



Shopping on Kohlmarkt Street looking at Michaelerplatz |

Vienna Tidbits:

Oberndorf, although not the size of Vienna, plays an important role in world history. The historic event happened around this time of year. Any guesses? Go to www.viennateam.org and see if you can answer correctly! The winner's name will appear in the next newsletter!!!

November 30, 2009

Prayer Requests:

TRAVEL—Brian and Alisha are traveling in December.

ENGLISH KIDS CLUB—For success and that it helps us develop deeper relationships

BIBLE STUDIES—Minds and hearts will be open to God's Word.

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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.

ENGLISH KIDS CLUB

Sometimes in life you pray for opportunities to serve people or to share the love of Christ with others, but you struggle to see how God is answering that prayer. At other times it seems that God has been revealing an opportunity for so long and in so many ways that He finally has to send a person(s) directly to you so that you see the answer to your prayers. The latter has recently proven true in our lives. Though we anticipated that English could be a useful tool in our efforts here prior to our coming, we had intentionally oriented ourselves toward a German-focused ministry.

Over time we have begun to utilize English in various capacities to meet new people and help them improve their English or in devotional settings and even in our children's Bible class, but we failed to recognize the opportunity that God had put in front of us with the many school friends of our children. As our children began their third year of school here and we attended the obligatory first-week parents' meetings, several parents began to discuss what English options existed for their children and even asked the teachers what role English would play in the classroom in the coming year. In addition, some parents asked us directly if our team offered any type of English program for children. Even though, we had offered individual tutoring or language exchanges in the past, the real answer was, "No, we do not currently have an English program."

Well, as you might expect, that was a wake-up call of sorts from God to say, "I'm showing you people who have a need/desire and are coming to you for help!" And, as you might expect, Kim left those conversations disappointed that she had to answer "no" but challenged to create something that would meet this need. In a very short time, with the prayers of many and the help of a few, Kim initiated the English Kids Club.

Over the past few months, more than 10 children have gathered in our office space on Tuesday afternoons to sing funny songs, Christmas songs, as well as songs about Jesus; make crafts; decorate and eat cookies; play games; hear stories about how special they are to God and learn about creation (sometimes even from a puppet). As the culmination for the quarter and a way to show the parents what their children have learned as well as an opportunity to meet and spend time with the parents, we recently hosted an "Open House". The kids sang several of the songs they had learned, including "If you love Jesus", displayed their artwork, decorated Christmas cookies, enjoyed an American-style hot chocolate (with whipped cream and a candy cane) and American snacks, and even made a Rudolf from a candy cane. Parents filmed their kids singing, sang along, enjoyed the snacks and spent time talking with us; one of the parents—a good friend of ours—even brought a very popular spread for the bread.

ENGLISH KIDS CLUB (CONT.)

The “Open House” was a great success and a rewarding experience for all involved, especially Kim, who has spent a great deal of effort and time to make this possible. Praise God!

Not only has this English Kids Club been an opportunity to satisfy a need and serve many of our childrens’ friends, but it has also allowed us to meet parents that we may not have otherwise met and to share with them our deep love for their children because of God’s deep love for us. Several of us, but especially Kim and Jake, have been able to connect with some parents that we had never before met, though our children see each other daily in school. Additionally, this has truly been a team effort with Jake bringing a friend and leading the singing; and Karen, one of the women that attends church with us, helping plan and teach with Kim; and Kim’s organization and implementation of the entire endeavor; and even the engagement of some of our Austrian friends to help as needed. God has certainly blessed this effort, and we thank Him for that. Please continue to pray that He will work powerfully in the lives of these kids, their families and our efforts to love them and share Good News with them. ~ Josh and Kim



A favorite activity of the kids, decorating sugar cookies. Karen is looking on and giving instructions.

WOMEN’S RETREAT

This fall I was able to attend the women’s retreat in Filzmoos, Austria for the second year. Christian women from Austria, Germany and Switzerland have been gathering in this beautiful Austrian village for a week of fellowship, study and worship for more than two decades. This year’s theme was “My Favorite Things” and included lesson topics centered on things we love about God and the church: God’s Word, Jesus, God’s family, and praising God. One of the most moving lectures was by a woman who lost her husband, who was the preacher at their congregation, quite suddenly to cancer two years ago. She shared how the church not only supported her but also supported one another, taking up the work of the church. It was a true example life-changing power of the love of God expressed through His church. It was such an encouragement to spend a week with Christian women from German-speaking Europe. ~ Alisha



Days of creation song and craft that the kids made.



Kim talking with parents at the “Open House”.

“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