

AUSTRIA

for Jesus

NOVEMBER 2008

TROUBLE IN DODGE!

Dear Team,

We are about to finish our first book of the Bible at the Friday night study - the Gospel of Mark. We are now in chapter 13 and studying about the "end times." Nothing could be more exciting for our little fellowship. Everywhere we look, new signs emerge indicating Jesus' soon return.



Monika & Robert

Recently, Monika attended a government meeting along with several people as representatives of Vienna Christian School. She was confronted with a very hostile attitude from an Austrian official toward the school, because their Christian faith was expressed on the VCS website and official school documents. The Austrian official stated that he considered VCS to be radical. It has always intrigued me how people feel the expression of their beliefs are always right and good, but others expressing their beliefs are wrong and bad. I am wondering if he feels the same about people who cheer their football (soccer) team on to victory? They seem to be quite vocal about their heroes. Or is not so much about the expression of our belief, but rather what we believe? We just learned in our study in Mark, that Jesus said one of the signs of the end times was that "everyone will hate you because of *your allegiance to me*." Please pray for Vienna Christian School and all those involved who are deciding its future. After 20 years of educating children from around the world with a Christian perspective, the school will be closed unless God does a miracle.

Our little Friday night fellowship has become such a source of blessing to Monika and me. One of the ladies in the group bought Trudy a New Living Bible. She was so proud of her new treasure and very appreciative. Who would have known such a small act of kindness would produce such a powerful expression of love and sense of belonging in Trudy's life? Then she noticed Monika's Bible was underlined and highlighted. She didn't realize that you could mark in the Bible, and immediately began underlining some favorite verses. Monika and I glanced at each other and said, "That is **THE FIRST LOVE!**" Oh, there is nothing more beautiful than our first love. Isn't it incredible to think that Jesus is anticipating the very moment you and I see Him face to face? He is longing to tell us how much we are loved and cared for. That fact should inspire us to live a life of purity and to keep ourselves FOR HIM. Recently, I have asked for a fresh clean start and I am so thankful God is faithful to help us in time of need. Fresh start, fresh filling of God's Spirit, more power to keep going... what more could anyone want?

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Trudy's son, Marcus, continues to get closer to receiving Christ. One day I met with him at our usual Starbucks hangout where Danny works, and I asked him THE QUESTION again.

“Marcus, sin is the only thing that keeps us apart from God who loves us deeply, and HE has already removed that barrier by taking it away through Jesus Christ. I am just curious; What is it? What is the one thing in your life at this very moment which keeps you from inviting Him into your life?” (In all the years of counseling, I have never heard a response like his.)

He said, “I have never had control over any part of my life at any time before. I have quit taking drugs and quit smoking cigarettes, and for the first time I have control. I'm not willing to give it up yet.”

WOW! I just sat there stunned. I know his family background and can understand how powerful that reality is to him. I tenderly shared, that most everything in my life growing up was good and normal, and yet I failed. I told him that unless Christ is invited to rule hearts and direct our lives, we will ultimately fail. He was sooooo close. Please keep praying for him.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. new group that is now going through Leadership Training
2. place for new Bible study group in Vienna
3. salvation for Marcus
4. time to meet with the many new people we've been meeting
5. Christmas outreach in Vienna to the drug users and alcoholics
6. Austrian government would allow VCS to continue
7. tickets for our children to return to Austria for summer
8. Monika & I would stay close to the heart of God
9. worship leader for our studies

Fall on the March River - a place Monika and I walk and enjoy God's creation