

# AUSTRIA

*for Jesus*

AUGUST 2009

bread of life bible fellowship

**Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Luke 11:9**

Dear Team,

You just never know what God will do next! It all started with a phone call from a very special friend we have known for over 20 years. She and her husband are originally from Egypt but have lived most of their lives in Austria. She excitedly began saying that I needed to talk to the Muslim son of a Syrian woman she met.



**Anne, Maria, Monica, Monika, & Robert**

Well, it was a bit more complicated than that. You see, the lady she met had been raised in a Muslim home but attended a Catholic school as a child. It offered a better quality education. Upon learning about Jesus, she accepted Him as her Savior. Her love for the Lord grew, and she became a devout follower of Christ. After graduating from school, she was given to a Muslim man (a cousin) through an arranged marriage and eventually had three children by him. Because of her faith, life was a constant struggle, and she refused to follow her husband's religion. No longer willing to endure the abuse of her husband, she and her youngest daughter fled the country. This began a life of constant danger, hiding, and moving about to avoid, in the Muslim world, a death sentence. After twelve years on the run, she ended up in a refuge camp outside Vienna. My friend told me the son was sent by his father to kill both his mother and sister but had shown an interest in Christianity after seeing the change in their lives.

I was thrilled about the possibility of sharing with the man, and my first attempt to call her was less than successful. The mother answered the phone but was not very talkative and sounded depressed. I could tell she was giving me the brush off. Monika and I prayed for her constantly. I called several other times asking to speak with her son, which was my original assignment, but without success. She did tell me that he was stuck in a refugee camp and was only allowed to visit her on weekends.

Everyday I thought about the Syrian family and was troubled to know that they were all alone in a country that is not very kind to immigrants. Then one day, I decided to try calling again. She answered, and said that her son just happened to be standing next to her and quickly handed him the phone. I was praying for God to give me just the right words. He was polite but seemed closed to what I was saying, and ended the

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conversation quickly. I always trust that God “plants the seed” at just the right depth in people’s hearts so that it will spring up in the future when the time is right, so I kept things light and humorous and said goodbye. My mission was completed, and I could tell my friend that I talked to the son. Now I could move on to other things.

However, God continued to put this family on our hearts. We, along with our Bible study group, constantly prayed for them. I called my friend from time to time to find out how the family was doing. During one of those calls, she told me that the mother was very discouraged and was willing to talk to me now. I knew the Holy Spirit had been prodding me to keep pursuing her and not give up... just like He does with us.

I called her right away and asked if Monika, Anne and I could take them out for some ice cream. She agreed, and we met at an outdoor cafe in Vienna where we sat for over two hours and listened to their incredible story. It seemed that in one moment, the years of running for survival and hardship were turned into laughter and rejoicing as all of us realized God’s presence and provision throughout their “wilderness experience.”

The following week all of us, along with Edna Diaz, who was visiting from San Diego, went to church together. Afterwards, we had lunch together and talked about our families and life in general. Edna, Anne and the daughter made plans for a future lunch and time of shopping, which seemed to bridge the language barrier. Today, while their needs are many, the family is just

thankful to have finally made friends who love the Lord. Please keep them in prayer, especially the salvation of her son.



**EDNA & ANNE REACH OUT TO MARIA**  
*a person’s words can be life-giving water*  
- Proverbs 18:4



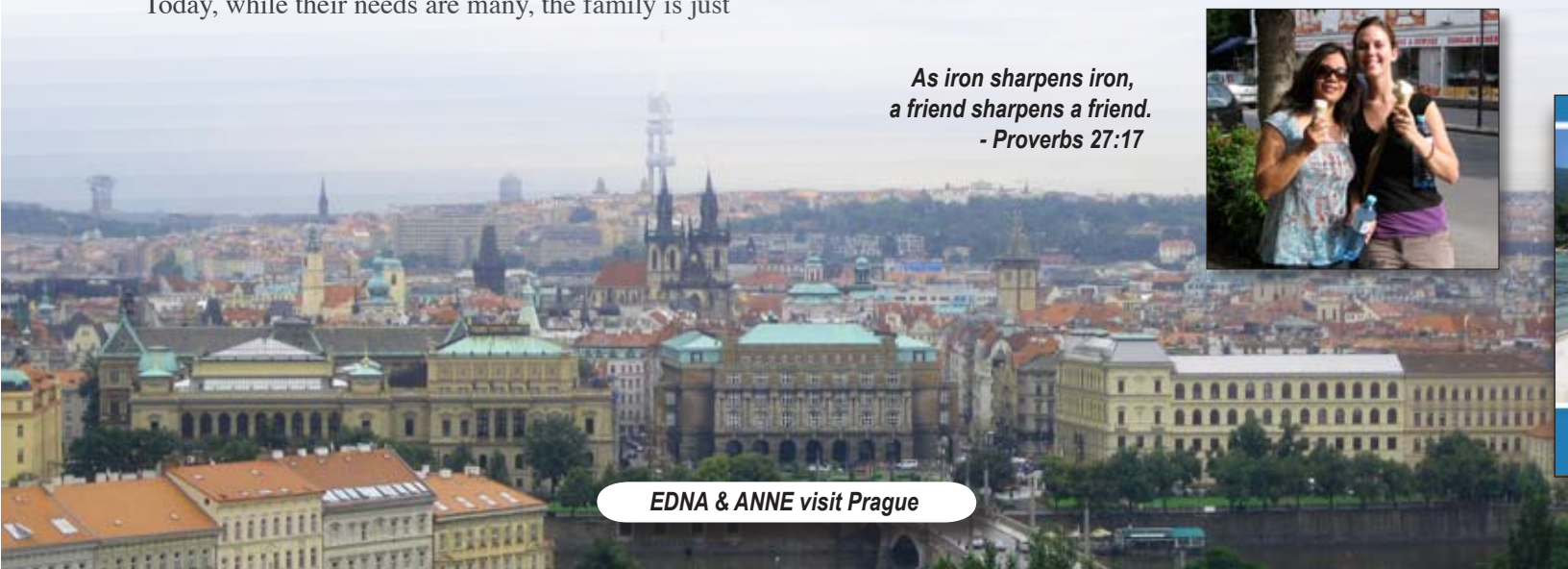
**Edna & David in Vienna**



**Monika & Edna at Danny’s store**  
**Starbucks store in Vienna**

We were excited to have **Edna Diaz** visit. Although it was the wettest July in 190 years, Edna filled our home with sunshine. She and Anne were able to get away for a few days and tour the beautiful city of Prague.

**As iron sharpens iron,**  
**a friend sharpens a friend.**  
- Proverbs 27:17



**EDNA & ANNE visit Prague**

# DANNY'S BACK!

Many of you have been praying for our oldest son to return to his first love, because you know what it is like to have children drifting around in the world. Monika and I decided awhile ago to accept the fact that he had chosen to go another direction (for the moment), commit him to prayer, and trust God to work in his life. We don't know what happened, but he is going full steam ahead for Jesus. Thank you for standing with us in prayer. God has gifted that young man to talk with people. It seems everybody who is anybody in Vienna knows Danny, and now he's using those opportunities to bring them to Christ.



*Anna's graduation*

Danny's girlfriend, Anna, recently graduated from the school where they first met. He has been teaching her the Bible and witnessing to her friends.

## - PRAISE REPORT -

A dentist Anna recommended pulled 4 impacted wisdom teeth from Anne;

*Estimate in San Diego: \$3,000  
..... actual cost: 0 Euros*

Monika and I celebrated *25 years of marriage* in Greece, where we spent time reminiscing and thanking God for all He has done.

*Robert & Monika*

## - PRAYER REQUESTS -

- Anne's move to San Francisco State - place to live, church, new friends, classes, finances, needs computer
- vacation for Monika and Robert **ANSWERED**
- salvation for Marcus, Marwan, Syrian man, faith for B.J. to break away from people who use her, Sigi's husband salvation & commitment to marriage
- wisdom for Monika and me concerning God's leading
- Danny's walk with the Lord **ANSWERED**
- David & Anne's return to school... getting back into the routine
- Anne's wisdom teeth removal **ANSWERED**

