



Fall Scene in District 22

Vienna Tidbits:

Late fall marks the return of Alpine Skiing to the minds of many Austrians if it in fact ever left. Austria has dominated the Nations Cup by winning the title for the last 18 years. Needless to say, skiing is the most popular sport in Austria.

Prayer Requests:

Empower us to fulfill the task we have been given

Current and new contacts

Office Space—God will provide a central location with enough space.

Darla King (Kari's Mom)
She will find a job.

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Vienna Team Newsletter

CONNECTING THE PEOPLE OF VIENNA TO THE STORY OF CHRIST THROUGH SERVICE AND LOVE

WITH A COMMUNITY OF HOPE, PURPOSE, AND REDEMPTION.

THANKSGIVING 2008: OLD TRADITIONS IN NEW WAYS

I imagine most people raised in the United States can remember a time when they traced the outline of their hand with a Crayon in order to draw a Thanksgiving Turkey. It is something that is as traditional as eating turkey and dressing, and this year we celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday by embracing its traditions and observing them in a new context. Of course, we were in Vienna during Thanksgiving last year, but Thanksgiving 2008 was a much different situation for us. Last year at Thanksgiving, we had only been living in Vienna for about five months and we were still dealing with our international relocation and everything that it required. This time last year, our lives were focused on learning a new language and adapting to a new culture and, while these things are still a part of our lives, our focus isn't dominated by them.

A year provides us with a great deal for which to be thankful. There are people reading the Bible and being confronted by God's word who, this time last year, were not doing so. There are prayers being offered for the people of this city that were not happening this time last year. Acts of service in the name of Jesus have happened and, had our team not been in Vienna, it is possible that these acts would not have occurred. These are the type of things that help grow the kingdom of God. These are

the type of things that proclaim the new life offered through Jesus Christ. How will God act in the next year? In what ways will He continue to grow this ministry?

Some things we do for Thanksgiving are exactly the same as when we lived in the States: we eat turkey and pumpkin pie. Some things are different: we celebrate Thanksgiving on Saturday because Thursday is just a normal workday in Vienna. But, it is those little differences that make the celebration memorable for us. This year, two missionary families from Dresden, Germany came to Vienna and this provided for a houseful of people and more food than we could eat. After our meal we had a time of worship in which each male prayed on behalf the church in Europe and for strong evangelistic efforts over the whole world. We ended our Thanksgiving celebration with an auction of products that are only available in the United States—or products difficult to find in Europe—like Butterfinger candy bars and Oreo cookies. All together we raised 170 euros, which will help a minister in Hungary working with very little money.

Thanksgiving 2008 was a great time for us because it gave it us an opportunity to embrace all the things we have loved about the holiday since childhood, but Thanksgiving 2008 was also filled with many new experiences that we hope will continue in future years to come. ~ Brian

ROMANS IN GRAZ

• A Spiritual Feast

This month provided an additional feasting opportunity for some of our team members. The Hensal family and Ira travelled to Graz, Austria a couple hours South of Vienna to participate in a study seminar on the book of Romans. This opportunity to study with other Austrian and international Christians provided spiritual nourishment and encouragement for our families. We also shared the Lord's meal with the Christians there on Sunday morning followed by a luncheon of African foods. We were able to build relationships with this enthusiastic group of Christians, and we listened to their stories of faith and conversion.

The study was taught in German and translated into English for a portion of the members who come from Africa and Asia. The speaker, Wolfram Schrader, shared with us contextual information and thoughtful insights from Paul's letter, but he also helped us form practical statements of faith to encourage and support us during times of temptation. We were so thankful for this time of study and the hospitality shown to us by the Christians in Graz. We ask that you pray for the growth of this church as you also pray for our ministry.

In addition to the spiritual nourishment we received, we also gained insight into the organization and structure of a seminar in an Austrian/international setting. During the study we observed the format of instruction and the time requirement needed to accommodate questions from unbelievers or new Christians. We also learned the constraints and benefits of offering a seminar with translation into another language available. This type of study and event will prepare us for future offerings that our ministry will participate in here in Vienna. ~ Ira

• Spiritual Mentors

Have you ever met someone who challenged you to be more like Christ—someone whose life and impact for God's kingdom could be seen and known simply by spending time with that person and observing his/her interaction with others? Back in September as I attended the Men's Retreat in Germany, I met one of these special people:

"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



Wolfram Schrader speaks about the book of Romans

Wolfram Schrader. While I do not know all of Wolfram's history and his many contributions to the church in German-speaking Europe, I did get a glimpse into his great influence during our time at that retreat. Our time in Graz served to deepen that Christian bond and my respect for him as a man and servant of our Almighty God. For many years Wolfram ministered to the church in Zürich, Switzerland, one of the largest churches of Christ in German-speaking Europe, as a preacher/evangelist. Today, he continues to bless this part of the body of Christ and the kingdom across Europe as he shares God's Word and his life with people as he did in this seminar on the book of Romans in Graz.

In addition to Wolfram, one family from the Graz congregation in particular went out of their way to make us feel welcome. Thomas and Petra Lang arranged for our family to be able to stay in an apartment in the same building where the church meets. On Saturday morning they invited us along with Ira into their home to enjoy breakfast with them and Wolfram. After the session was over on Saturday, they took us on a walking tour through the city of Graz during which we enjoyed a cable car ride up the mountain to the castle at the top where we overlooked much of the town. Then, we enjoyed dinner at an Indian (not Native America; the country of India) restaurant with them. Throughout the seminar, Thomas led the singing and translated for Wolfram, which was sometimes quite difficult. Petra helped with the organization of the event, including babysitting for our children. This couple extended amazing Christian hospitality to us all, and we thank God for them and their work in Graz. ~ Josh