



Vienna's U-Bahn mass transit system

Vienna Tidbits:

Recently, the city of Vienna extended their transport network by lengthening one of their subway lines. Over 90,000 people live in the area surrounding the new track. The expansion will continue into the 22nd district in the next 2-3 years.

Prayer Requests:

New Bible study with Nigerians.

Jackson Calhoun, Kari's infant cousin see website for updates

www.jacksoncalhoun.com

Friends from language school and our relationship with them

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Vienna Team Newsletter

STUDYING THE BIBLE ACROSS CULTURES

Last month, I had an opportunity to begin studying the Bible with a group of men from the country of Nigeria. They worship with one of the German-speaking churches here in Vienna, but their primary language is English. I was excited and nervous at the same time about this new venture.

During the first study, we spent some time introducing ourselves and reading the passage, but we quickly ran out of time to go further. I thought it would be important to spend some time in prayer before we closed, so we took prayer requests, and I asked one of them to pray first, then I finished the prayer. Much to my surprise, the format of prayer I chose created a very involved discussion with one of the students. Apparently, the method of prayer we were using was quite different from an African style prayer used in a similar setting. Immediately, I was confronted with the fact that I was unknowingly transferring my culture of prayer. Thankfully, I remembered similar stories from former missionaries and recognized that this was a cultural issue and not a personal attack. Instead of getting bogged down in whose way is right or wrong, we decided to spend time studying prayer the next week.

Since that time, we have had 3 more lessons and with each lesson new questions come up during our discussion time that leads us to our scripture for the next week. I

commend the men who are studying for their desire to share and discuss God's Word within our group. I am excited to be a part of the process, and I have already learned so much from our time together. I am learning new ways to present the message in its simplest form allowing every participant, including myself, to discover God's will and commit to obeying it. In the coming months, we hope to find more opportunities to share the message across cultures, languages, and barriers. Please continue to pray for our efforts and the hearts of the people we will meet.

~ Ira



Children's Bible Hour

WORSHIPPING IN SPIRIT AND GERMAN

This last month saw another goal reached in terms of German language and cultural adaption to worship. We worshiped as a team – in German and it was awkward. I wish I could report that the Spirit had taken over and everything went smoothly and orderly without any grammar mistakes, but that didn't happen. Instead it was an awkward jumble of mispronounced words, incorrect grammar, and more English spoken than German. BUT, it was an AWESOME experience. For only being in Vienna for ten months, only in intensive German for eight months, and now we are singing, praying, and reading the Bible in German, what a hurdle to jump!

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

A year ago, all of the families of the Vienna team were part of a large congregation with a strong women's ministry. When we moved to Vienna, we realized how important it is for the women to encourage one another through spending time together in prayer and study. Several months ago, the women of the Vienna team began meeting weekly to study and pray together. Members of the women's ministry at Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma, have generously provided us with material used by the ladies' study group at Memorial Road.

We began our study with the book *Conversation Peace: The Power of Transformed Speech*, by Mary A. Kassian. This book focuses on biblical principles for godly speech and conversation.

After completing *Conversation Peace*, we began reading and discussing the book *Calm My Anxious Heart: A Woman's Guide to Finding Contentment* by Linda Dillow. This study has been helpful as we deal with the struggles of living in a different culture and learning to be content whatever our circumstances. Mrs. Dillow, herself a for-

This time in German allowed each of us to put into practice the language we have spent the last several months learning. Sharing this experience together also gave us the opportunity to encourage each other in the language-learning process. With all four guys contributing in different ways, we each could praise God and edify each other in ways we had not before.

We take comfort in the fact that the awkwardness is expected, normal, and will diminish. It is an important step forward and we are glad that it is now a regular part of our monthly worship, for now, once a month, we gather as a team, and worship the same God, but in German. ~ Jake

mer missionary to Vienna, has experienced many of the same transitions that we are currently facing, so this makes the book particularly interesting in our current life situation.

The weekly study has been a blessing to the women on the team. Through these studies, we are enriching our personal Bible study time as well as growing closer to one another. ~ Alisha



Ladies Bible study time

"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