



A pickup game of hockey on the frozen Alte Donau

**Vienna Tidbits:**

January is an important month for Austria - politically speaking. In January 1995, Austria joined the European Union despite its long time status as a neutral state. On January 1st, 1999, Austria began using the Euro for its national currency.

**Prayer Requests:**

For our current efforts in forming the Austrian-recognized entity

Current and new contacts

Office Space—PRAISE! We have found a place and working to acquire

Guidance in new year

January 30, 2009

Volume III, Issue I

[www.viennateam.org](http://www.viennateam.org)

# 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.

## KREUZUNG

Recently, our team began working on starting a non-profit community organization called "Kreuzung". This organization is in its infancy, but we are developing ideas and seeking feedback from our Austrian friends in order to help us determine how we can best utilize Kreuzung as a way to reach people, bless our neighborhoods, and call the people of Vienna into service. There is a significant opportunity here because there are few community/social service organizations on the east side of the Danube River, where everyone on our team lives. Our goal is to use Kreuzung to reach our communities through organizing service projects, hosting game nights and book clubs, developing programs for children and adults. Ideas we've shared with each other that we'd like to pursue also include eventually hosting seminars on topics such as "Why it's important to believe in God" or on parenting and marriage. We have a long way to go in bringing the Kreuzung community organization to its fruition, but we are working towards this end and believe that there are many people in our district of Vienna who will display interest in what we'd like to offer. Kreuzung, incidentally, is the German word for "intersection." We like the word because we can tap into the themes of lives intersecting as well as the crossroads in life we all reach in which we are forced to make decisions—sometimes, life-altering decisions. Kreuzung, though, is a word that offers more significance than just the figurative themes and slogans



we might draw from its literal meaning. In German, the word for "The Cross" is "Das Kreuz."

And, the word for "The Crucifixion" is "Die Kreuzigung." Our greatest desire and goal is that when people are at the crossroads they choose the cross of Christ. Our greatest desire is for the people of Vienna to encounter the resurrected Jesus in their daily lives. Also included on the Kreuzung insignia is the phrase "finde deinen Lebensweg," which read in English as "Find your life's path."

For our purposes as church planters, in addition to our homes, we've been looking for an office space from which we might work. This will provide us with an additional avenue through which we may work in order to most effectively reach people, and it has always been a part of our plans, but with the idea of Kreuzung, we also hope that office space will provide an adequate location where we can host and offer all the events and services we anticipate coming from this organization. We have looked at several possibilities and narrowed down our search to a facility suitable

for our purposes, well within our budget, and in a great location.

As part of the process of securing office space, we realized that the office should actually be rented under an entity legally-recognized by the Austrian government as opposed to one or more of us as individuals.

Because none of our supporting congregations is a recognized entity here, the creation of an official entity in Vienna allows us to perform a number of other tasks under the name of this entity, which if we were working with a church in the United States would simply be performed through the church-related entity. Due to the overlap, we

### A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF...

To give everyone a sense of what goes on here in Vienna we have decided to do some articles that chronicle weekly events in the lives of members of the team. Jake got the short straw and so this article is about a typical week in Jake's life.

To sum up in one word Jake's week in Vienna would be to say "meetings." Lots and lots of meetings. Although some are more fun than others meetings are a necessary aspect of our work in Vienna. Monday starts things off with a language partner. For at least two hours Jake spends time with one of his neighbors discussing the past weeks events, family life, politics, and usually gains some tips on Austrian life. Jake has a similar meeting like this on Friday and these are the most critical and rewarding times in his week. This is the time he builds relationships, learns new German words, and is corrected in the use of other German words but most importantly he learns to listen and speak fluidly in German. Jake looks forward to these times each week. One of the most exciting things that has happened recently is that one of these two language exchanges has progressed into a Bible study time.

Jake currently has a two hour study/praying/singing time with another neighbor who shares Jake's love of music. They get together weekly to sing songs, old and new, pray, and study the Book of John together.

Of course nothing could take place without planning and discussion and various meetings take place throughout the week with the team to plan future events, work on Bible

have combined our efforts in the formation of the non-profit community organization and the Austrian-recognized entity through the creation of "Kreuzung".

Beyond the creation of non-profit community organization, the formation of the Austrian-recognized entity provides further permanence and credibility to the work in Vienna.

Please pray for our current efforts in forming the Austrian-recognized entity, creating the non-profit community organization, and securing office space. May God use these vehicles to further connect the people of Vienna to the story of Christ. ~ Brian



Jake leading singing at a devotional

study materials, and decide business type matters. One of these meetings that Jake likes particularly well is the Strategy Meeting. These occur weekly and are an integral part of moving the team, our work, and the message of hope we bring forward. It is in these meetings that visions be-

come reality and reality becomes a vision! Jake is excited about the new direction these meetings will go in 2009 with specific goals and topics.

The rest of Jake's week is filled with correspondence, preparations, conversations, and the never ending list of "to do" items need not be detailed here for fear of boredom. The root of Jake's ministry is his personality. He is a people person who fills his week with conversations with people from neighbors, to store workers, to teammates, so do not think of this week as that of meetings, but of interACTION.

"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