glory and that the peace of His kingdom would reign in our hearts—that His peace would reign supreme in Vienna. Perhaps my opinion is biased, but I believe our team is strong in faith and love. God is hearing our prayers for unity and He guides us to be the missionaries He needs here in Vienna.

We pray for unity not because we do not have it, but because we do not want to lose it. I believe God has helped us reach this goal of being a strong, unified mission team because we have not (and we will not) stopped praying for it.

· YEAR ONE: GOALS

One of our goals for the first year in Vienna is to learn the language and culture of Austria. Currently, all of the adults on our team are heavily engaged in the language learning process and, while none of us yet consider ourselves to have attained mastery of German, we are very excited about our ever improving language skills. This is a big goal. If the church is to thrive in Vienna, then it is absolutely imperative that we speak to the Viennese in their language.

Another one of our first year goals is to develop friendships with the Christians already living in Vienna. Though the members of the churches of Christ are not large in number, they are deeply faithful and on many occasions the Christians here have helped us as we made (and are making) the transition from one country to another. Our desire is that a rich fellowship exist between the church we plant in Vienna and the Christians already here. The first step in reaching this goal is that a rich fellowship is built between these Christians and our mission team.

A very important goal our team has set for our first year

A LOOK BACK CONT.

in Vienna is to make contacts with the Austrian people. That is, we have set a goal that, by the end of our first year, we will be heavily involved in the Viennese community through service and civic organizations. We feel that this will display our desire to learn and participate in the Austrian culture, but it will also place us in a position in which we will meet new people and develop new friendships. We want to be a mission team that is in the community so that we might introduce people into God's community.

· WHAT A YEAR HAS TO OFFER

A year ago we were in the U.S. and we were busy fundraising, but we have met most of our fundraising goals and today we are in Austria. A year from now we expect to conduct Bible studies on the story of God's Messiah, Jesus, in a language that is still a little strange to us today. We have grown tremendously in the last few years and we accomplished many goals. Still, the real goal is before us. All of these past goals are for the sake of the real goal—a strong, vibrant Christian movement throughout the continent of Europe.

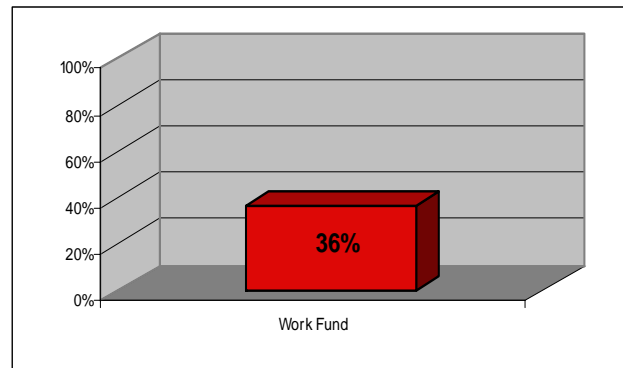
Though goals have been accomplished and prayers have been answered, we know that many challenges lie ahead of us. We feel that we remain on the right course, though, to accomplish the tasks before us. I suppose most of the goals we've reached, and most of the goals set for our first year,

KULTUR KORNER—CULTURAL CLOCK

Note: This is the first of a series of articles that will appear in our newsletters about some of the cultural differences we are experiencing in Vienna.

When entering a new culture, people can usually identify differences in clothing and hairstyles rather quickly. After several days, they will probably notice more subtle differences. For our team, we specifically wanted to devote a portion of our time during the first year to identify and acknowledge the cultural differences we find here in Vienna. While we won't be experts in Austrian culture following this time of research and observation, we will definitely have a better understanding of the building blocks that create an Austrian's cultural identity.

Team Work Fund 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.

could be categorized as "preparatory" for our work in Vienna. They are necessary goals that we must successfully attain in order to begin a forthright evangelism in the city.

Our team could not have made it to this point without God's care and grace or the prayers and support of His people. We could not have made it this far by ourselves. In the coming months, as we gain proficiency in German and become more involved in the community of Vienna, pray that these past accomplishments and preparations were but a sign of things to come...and that every knee will bow before the one true God. ~ Brian

Here in Vienna, we daily experience the difference in how people perceive time. If you are a young couple with small kids like us, try to imagine not using a drive thru of any kind for a week and you will get a taste of what I am talking about. The only drive-thru we have found so far is at McDonalds which is hardly Austrian. No express drive-thru banking, no picking up your prescription from a metal box and microphone, and no Starbucks for your cup holder. Here, you actually have to stop, wait in line, and take time to interact with someone for the service you need.

Some of you might be thinking about how much time you save with all the express service options in America, and

"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." ~ Colossians 1:28-29

CULTURAL CLOCK CONT.

that's the difference. In America, time is definitely money and we usually try to squeeze as much time as we can out of every day and then some. Waiting in line might even cause frustration if it takes more than 5 minutes. In Austria, waiting is not a problem, and taking a good portion of time to experience even simple daily activities is considered normal.

For example, at an American restaurant, you are almost guaranteed to have your table cleared and your bill in hand about 5-10 minutes after you finish your last bite, and in many cases sooner if there are a lot of people waiting to eat. That would never happen here, in fact, it would probably insult the customer if a waiter tried to rush them out after the meal. Here you can sit and chat at a cafe for hours even if you only buy a cup of coffee.

A PEOPLE WHO CELEBRATE

In our last newsletter we shared a little about the Erntedankfest that Austria celebrated, where many people gathered together to partake of the produce of their land in a great feast. This month, in the Vienna Tidbits section of our newsletter, you have been introduced to another recent Austrian holiday, during which many people gathered outside the Hofburg Palace, strolled through museums, and visited Parliament. On November 1st and 2nd the Austrians celebrated again—All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, respectively. Many light candles and visit local cemeteries to remember lost loved ones and significant religious people.

Over the last few months, we have come to realize that Austrians are a people who genuinely like to celebrate. Some may interpret these many holidays/celebrations as mere laziness—too much time away from work. Others may perceive this as simply typical Austrian, or even European, culture. I see this attitude as an opportunity to help Austrians discover a new, more meaningful reason to celebrate.

As children of God, we have countless reasons to

With this information, we understand how Austrians use and value their time. Though it may seem minor, this truly is an important building block for the Austrian's cultural identity. ~ Ira



The Anker Clock in Vienna

celebrate—forgiveness, hope, joy, meaning in life, a spiritual family, a loving Father, a perfect Brother in Jesus, a Guide in the Holy Spirit, and many more. While we do not have special days marked on calendars to celebrate these blessings, we should reflect upon and thank God for them frequently. What a great opportunity for our team to open God's Word with Austrians and share with them these great blessings so that we can all be a people who celebrate. ~ Josh



Parliament visitors on Austria's Nationalfeiertag