



viennateam

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3Q 2018

GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING

One thing we have learned over and over here in Vienna is that God works in his own ways, on his own schedule, and even when you have had no idea that he's been working.

Chiara was Holly's first Austrian friend she met during our first summer here in 2012. Tamika had met her in the store where she

worked and introduced her to Holly, after which they became fast friends. She was always curious about our faith and why we were in Vienna, but it had always been from a perspective of, "That's great for you, but it's not for me." Which we respected, never pushed, and trusted that God would work in his own way.

Over the years, Holly and Chiara would have some sporadic spiritual conversations, but never anything that made her think that Chiara was seriously thinking about her faith. But slowly, over time, Chiara started asking Holly to pray for her (which she was of course already doing). When her dog got sick, she told Holly she tried praying for her. When she began asking more questions, Holly gave her a Jesus Calling book. But still, true faith seemed a long way off.

Until it wasn't anymore. We all come to our faith in different ways. For Chiara, it came as a sort of rush all of a sudden when she was thinking through everything she had heard

and read from Holly, Tamika and others. As she put it, it was like a sudden realization: "I believe. I believe all of it."

She called Holly in an almost panic and rushed to tell her good friend of almost 6 years what we had been praying for for almost as long: she believed in Jesus Christ and wanted to be baptized.

It was almost like whiplash for us. We knew there had been interest there, but not this much interest. We knew that God had been working in the background, but not to this extent. We were able to witness firsthand that God works in his own way for everyone.

So Chiara was baptized as a sister in Christ one rainy evening last month. Since then, she has been a whirlwind of faith, integrating seamlessly into our church, getting to know everyone, even inviting her own people to the Donau Gemeinde Christi. She is a testament to the concept of planting seeds, and trusting in God to make them grow.

-Will



Holly and Chiara, rocking their Oklahoma gear

U!SHINE UP AND RUNNING



U!Shine Vienna Team

I can now say, on the record, that U!Shine Vienna is up and running. After my U!Vie (its nickname) teammate and co-founder, Michelle, and I finally

succeeded in founding U!Vie as a nonprofit, we sort of went underground, so to speak, to lay the foundation of our future community and organization.

We spent the summer interviewing potential team members, creating content for our website, growing our social media presence, and networking with fellow nonprofit organizations in the Vienna area.

We've since grown the U!Vie team to 15 volunteers, all of whom have a passion for mental health and seem excited to get others involved.

Our website is nearly complete and set to officially launch at the beginning of the year, and we've already begun to gently ease our name into the city by hosting U!Shine Vienna coffee meet-ups.

Our meet-ups are limited to 10 people total, made up of any 5 U!Vie team members as well as the first 5 individuals who snag a free ticket. This way, people from the area have the opportunity to see the faces behind the U!Vie organization, get to know us on a personal level, and hopefully, sense feelings of safety, compassion, support, and strength during these get-togethers.

We've had two meetings so far, with one more to come this month, which makes for three sold out events! I'd like to think it's because of the desire to talk about mental health (but mostly, I think it's because we promise a slice or two of Cafe Little Britain's famous Blueberry Crumble Cake.)

For the rest of this year, we will only host coffee meet-ups plus a holiday party to thank our team for joining us on this adventure. Then, starting in January, things are going to pick up and get very, very exciting.

-Holly

COME BEFORE WINTER

In October, I along with Holly and our HIM workers, Jacie and Hallie, were blessed with the opportunity to travel to beautiful Salamanca, Spain and participate in a Come Before Winter (CBW) renewal. This was my fourth renewal and just like the times before I was left feeling filled up spiritually and renewed, ready to get back to work with vigor. The wonderful team of women

that came from America to host this special event for missionary women and other women who play crucial roles in their home congregations across Europe, provided in depth teaching on the Gospel of Matthew. Along with Bible study, individual and group prayers sessions were scheduled throughout the week, as well as time for worship and fellowship.

-Amanda



The Come Before Winter group in Salamanca, Spain

PICTURES FROM THE FIELD



Holly receiving her Life Coaching certificate



Women's night at the church



Fellowship Sunday



Flo and Ali's wedding



Lucy trying her first Dirndl



Persian grill night

TEEN CAMP 2018

It was a record year for Teen Camp this year! Through the addition of both the 'graduation' of kids from kids camp to new teens participating we had 17 teens, 9 helpers, 2 kids and one dog.

This year we focused our teaching time on the book of Luke and how the birth of Jesus helped turn the world upside

down. From his birth to the ascension we looked at various stories that demonstrated Jesus' life altering message of blessing the poor, the hungry, those that weep, and warning those that are already full, rich, and are happy. To challenge our belief of who is our neighbor and to save a life, one must be given.

To help reinforce the messages

and internalize them, we had the teens choose a verse to memorize and act out, letting them use their actions, voice inflections, and props to bring the words of Jesus alive! We were blessed by the seriousness and creativeness the teens went about reciting their passages to everyone.

As always, we had time for reflection, small group discussion each lead by one of our helpers, one-on-one time, prayer time and feasted under the careful planning and cooking of Amanda and first timer Barbara.

Enjoy the pictures from that special week and continue to be praying for these teens as they navigate another year in school a lot of them away from the world altering message of Jesus.

-Jake



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