



Belvedere Palace (Schloss Belvedere)

Vienna Tidbits:

August 15th is a holiday in Austria. Assumption Day celebrates the assumption of Mary to heaven in body and soul. Theological discussion aside, you are not going to get any shopping done because the stores are closed. This was a rude awakening to us last year, but now, expected!

Prayer Requests:

Empower us to fulfill the task we have been given

Current and new contacts

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

www.jacksoncalhoun.com

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www.viennateam.org

Vienna Team Newsletter

TEAM PRAYER MINISTRY

After Jesus' ascension into heaven, the apostles, along with Jesus' mother and brothers, returned to the room where they were staying and constantly devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 1:14). Acts recounts the start and amazing growth of the early church, and before Peter ever uttered a word on Pentecost, we see the Apostles dedicated to prayer. The text says they prayed constantly. I wonder what type of devotion one must have to prayer in order to have their prayer described as "constant"?

A little while later in the text, we see the Apostles selecting a replacement for Judas. But, before a replacement is appointed, the apostles prayed to God that He would reveal which man—Barsabbas or Matthias—He had chosen. The apostles made prayer a part of their decision-making process by asking God, "Show us which of these two you have chosen" (Acts 1:24). I think it is important to note that the apostles did not ask God to bless their decision, nor did they ask God for guidance in making a decision. They considered the decision as belonging to God and they were seeking His will. Recently, our team began to wonder how the incorporation of prayer as a compulsory strategic aspect might impact our ministry? This is not to imply that we haven't been praying, but we are seeking to deepen the way we include prayer in our lives and our ministry. We are seeking to deepen our reliance upon God because this

ministry is really His ministry and decisions regarding His ministry belong to Him.

I think I can relate to the apostles' position as it appears in the first chapter of Acts. They'd been assigned an enormous responsibility and there was very little reason for them to think they could succeed, let alone what anyone else thought about them. They'd given up their jobs and left their family to follow Jesus and now he was gone. What choice did they have? Constant and unremitting prayer.

The apostles were in a transition point—the time between when Jesus ascended to heaven and when the Holy Spirit came upon them—and they filled that time with prayer. Similarly, our team is in a transition point. We're transitioning from a place where we focused primarily on language learning and cultural acclimation to a place where we initiate what we believe will be a life-changing social movement sweeping across the city of Vienna. It is a bold vision that is too great for us to start or complete on our own. We are inadequate, but we hope that through reliance upon prayer, God may use us to expand His reign over Vienna in a way that it has never before existed. We are working to make prayer a part of our evangelistic strategy just as it was a part of the work conducted by the apostles and early church. *Continued*

Each day of the week we are praying for an individual family of our mission team and that family's contacts and friendships. We pray that God will empower each family with the ability to perform the task we've been given. We pray that our relationships will deepen and that we will be able to lead our friends to Christ. We pray for new contacts. We pray for new friends. We pray that God will change us into the people He needs us to be in order to fulfill our responsibilities to His ministry in Vienna, just as He changed a ragtag bunch of fishermen and tax collectors into the greatest missionaries this world has ever seen. ~ Brian

SUMMER VISITS

Early in July a group of 8 students who had participated in Oklahoma Christian's Summer Vienna Studies Program spent an extra week in Vienna to serve the existing ministries here and to better understand the life of a missionary. The students stayed in the homes of our team and ate meals with us throughout the week. Early in the week, 4 of those students made the trek to Schwarzwaldeckhaus accompanied by the Lockwoods for several days of arduous work on the camp facility there. The others remained in Vienna and helped at the Jugendzentrum with Reggy—building friendships with the kids there. Several from the group also offered their time and energy to babysit our team's kids while the parents enjoyed dates. As a team we also took advantage of the babysitting to have an extra team meeting reviewing our first year in Vienna. Our time with the students concluded with dinner and game night at our house—hamburgers, Smores, and games late into the night. While the service opportunities certainly made a lasting impression, we pray that the conversations shared over meals and coffee also communicated the great need for more people to commit to God's mission of reaching the lost around the world, regardless of their degree and future vocation.

Later in the month, we received a visit from Clyde and Gwen Antwine and Steve Allison. As a missionary, a visit from another missionary—especially an older couple who has spent so many years in German-speaking Europe—offers invaluable encouragement. As the Antwines spent time with each family in their homes and the entire team together, we were all reminded of the work and faith of those who have gone before us and their tireless efforts



OC Students visiting in July

to continue as Ambassadors. We were challenged to “not grow weary in doing good” recognizing that “at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9) and blessed to have such loving servants of Christ into our homes. Just like Paul, we too have received “great joy and encouragement” as Clyde and Gwen “refreshed the hearts of [these] saints” (Philemon 1:7).



Gwen and Cotter

Steve spent time with each family listening to our first year experiences, adaptation to the Austrian culture, and plans and dreams for our continued partnership with God in reaching the city of Vienna. His willingness to spend time with each of us offered helpful insight and encouragement as well. In spending

time together with the whole team, Steve facilitated meaningful team conversations and introduced us to resources that could prove beneficial to our team.

The visits from students, friends, family, mentors, and the psychologist made this summer a memorable one. We hope that our time together with each of them also provided encouragement and an excitement for God's work in Vienna.

~ Josh

THE RETURN

In a year of many firsts, I returned to Schwarzwaldeckhaus for a third time. Only this time it was my first experience hosting college students, first time to prepare and cook for a large group, and first time to cook on a wood stove. My first visit to Schwarzwaldeckhaus occurred in 1999 when I came as a college student with the Oklahoma Christian study abroad program. One of the lasting memories of my group was that 7 of us were lost for an extended period of time on an unknown mountain, while the remainder of the group worried about us and sent out the forest rangers. Our Austrian hosts still remember that group, and how odd to say years later----"yeah, I was one of those!" Now, I'm returning to Schwarzwaldeckhaus as a host for another group of college students from OC! Luckily, no hiking trips were planned for this group, just WORK. And they were a great help. Some of the work projects from this trip included, working on the cabin roof, insulating a new side room, and shoveling lots of gravel to help smooth out the road. The students worked hard, we learned a lot from our Austrian counterparts, we enjoyed God's creation and some games together, and for the first time I became known as "a good cook." This last year of transitions in Vienna, has been a crash course in cooking from scratch for me and I feel good about the progress I've made in this area for my family. It amazes me how God continues to work on me through my life experiences and opportunities to serve Him, from the time I was a "lost" college student up until now I'm the mother, the host, and the cook. Mountain top experiences can be life-changing, not just once but as a precedent for the rest of our lives. ~ Kari



Ira helping Josef at Schwarzwaldeckhaus



Q&A with Clyde and Steve



Fellowship meal with Clyde, Gwen, Steve, and the Rybinski's



Kids are coloring before the food arrives

"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