

Partners in Jesus,

I have been back from Austria for a little over three weeks now and I am still trying to settle down. I have been both blessed and burdened and my understanding of the situation there continues to grow.

I spent the first week of my trip in Germany at the Missionstreffen and Mitarbeitertagung (long German words for Missionary Meeting and Missionary Training Meetings). The second half was in Austria meeting other missionaries and learning about their work.

### My visit to Germany



Jerry Ackerman (Barnabas Project) and Gene

The meetings were held with people from the Barnabas project pertaining to Support Raising. It was refreshing and gave me incentive to get my butt in gear and share our burden and passion with more people. We cannot make it to Austria without the help of people and churches.

I was also encouraged by the fellowship of other missionaries whose testimonies and passions are infectious. I was encouraged by their faith and feel very comfortable with being a part of Kontaktmission. I am so looking forward to the day when the Lord opens the final door allowing us to move.

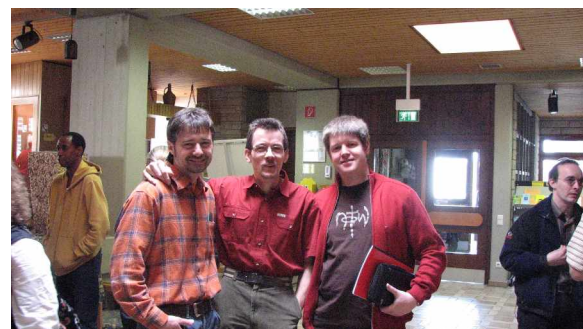
There were several other Americans at these meetings who are called by the Lord to be witnesses in Europe. I was able to spend time with them and it was nice to



Mark and Corrine Wilson  
(Missionaries to Germany)

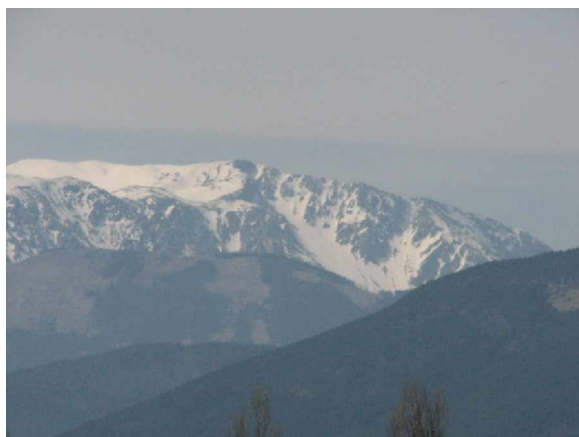
share the ups and downs of preparing to go with others who are going through the same things. 1 Pe .4:12 tells us not to think that the trials we are going through are something unique or strange. I have come to realize that support raising has less to do with money and much to do about preparing the servants heart. I pray that the Lord keeps that ever in the forefront of my mind.

Much of the meetings in Germany are about the needs for missionaries and the statistics surrounding the countries that they are in. I am always taken back when I hear of the stats. I am blessed to hear of Korea who has shown over 490% growth increase in evangelical memberships in the last 15 or so years and am also heartbroken when I see most countries in Europe sporting less than 1% professing Christians in total population. If ever there is a need for missionaries and mission work it is in Europe. I would have never thought like that in a million years and am glad that the Lord has opened my eyes to such a need.



Rolf Werner, Werner Buser, and Björn Korf  
(Missionaries to Austria)

## My visit to Austria



Landscaping south of Vienna

Of course my highlight of going to Europe is my time spent in the country of Austria. I am always taken aback when I go here because of the unbelievable beauty that makes up this country. I cannot understand how, with such great landscaping and unique architectural integrity, these people cannot contain God in their thoughts. It is so spiritually dark. In an interview with the Greater European Missions one man said, “Jesus? Oh he was a man living 2000 years ago, but they murdered him..too bad for him”. This is the attitude of the Austrians. They will give a child a Bible when they enter school, only to inoculate them from Christianity. By the age of 13 most children will have learned to mock Christ.



Apartment building near the center market in Vienna

During my trip I was able to meet with several different groups and I was amazed to see the need for the gospel there.

Not only is there a need for missionaries to minister to the Austrians, but there are people groups from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa that pour into Europe to escape their surroundings from the countries they are fleeing. And God is doing great things there.

I had the opportunity of staying with another American missionary, Marty Krofta, who lives right in the center of Vienna! His main ministry is to people from Iran who are seeking religious asylum in Vienna.



Abbus and Gene

I had the opportunity to meet and minister to one of these brothers. He came to faith last year and has since read the entire Bible. He meets with other Iranians in an international church that Marty is involved with there in Vienna. His name is Abbus and English is his 4<sup>th</sup> language. He spoke well though and we were able to communicate very well. I was able to share the scriptures with him and asked him a lot of questions about Islam. He was Muslim until the Lord opened his mind and heart to the truth of the gospel.

I found that even though most of the people living in the 10/40 window are Muslim, many are so because of fear of their own governments. Becoming a follower of Jesus Christ will cost them something. If not just rejection, it may cost them their freedom. Thousands of people flood into Italy, Austria, France, and other European countries to escape their governments and praise God, some of them are faced with the truth found in Christ!

Although my heart went out to the people who are seeking refuge in Austria it still beats for the people who are indigenous to it. I am convinced that God will use me and my family to share with those who are born and live in the country.



Evangelikale Freikirchliche Gemeinde  
(Evangelical Free Church Congregation)  
Mödling, Austria

While I was there I found the first free-standing Evangelical church that I know of in the country. The name of the church is *Evangelikale Freikirchliche Gemeinde*, which translates to *Evangelical Free Church Congregation*. I was so excited to find out about it and I believe it may end up as the model for other churches in the country. It only has a membership of 70, but they have managed to build a building that cost about 1.5 million Euros - that is about \$2,044,260.00 US dollars.

It is truly a miracle that this structure exists. They have, on average, 150 people attend each week. When they have prayer meetings, there is a 70% turnout amongst the churchgoers!

This church is the result of a church plant about 25 years ago and I had the privilege of meeting and talking with the missionary involved with this church plant. His name is Richard Worden and he was a missionary to Austria for about 13 years in the 1980's. He has now returned to continue that work with those who are now in leadership. The most exciting thing about

this is that it is congregation is completely led by Austrians. The pastor, and elders and board members are all Austrian.

I would love the opportunity to learn from Richard when we move to Austria. I would appreciate your prayers in this area. I believe the best way for us to minister in this country is to do as this man do. And that is to go to an area where there are little or no Americans. Then embrace the people with open arms. Although we will sure to be rejected at first, I know that the Love of Jesus is more powerful and that God truly can do more abundantly above all that we ask or think. Eph.3:20



Richard Worden and Gene

We would love the opportunity to sit down with you and share the things that are on our hearts. People have a misconception about support raising. Most think it is just about raising money. It is about locking arms with others to accomplish a bigger purpose for God's glory. However, money is needed to go and to maintain ourselves while on the field. We covet your prayers as we move forward. We would love the opportunity to share with your Pastor, Missions Director or Missions Team. Whether you can give or whether you can pray or whether you can encourage, if the Lord would lay it upon your heart to get involved, we would be more than grateful to sit down with you and lay out our vision and plans with you. It is definitely an exciting journey and we would love to make it with you at our side.

In the Grip of His grace,

Gene & Amy Corrigan