



Shopping on Kohlmarkt Street looking at Michaelerplatz I

Vienna Tidbits:

The battle of Vienna on the 11th and 12th of September 1683 is credited with stopping the Ottoman advance into Europe. It was a turning point in the war between Europe and the Ottoman Empire and set the stage for the Habsburg dynasty to occupy much of Europe for the next 16 years.

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.

BACK HOME AGAIN

The last time I lived out of a suitcase for an extended period of time I was traveling to three different countries, scuba-diving the Great Barrier Reef, cliff jumping, and white water rafting. This time I was traveling to four different states, seeing over a dozen family members, speaking before hundreds of people, shaking possibly thousands of hands with my wife, a 5 year old, and 3 month old. At this point you are wondering if this is yet another furlough article, nope, Josh did a great job summarizing our experience in the US last month; this article is about coming home, to Vienna.

There is one thing that both of the two travel experiences mentioned above have in common: when you get home after a long trip you take a big deep sigh of relief the first time you step back into the place that you live. You sigh again the first time you lay in your own bed and again the first time you see your family (Daisy the dog).

Transitioning back after two months was a little like moving to Vienna for the first time and a lot like getting stuck in a time warp for two months while life continues. Apparently, the environment and post office did not take a furlough. Anything metal left outside is rusty along with my German. Drains that were slow are now clogged, damp areas without regular air exchange become moldy, eight legged creatures begin to rent out your house to the nearest 100



relatives as an “available winter resort”. Bills are late, letters are unanswered, and new neighbors break the outside intercom buzzer.

Of course along with environmental and postal issues, life does not take a furlough either. Cancer claims

a neighbor, kids move kindergarten classes, new neighbors move in, regulars don't stop by.

So we are left wondering where do we begin, how do we “get back on that horse”, how do we reconnect. Faith and trust. Trust that the relationships you built before will continue to grow, faith God will take care of the details.

So, before we realize it, invitations for coffee and cake are made, play dates are set, plans are being made for families to get together, Bible studies are renewed or begin, and everything comes back into place not as we left it, but in the natural order of how it should proceed. We are home.

~Jake

COMMUNICATING (OR NOT?)

Have you ever wanted to share something really important with someone but had trouble finding the words to do so or maybe just felt like you can't quite put it into words? Perhaps you have traveled to a country where English is not the native language or even tried to communicate with someone in the United States who is visiting from another country and whose English is a bit difficult to understand.



Then, you can probably appreciate the importance of being able to communicate in a way that the person listening not only hears the words but under-

stands the meaning and intent behind the words as well. As you already know, our team lives in a country where English is neither the native nor the preferred language. And, while many understand English and some enjoy practicing it, in order to communicate at a deeper level on meaningful and important topics, the ability to speak German is vital.

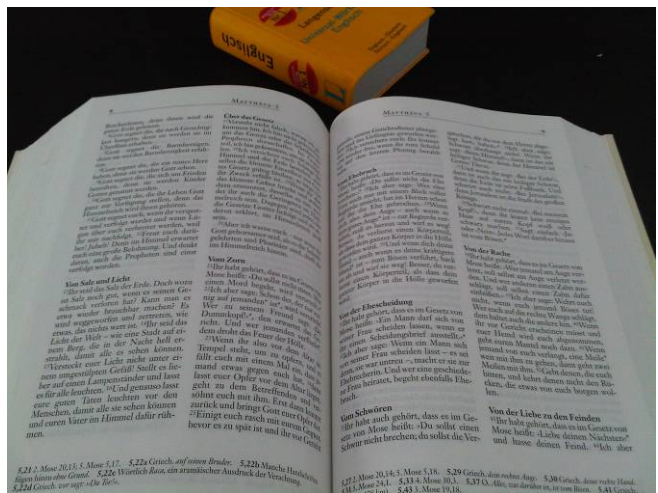
Each of us has been in conversations where a phrase or even a single word can make the difference between being understood or being offensive. And, to be honest, probably each of us has selected the wrong phrase or word on multiple occasions, which has led to miscommunication. Some of those interactions were actually quite humorous.

I can distinctly remember picking up my car from the dealership after it had to be repaired. The woman at the counter gave me the bill and told me what had happened, but because I didn't understand what had actually caused the problem I naturally asked if the repairs were covered under the warranty. She looked at me with a slight smile as if amused by the question and then "dumbed down" her explanation of the problem to inform me that a small animal with razor-sharp teeth was responsible for the hole in

the air hose, and no that's not covered by any warranty. (Have you met your friendly neighborhood *marten* lately?)

Though this was an insignificant misunderstanding, as God's ambassadors we certainly want to be able to communicate the most important message ever announced or heard effectively. We, therefore, invest in a variety of German-speaking and learning opportunities, whether that's a language exchange, reading a newspaper, reading the Bible, listening to the radio, watching TV, talking with our neighbors or even taking a German class. Over the two plus years that we've lived in Vienna, everyone's German has improved significantly, but we also recognize that we still have a ways to go.

Before our family left for furlough, Kim decided she wanted to take another German class when we returned. She too has been in situations where she has wanted to share something important from God's Word and her heart but has been at a loss for the right words or way to share. We're convinced that God working through His Word and Spirit has the power to change lives for eternity, and we simply want to be capable vessels for communicating His message. Please pray for our team and for Kim as we strive to speak a foreign language for God's glory. ~ Josh



"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