



Spring Flowers in Vienna

Vienna Tidbits:

In March the Easter markets open. Yes, that is correct, markets are not just for Christmas. The last week in March and the first week in April the Easter market has all kinds of traditional Easter gifts, foods, and of course egg coloring and bunny petting for the kids.

Prayer Requests:

GUIDANCE—For new outreach programs
WISDOM—In executing currently planned “Open House”, women’s breakfast, and game night
RELATIONSHIPS—New ones forming with our office space

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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.

CENTER OF MINISTRY

In the last few months, many new and exciting developments have occurred in our ministry. As we reported in our last newsletter, we established a legally recognized entity (a Verein) with the Austrian government called "Kreuzung." Along with establishing a Verein, at the beginning of March we rented a facility that will serve both as a center of operations for our team and as a potential place for outreach and ministry events. You may recall that our ministry emphasizes people meeting in small group home settings. We are still wholeheartedly pursuing this type of ministry, but we also knew that renting a facility for team purposes would provide us with logistic and evangelistic advantages we might not otherwise possess. The office space will be a great place to hold activities like a game night or a women's breakfast. There are plans being made for the future to offer after school help to children. We expect that the office space will provide us with a great number of new friends and contacts. Also, the office space will help our team in ministry planning. In the past, we've used our homes for our Sunday assembly, our team planning, and as a place to live. We are still using our homes for our worship services and, obviously, as a place to live, but being able to move our team meetings and planning sessions to a neutral location alleviates a heavy responsibility that was placed upon the families of our team. The office space we have acquired not only meets



The team enjoying a “picnic” in the new office space

our every need, it exceeds our expectations as it is located in a heavily populated area where we previously had no presence.

Though its location was the determining factor, none of us really knew just how many people, of all ages and backgrounds, would pass by this location daily. The office is on the ground floor in the corner of a building where above and behind us are several apartment complexes full of people. Beside the office is a middle school on one side; a hair salon, coffee house, and a pharmacy on the other. Out the front door are two kindergartens with after-school care, a high school, and a grocery store. The office is also situated between two well-traveled streets, both of which provide public transportation options. As you walk out of

the office, to the left you see the Straßenbahn (tram) stop and to the right you can access a bus stop on the other street; sometime next year the U-Bahn (subway) will be completed out toward the office providing a third alternative.

More important than the buildings and transportation around the office is the fact that many people frequent this area. Because of the kindergartens, after-school programs, middle and high schools there, scores of kids and parents stream through this area daily. With the grocery store so close to their apartments, many residents shop there on a regular basis too.

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF...

Is he a repairman? Is he a teacher? Is he a language student? Is he a coffee drinker, taxi service or janitor.....? No, he's a missionary!!

I do believe there are superhuman feats in mission work, but I am not the one accomplishing them. I am blessed to participate in God's work to heal the broken and save the lost. If I could describe my week in one word, it would be "opportunity". Almost everyday an unforeseen opportunity comes up in my life to bless, encourage, or learn from someone. The opportunities range from transporting an elderly neighbor around town to conversing with fellow dog owners in our local park. These conversations and simple acts of service have allowed me to build relationships and share words of faith in situations where I would normally fade into the crowd. I am thankful to have these opportunities to stand out for Christ.

In addition to the spontaneous opportunities, I also schedule regular activities that allow me to serve other people I meet here. This year, I was invited to teach English at a public school in a small town outside of Vienna. It's the hometown of one of my language exchange partners, and the school was looking for a native speaker to improve the standard of language acquisition for their students. Almost immediately, I was welcomed and blessed to join this community of people. I really enjoy conversing with the teachers and staff about their lives here in Austria, and the students appreciate the time I spend helping them improve their English. Now, I also have a much deeper appreciation

With all of these people walking right past our office, something rather unusual has happened to many of us since we moved into the office. We have had people we've never met before come right up to us and ask us many questions: What will this office be? Will there be something to "consume" there? What will you offer? In the nearly two years we've lived in Vienna, I can probably count on one hand the number of people that randomly initiated a conversation with me.

I'm convinced this is an opportunity from God! Please pray that we will answer these questions not simply with words but that we will allow God to address the needs in these people's lives through us. ~ Brian and Josh



Teaching English in the public school

for all the teachers who have taken time over the years to help me learn everything from engineering to my A,B, C's. I hope that this opportunity will lead to future volunteer work within the public school systems here in Austria.

Recently, we also initiated a coffee house based discussion group that is an outgrowth of our ongoing language exchanges we started last year. Sharing thoughts and ideas with people in this atmosphere has allowed me to build deeper more personal relationships with my Austrian friends. Even though I rarely drink coffee, I feel very at home in a coffee house. I know that probably doesn't make sense, but cafés provide a place for people to slow down, think, and talk about things that are important in their lives. I enjoy relating to others in this setting. I pray that in every setting, we will make the most of every opportunity. ~ 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