



Spring Flowers in Vienna

Vienna Tidbits:

On April 20th, 1905, Maundy Thursday, the 12 oldest and poorest men in Vienna were brought to the palace of Emperor Francis Joseph to be given gifts, fed, and have the emperor himself wash their feet. It “created a deep impression on all those present.” - NY Times

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.

REFRESHING LOOK

Imagine growing up hearing numerous stories of a far away land. Tales of adventure, tales of happiness and joy, sadness and pain. Imagine having all kinds of questions about these stories that are never answered. Imagine wanting to hear more of these stories but not being able to read them, only listen to a storyteller. Imagine people around you knowing about this land and speaking about this land but finding out they have never been there. Imagine a growing confusion about this land, questioning whether it exists, wondering if you’ll ever know the truth. Then imagine going on with life, ever wondering, ever thinking, but too busy with everyday tasks to seek out this land for yourself. Then imagine you win an all expense paid trip to this land. What do you do first? What questions do you ask? All those previous thoughts, ideas, questions, feelings come flooding back as you start out to discover this land for the first time wanting to know everything, questioning everything, soaking it up like a sponge so that you won’t forget.

Some days it’s just habit. Open up the Bible to where I left off and begin reading... Israel once again rejects God and is now going to be punished...the kingdom of heaven is like...to the church at Corinth...etc. What if every time you open the Bible there is something new to discover?

Such is the case of someone reading it for the first time. Details missing from a story are filled in. Questions are



answered or freely discussed and new questions are discovered. A world that seemed so far away and distant is suddenly real, exciting, dangerous, and alive.

I have the privilege to read the Bible once a week with someone who is experiencing all these things for the first time. Vicariously I live out those things as well and always feel I miss something when we are not able to read together.

This is what is happening in Vienna. This is what we want to happen in the world. It’s refreshing, its challenging, it’s tiring, but it’s wonderful. I pray everyone will get a chance to have this experience and I pray for my reader that their journey never ends. ~Jake

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF...

The 2009 year has provided me with a number of opportunities to engage friends and contacts in a variety of ways, as well as support my teammates in their individual ministry efforts. In a given week I am engaged in several different aspects of team missions, and this has helped me to develop a broad perspective on the various caveats a work such as this one entails. I spend a few hours each week volunteering at International University (IU) with English and writing assistance. IU was founded by Otis Gatewood--one of the first church of Christ missionaries to move to Europe after World War II--nearly 30 years ago and it remains today as a ministry outreach and service reaching many people from across the globe; however, the majority of the student body is from eastern European nations. I read over the students research papers and offer them advice on the content and quality of their paper, and I help them with English grammar. I've really enjoyed the time I've spent at IU helping the students, and I think it has really been appreciated by both the students and the professors.

I finished my intensive study of the German language last June, but I began to feel that I needed more formal study with German because I was not progressing very well without it. So, this spring I've started a German class that meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings for two hours.

I do believe that this course is just what I've been needing: a slower-paced study focused deeply upon a few aspects of the language. I studied almost all the material when I was intensive German, but those courses move so quickly from one theme to the next that many things are lost in the educational shuffle, if they were ever learned at all. My new German course is helping me to revisit things that I have forgotten and improve in areas in which I am not very proficient. It is nice to be back in a German class, and I can see myself continuing this slower-paced course for a long time to come.

Every other Sunday our team continues to host our discussion group at a local cafe. So far, the turn out for these groups has been less than what we anticipated, but the quality of the group has been very strong.

It has been a lot of fun for me to meet some new people

and discuss various issues confronting the world's citizens. In a given week, I am involved in several other things, but these things I've written about here are three of my favorites. ~ Brian

TEAM RETREAT 2009-BALLOON HOTEL



Brian, Alisha, and Kari conversing after lunch



Kids drying off after a swim



Vienna Team

"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