



Vienna Gardens 2 ©DOS82

**Vienna Tidbits:**  
Here is one for all of you that read this and enjoy a good sewing project every now and then, Mom. Thanks to Josef Madersperger, an Austrian, that project doesn't take so long because he is one of the inventors of the sewing machine.

**Prayer Requests:**  
**FURLOUGH**—For safe travels  
**SMALL GROUPS**—Formation of curriculum and that current relationships will be interested in studying  
**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.

## DISCUSSION GROUP—UPDATE

Gesprächsrunde is the discussion forum our team started earlier this year and is hosted by the Kreuzung community organization which we founded in order to provide ourselves with additional and different opportunities to speak with people about life in Vienna, Austria. Gesprächsrunde started last March with topics such as “The Role of Friendship in the Modern World” and “The Role of Religion in the Modern World”. We met every other Sunday night at a local café and covered a range of six different topics. After we had completed this cycle, we asked if people wanted to continue meeting, and if so, what they'd like to discuss in the future. We were certainly encouraged that people enjoyed the discussion group enough to continue meeting, and the general consensus was that we should re-discuss our existing topics and try to handle them on a deeper level.

The discussion group has served to build a real sense of belonging among the participants because it is a safe environment in which people can share ideas and ask questions. I personally feel like that I've not only made new friends through the discussion group, I've also built deep, meaningful friendships because we're focused on deep, meaningful topics of discussion. I think that everyone involved in the group has built a strong connection with the other people involved and this is really what has made it such an enjoyable and endearing experience. Even if the



Discussion group flyer

discussion topic isn't particularly strong (“The Role of Science...”) was such a dud we replaced it with “The Impact of Class Distinctions” for this new cycle of meetings) we still have a great time just because we enjoy the company. The most meaningful discussion group thus far has been “The Role of Success...” Each time we've dealt with this topic it has been really intriguing to hear the various perspectives on what success is and how a person attains it. But, more than just shared perspectives, there have been moments of a real, purposed search for meaning and a desire to find the correct path in life. We've discussed this particular topic twice and both times I was really moved and blessed by my participation—I was truly thankful to God that these meetings are taking place. ~ Brian



Caleb and Michelea enjoying ice cream



Gardens and Gloriette at Schönbrunn Palace

## SUMMER

You know it's summertime in Vienna when the strawberry stands open. Every June local strawberry stands pop up in different places to sell locally grown strawberries. They are, in my opinion, some of the best strawberries in the world! Another indication that summer has arrived is the adamant complaint from the little ones that it is NOT yet time to go to bed because the sun is still out. Our long dreary winter days are behind us and we literally have every waking moment in the sun. Of course, along with the natural changes, come the changes in our schedules and work here in Vienna. Kids are out of school, people are on vacation, and this year three families will be on furlough. These changes have a tendency to put a damper on activities. But summer is not a time to hold activities in Vienna but to deepen relationships that were established through previous activities. It is a time to slow down and take an extra hour to enjoy a coffee with a school friend's parent while the kids play in the pool. It is a time to go on vacations or watch a movie with our Austrian friends. For Austrians, vacation time abounds and both parents spend a LOT more time at home or taking their kids to the pool, lake, etc. University students are not studying and have more time to see a movie, play games, or go have coffee.

Another advantage of the summer is the ability to look back at the last year and plan for the upcoming fall. It is a time to read a book that we have been wanting to read that we can then share with the team. It is a time to plan new materials to try for Bible study or kid's class. It is a time to brush up on German, trying new phrases or focus-



Abby taking time to smell the roses!

ing on an area of the language that needs improvement. Summer is a wonderful time and since the Austrian school system only takes two months for summer break it goes quickly if you're not paying attention! So enjoy summer with us, read that book on the Gospel of Matthew you have been putting off or read Ecclesiastes again and let this time rejuvenate your spiritual and family life! ~ Jake

"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