



The Giant Ferris Wheel- Das Riesenrad

Vienna Tidbits:

At the end of November and all through December there are Christmas/Advent markets throughout Vienna. They have individual booths with food, drinks, and all kinds of gifts and wares to sell. They are the highlight of the holiday season!

November 30, 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

GIVING THANKS IN VIENNA

On Thursday, November 22nd families and friends all across the United States gathered together to share a special time of fellowship and feasting. However, in Vienna, that Thursday felt the same as most other Thursdays—German class for the adults, school for the kids, and three relatively simple meals. Being away from family and other Americans seemed extremely strange on this day, but on Saturday, November 24th, our four families, along with a Canadian friend of Kari, celebrated a time of Thanksgiving at the Lockwood's home.

Though we all had different traditions and ways of celebrating Thanksgiving back in the States with our families, we managed to come together and share in a great feast and fellowship in a special way. While football, hunting, cards, looking at Christmas lights, and many other traditions were missing from this time together, a special unity of thankful people occurred in perhaps a more intentional and meaningful way than before. For, we could all wholeheartedly agree that God is good and that He has, does, and will continue to provide for our needs in amazing ways. ~ Josh

For Thanksgiving, our home was filled with a blessing that we were especially thankful for, friendship. The sounds of laughter and conversation (along with barking and crying) warmed our home and created the festive environment that we enjoy so much during the holiday season. In the coming years, I hope the friendship we share in Christ will grow

stronger as we share the same blessing with the people we meet here in Vienna. ~ Ira

Even though we were in Vienna I was thankful that when we got together it "felt" like Thanksgiving. The food, the company, the noise in the background, everyone gathered around the table, it was awesome! Of course being a pie lover I was also thankful for GREAT pie! ~ Jake

Thanksgiving always seemed liked a lazy day. I liked it that way: eating a big lunch of turkey and dressing, watching football in the afternoon, throwing around the football during halftime, going back inside to eat some pumpkin pie, watching more football! It was a slow, relaxing day



Thanksgiving at the Lockwood's

THANKSGIVING CONT.

when you could just sit and enjoy *being* with family. Of course, those who actually make the Thanksgiving meal probably don't find the holiday so relaxing!

When we celebrated Thanksgiving in Vienna we did so because we wanted to experience the joy of being with family. The old traditions weren't available to us, so we wanted to make new traditions. Together we sat at the

WORK FUND UPDATE

We want to thank the Cimarron Church of Christ, the Deer Creek Church of Christ, and several individuals for supporting our work fund, which currently stands at 39% of our projected amount needed for the next year. Over the next couple of months we will be re-evaluating our projection based on our knowledge of the current costs in Vienna, as well as the changing exchange rate. Our work fund status graph will be discontinued in future newsletters unless there is a significant update. We know God will bless us with the needed funds to support our work here in Vienna, and we thank everyone who has contributed thus far and is planning to in the future. Thank you and God bless.

KULTUR KORNER—MULTI-ETHNIC VIENNA

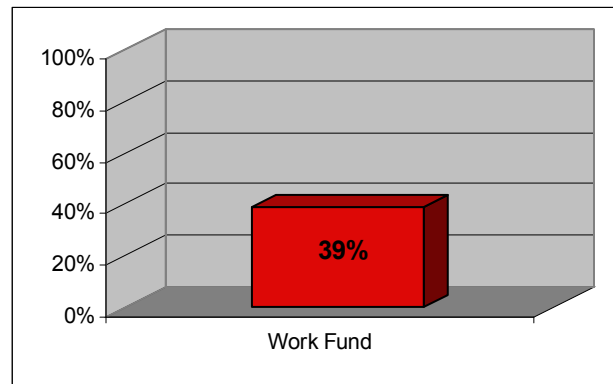
Go to www.viennateam.org to see previous articles in this series.

Recently, I studied German at one of the many adult public schools in Vienna. These locations offer a wide array of language classes, but they have specific courses designed to help foreigners integrate into Austrian society. The first night I walked into class, I immediately felt like the foreigner. I heard a chorus of other languages being spoken in addition to German. At least nine different nationalities were represented in the small classroom, and I was the only American. Most of the students were learning German as part of the residency application process. Others needed the German to help them communicate with their German-speaking family members.

The mini "melting pot" in my classroom continued a long heritage of ethnic diversity in the city of Vienna. For many years, Vienna was the seat of an empire that encompassed an array of different cultural groups. Most of these groups

table and enjoyed a meal to which every family contributed. We didn't get to watch football, but we did talk a lot about football. We talked a lot about past Thanksgivings and why they were special to us. We are family because God has made us family, and that is why Thanksgiving in Vienna is a wonderful new tradition. ~ Brian

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.

now have their own country. The teacher during the course even used her name as an example of her own family's diverse past. Her last name was composed of two names: one from her Polish great grandparent and the other from her husband's Hungarian grandparent.

Vienna has accepted the challenge of being a multi-ethnic city by creating programs that enable refugees and immigrants to integrate into their society and by giving them freedom to maintain their own cultural traditions. The social diversity within Vienna also appears in most of the churches we visit here. Churches often provide translation—sometimes into multiple languages. The gospel's sphere of influence grows every time one of these new cultural groups learns to share the story. My experiences here help me appreciate the promise that God made to Abraham "to bless all nations." ~ Ira

"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