



U!SHINE COMES TO VIENNA

U!Shine is a mental and emotional health program founded last year and brought to Oklahoma Christian University to educate, raise awareness, and provide students with hope in the face of mental illness. The program is dedicated to ending the stigma that hovers over mental illness so students can feel free to talk openly about their struggles with common illnesses such as anxiety and depression.

From the moment U!Shine took off at Oklahoma Christian, I was intrigued and followed its progress. I couldn't help but think that had something such

as U!Shine been around when I was in school, maybe I would've seen the warning signs sooner, or known what they were for that matter, and wouldn't have tanked so hard when anxiety and panic came knocking at my door.

But, because of my experience with mental illness, I've grown more sensitive to what people struggling with mental illness in the Viennese community need: hope. Many need to know they're not alone and there's no shame in what they're going through, but unfortunately, they're not sure what to do, where to go, or with whom they can share their worries and thoughts.

So after a summer full of emails and Skype calls with U!Shine's founder, Jenn Winton, we decided to officially bring U!Shine to Vienna.

When U!Shine Vienna launches in Spring 2018, we will host seminars

on a variety of topics related to the betterment of mental and emotional health, such as nutrition, anxiety, exercise, and spirituality, to name a few. We will also provide a 5-week support group called Healthy Body Healthy Mind which focuses on improving emotional well-being, reducing stress, and building coping skills. Those on the U!Shine Vienna team, myself included, will be specifically trained to lead the seminars and support groups.

A big thing in Vienna right now is storytelling, so we're diving right into this current wave of popularity by hosting U!Tell It events which encourage people from the community to creatively share their stories about mental illness.

We hosted a soft launch at the end of September to gauge interest in the program and it was a full house! This was an encouraging start and we're already planning our next one for our launch in the spring. Please pray over this program, the team, and those we reach.

-Holly



MESSAGE FROM HASKEWS

We say THANK YOU! We reached out and requested support and you all answered our prayers! Praise God!!!

Here is an update on our financial situation since last quarter. Through your blessings we raised all of the ongoing support that we needed and over 60% of our one-time need!!! We only have \$11,325 of one-time left to be rid of this burden.

I hope you will say a prayer of thanksgiving for God's provision and continue to prayerfully consider supporting us with a one-time gift. Thank you all so much.

-Jake

NEW IRANIAN MEMBER

You never know how God is going to work. Almost a year ago the Donau Gemeinde let a young Iranian named Azim* stay at the apartment. Azim needed a place to stay while he waited for his Asylum application and a mutual acquaintance of Chuck knew we had a place where someone could stay.

What was intended to be a temporary solution has turned instead into an eternal call. Azim was translating for and studying with a non-denominational group working with Iranian refugees north of the city and soon after moving to our church apartment, he gave his life to Jesus Christ and was baptized. Azim continued to work with the group north of the city but also began to worship with us. It was a natural fit for him (since we worship in his living room) to start worshipping full time with us and he fit naturally with the Donau Gemeinde.

Since the beginning he has been an amazing servant, always helping to provide, setting up and cleaning up on Sundays, translating and soaking up God's Word. He has access to the Iranian community here in Vienna, an access none of us could possibly have. He has used that to bring visitors to worship.

We are overjoyed to have two single young men and a young couple with us now for regular Sunday worship. In addition, Chuck has begun studying with one of the young men and the couple and we look forward to what God is doing through this young man, Azim, who has risked everything to be a follower of Jesus Christ. He has not received his asylum yet, we ask you to pray that he receives that quickly and for his work with the Iranian community.

** Name changed for security*
-Jake

NEW HIM WORKERS JOINING TEAM

As you know, Holly and I started off working with the Vienna Team as HIM (Helpers In Missions) Workers - an internship program through Memorial Road Church of Christ that places young college graduates with missionaries throughout the world for two years to get a taste of what long-term missions is like. Obviously, we loved our experience, and we wouldn't be where we are today without the insight and experience gained during our two years and the examples given by the Haskew and Hensal families.

When we joined the team full-time almost three years ago (has it already been that long??), we've been on the search for even more HIM Workers to help out the team. We've got a lot going on, hands

in many pots, and having some extra hands to help us with day to day things as well as making their own contacts (contacts we may not ever have met on our own) has been desirable for us. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to find the people for the job - until now!

We're pleased to welcome Hallie Milner and Jacie Hutcherson to Vienna at the beginning of October. Hallie studied here in Vienna with Oklahoma Christian in 2013, so she is already familiar with the city and our church. Jacie did mission work for many summers in Belgium, so she knows the layout of missions in Europe. Between them, they have

experience in public relations, communication, missions, music and so much more. They are the perfect fit for us and we're excited to have them here soon.

Please pray that they get their long-term visas in a timely manner and for their quick and safe arrival!

-Will



Hallie and Jacie will be with us for 18 months

PICTURES FROM THE FIELD



SERVING TEENS AT YOUTH CAMP

In July, I drove up the bumpy, unpaved mountain road once again to Schwarzwaldeckhaus, the long-time Alpine cabin owned by the Churches of Christ in Austria for camps, retreats and the like. I've been up there many times the past 6 years, but I was especially looking forward to this event: our second Jugendlager (Teen Camp) in a row.

You may remember from last year when we wrote about Teen Camp, how there had been a gap of about 4 years because, well, there had been no teens. But with a group of kids moving on to their teenage years, I and the Haskews - with the help of Teen Camp veterans Scott and Sabine Hayes - organized a brand new camp. It was successful, we think everyone had a lot of fun, and so we knew it was a must-do for 2017.

Unfortunately, the Haskews had to be in the US during this year's camp, so I had to call on the help of Scott and Sabine again. We also had a few other locals - namely Florian and Timothy Krassnig - as well as Amy Beauchamp from the US, to round out the staff.

We have teens from both churches in Vienna as well as the

church in Graz, Austria come. This year, we had about 12 teens, from 13-19 years old, from very different backgrounds and very different faith backgrounds and stages of faith. I'm not sure exactly what it was, but this week in mountains was one of my favorite camps I've done at Schwarzwaldeckhaus. It could have been the location - it's always astounding up there, always reminding me of the majesty of God's creation. But I really think God brought the exact teens (and number of teens) to camp he wanted this year.

Like I said, they all came from wildly different stages of faith, from devout Christians, to those struggling, to some not believing at all. But the Bible classes were great and non-contentious, with respectful and invigorating discussion. With relatively few teens, we were able to have a lot more 1-on-1 time, getting to hear their perspectives and their life stories and getting to share ours. And I think the teens left with a greater sense of friendship to each other and



a stronger grasp of God, their creator, and who he is.

I'm thankful for this year's Teen Camp and am excited for next year's. Holly had to stay with the kids (Lucy was still a bit too young for an entire week up there) but I'm hopeful the family can join next year. I'm hopeful as well that the teens will come again and bring their friends this time, to spread the word even further.

-Will

THE VIENNA TEAM

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