

AUSTRIA

for Jesus

APRIL 2011

Dear TEAM,

Monika and I were shocked one day to read articles in every newspaper about Dirk. He was a well known German Herpetologist, (reptile expert) who lived in Austria. He had been bitten while feeding a South American rattle snake, and died within hours. The reason we were so shocked was because someone had brought him to our Bible study several years ago. We remember that evening so clearly. He had asked a lot of questions and had been impressed with the love and kindness he experienced. Monika and I thought about the odds of him coming to our no-name-town, Gänserndorf. This shocking news serves as a reminder of just how important our little Bible study group really is.



Dirk Frühling

We recently had another interesting experience. Ever since moving to Gänserndorf six years ago, I had noticed a couple walking by our house nearly every day. Up until a year ago or so, they were the only Africans in our town. I know what it is like to be a foreigner and live in a small town. I thought about them often and hoped to meet them someday. Once I was walking home from the train station and met the wife. I tried to speak with her, but she couldn't speak any English whatsoever. I tried out my best German, but she couldn't understand what I was saying; so I gave up.

One day Monika and I were sitting on a train coming home from Vienna, when her husband sat down right across from us. That was my big chance. As soon as I said hello and introduced myself, he began talking to us about his incredible story. He, Phillip, is a retired doctor from the Congo. At some point Russians came to his country and tricked him into moving to Moscow back during the USSR regime. After working there for three years, he persuaded the government to move his family to Bulgaria where it was a bit warmer. Eventually he made it to Austria, where he worked for the Red Cross for thirty years until he retired.



CONTACT ADDRESS

Brunnengasse 82/19
A-2230 Gänserndorf
AUSTRIA / Europe

SUPPORT ADDRESS

(payable to Bread of Life Bible Fellowship)
7340 Florey St.
San Diego, CA 92122

EMAIL

breadoflifebiblefellowship@yahoo.com
www.BOLBF.ORG
SKYPE: pantonrobert

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When I mentioned we were Christians, he lit up with joy and shook my hand. Then he told us something shocking. He said that we were the first people he had ever met in ten years of living in Gänserndorf. We were stunned to hear this, but not really surprised. My heart was flooded with love and compassion for him, and instantly I realized why God had allowed me go through so many years of isolation and loneliness here. It was for that very moment. Trials often enable us to relate and connect with one another in very deep and personal ways. After welcoming him to Gänserndorf, I gave him a business card, told him about Monika's sinfully good apple strudel, and invited him and his wife to come visit us. I am more convinced than ever, that building relationships with *individuals* is the key to winning people to Christ.

UPDATE FROM DANNY

Current location: Bahamas (with the PATMOS SCHOOL)

He relayed the following:

A week of simulated "Persecuted Church" training was coming to an end when Danny and the others were told they had one hour to pack and leave for Columbia, South America. (He said it was a radically emotional change.)



The next ten days were spent evangelizing several poverty stricken communities. They served with a local Christian lady who feeds and ministers to neglected children; many who are victims of the sex trade. He said it was not uncommon to see fifteen year old girls with two children. They also went to an island community, similar to the poverty level of Tijuana, and helped build a youth center and conducted a vacation Bible school. They also performed skits and shared the Gospel with many young people in the area.

Danny wants to thank everyone from BOLBF who have been praying for and supporting his school experience. He was invited to join the staff for the summer semester which will take him to Brazil. He believes that God wants him to stay and grow some more. All the young people here in Austria are cheering him on and wondering when he will return. Danny continues to reassure them, as Arnold Schwarznegger says, "**He'll be back.**"

Please continue praying that God will equip him with everything he needs to be God's man in Austria..

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MINISTRY UPDATE:

Monday night - Christian Foundations Class
(Starbucks Vienna)

Tuesday - Gospel of John (Starbucks Vienna)

Thursday afternoon - Monika is teaching a young ladies group: studying the **CHARACTER of GOD** (Starbucks Vienna).

Thursday night - discipleship study: **HOW GOOD IS GOOD ENOUGH** (Starbucks Vienna)

Friday night (1st & 3rd week) - **Gospel of John**
(Martin & Birgit's house Deutsch Wagram)

Friday night (2nd & 4th week) - **Exodus**
(Jon and Janice's house Deutsch Wagram)



SBUX Leadership Dinner March 2011

Dear Robert,

Thank you so much for thinking of me and especially for investing in me... I am truly blessed to know you and serve together.... God showed me that He wants to use me in a speaking position, that is to encourage, to share, to tell people about what God has been lately teaching me, so be in prayer for that! - Anda (email excerpt from a young Romanian -Tuesday night SBUX study)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- discernment to know God's direction
- faithfulness to obey HIS leading
- alertness to not miss anyone God wants us to meet and talk with
- strength not to grow weary
- faith to follow God in everything HE asks us to do
- wisdom to know what we should be involved in
- our ability to communicate the Gospel in simple, clear and relative ways
- power to overcome temptation
- Danny's leadership training and direction for Austria
- Anne's graduation & direction for next step
- fellowship for David, summer job, special video camera, & car
- encouragement for the BOLBF TEAM (let's keep our hearts in the battle)