

AUSTRIA

for Jesus

JULY 2011

Dear TEAM,

God is moving in some new and exciting ways here in Austria. HE is using us to help more and more young people learn how to live for Jesus in practical ways.

I was scheduled to have lunch with Babsi, and true to her character, she invited a couple other girls to join us. She always desires for her friends to hear about Jesus. This was my first time meeting a young Chinese girl named Lijun. Our first encounter was difficult to say the least; she just seemed not to get along with anybody. I remember telling Monika, that I hoped to never run into her again. Little did we know she would become like a daughter to us.



Lijun

It started with a phone call one day for help. Lijun asked if I would be willing to counsel her, so I agreed to meet her at MacDonalDs for coffee. This young lady was suffering from having never been loved before. It is sometimes difficult to comprehend that most people have never experienced genuine love, which only comes from God. After telling her incredible story, I completely understood her behavior, and my heart was instantly filled with compassion. I knew God wanted me to help her... it was a divine appointment.

Leaving her in Shanghai with her grandparents, Lijun's mother and father moved to Vienna seeking a better life. They both started working at MacDonalDs and were quite poor. At the age of five, they sent for Lijun to join them. Her world was turned upside down. A new language and culture only added to her insecurity. She grew up under constant pressure to succeed. No matter what she did, it was never good enough for her parents. As a result, she concluded that she was a failure and had no value. Eventually things turned around for her parents, who became well known doctors of traditional Chinese medicine and financially successful. Although she did not lack for physical things any more, she never felt wanted or loved by her parents. Incredibly, a private English tutor told her about Jesus, and she responded by giving her life to Him. However, she continued struggling, trying to earn her parent's love. Broken hearted, feeling lost and insecure, she quit studying Law at the University and moved away from home. She was in "survival mode" and all alone in life. That is when I met her.

Monika and I see someone much different than her parents. She is a bright, intelligent, hungry to know God, and searching for His plan for her life. She is adventurous, willing to take risks and sincere in everything she does. Lijun has a passion for the arts and had hired a voice teacher, dance instructor, and acting coach with the little money she earns from a local pharmacy. Her goal is to pass an audition and be accepted into school. Although most people get into Conservatories as a result of studying these disciplines from childhood and she is just beginning, Lijun is determined that "all things are possible with God." We meet once a week to talk and study the Bible. Slowly but surely, she is learning her true value in Christ and becoming more and more secure in HIM. Monika and I feel so privileged to be used by God to help her grow. We are confident HE will use Lijun to help many Austrians understand the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Oh by the way, Lijun passed her last audition and was accepted into school this fall.

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

He found Jesus and begged Him to come to Capernaum with him to heal his son, who was about to die. - John 4:47

It's been said that I have an over-active imagination, but I am too busy living to dream. However... this story all started with a terrible night's sleep and an early wake up. I decided to log onto Face Book and see what my children were up to. When I got to David's, my youngest son, wall, I noticed a news flash just posted within the last couple hours. It was about a young Austrian man in his early twenties, who had a freak accident and fallen to his death near Portland, Oregon. David had been taking graphics classes, and I thought he had created the logo and story. It was sent to Monika's wall too and with no explanation. That got my curiosity going, so I decided to Google the story. It was a true, breaking story that had just happened. Immediately I thought, "This couldn't be about my David... but could it be? No... but why not?"



David Panton
San Francisco 2011

I had to investigate. As I quickly searched other sites for more information my adrenaline began flowing. His name was being withheld pending notification of next of kin. "Perhaps David's girlfriend, Janelle, had his login and posted it to everyone, so they would know that something happened to David," I reasoned in my mind. Quickly I sent her an SMS trying to confirm that David was O.K.! "Surely she would respond immediately to my inquiry," I thought. There was no response... that silence was deafening. As the seconds ticked by, I felt my heart sinking. "She must be to distraught to communicate," I reasoned. As my thoughts ran wild, I sat there in total shock. "It was David," I concluded!

I quickly left the office to take a shower and clear my head. I had to get information, and whatever I did, I must be careful to not let Monika know what happened until I get the details. In the shower, I cried out to God with *all my heart*. I prayed, "Please don't let this be David." God often speaks to me in the shower for some reason, and this was no exception when I needed Him the most. He said, "I am God, and I have power over life and death." I begged Him for David's life. I knew in my mind this could be a big misunderstanding as easily as a reality, and God had the ability to make it go either way. God is all powerful! I was drying off when Monika asked if everything was all right. Choking back the tears and trying to be brave, I muttered an unconvincing, "Yeah, everything's OK."

I quickly returned to the computer and immediately logged onto SKYPE. Only one person was on, and I urgently alerted him to my situation. He called my sister in Georgia and only got voice mail. I instructed him to leave a message for her to call me... it was an emergency! I had him call my faithful friend, Brian Keegan. Brian SKYPED me immediately, and I gave him the details.

About this time, I noticed that Monika was sitting silently at another computer, so I called out asking what she was doing. She replied, "Reading this story about a young Austrian man who fell to his death. Emotion was overcoming me as I told her what I knew. She sleepily commented, "David never posts things like that," which only confirmed my conclusion. As Brian was trying to console me with the fact that it could be a misunderstanding, his wife sent an SMS to David, and within minutes I received the phone call I had been praying for.

David called sheepishly and with a bit of hesitation asked, "What is going on? Within the last couple of minutes, I've received SMS's and phone calls from people asking me if I'm OK." I tried to explain everything to him, but the words wouldn't come. I just broke down and wept uncontrollably.

(cont. from page2)

David was speechless, but I sensed he wanted to kill me about then. I have used this embarrassing story numerous times to illustrate several truths and principles from the Bible. For one, God does have all power, and at any time He can radically change our lives in order to sober our thinking and draw our attention to the fact that we desperately need Him... all the time. Too often we don't live that way, but we should. It also illustrates how we should obey God's command not to be anxious about anything. Our feelings and emotions are often not trustworthy. More recently, it helped me to relate to the desperate father in John 4, who begged Jesus to come and save his son from death. Have you ever been desperate for God? That man was. I bet Jesus wants us to be desperate for Him about many things in our lives. Things happen when we become desperate for God. People's lives change, habits are broken, marriages are mended and relationships are restored when we get desperate for God. I want to be more desperate for HIM to work in my life. I want to love God more than I do. While I don't wish anyone an overactive imagination, I do want you to know God's love more deeply than you presently do. I am praying for you. If nothing else, I hope this story made you laugh; the Bible says laughter is like medicine, and we all can use a little of that now days.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE PANTON KIDS!

DANNY...

is at Calvary Chapel Ft. Lauderdale learning about and building skate parks. God is opening doors for one to be built in Austria where we have had Skate Outreaches in the past.

ANNE...

is moving to Los Angeles where she will be enrolled at UC Northridge to study for her teaching credential.

DAVID...

is working hard during the summer in Portland, Oregon. He is praying for a car, video camera, and an internship with a documentary team in Africa. This winter David will be filming a documentary about his grandfather's experience as a German soldier in World War II for his senior project.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Monika is studying for a Master's in Education degree, which will enable her to teach future educators in Austria. (Something God has put in her heart to do.)

1. Physical strength, good health for Monika and finance for the program
2. Robert's Discipleship program for new believers, & future class
"How We Got the Bible Made Simple"
3. More opportunities to share with the lost & help young believers grow
4. Needing a worship leader
5. Missions Conference this summer (refreshing and fellowship)

SAN FRANCISCO STATE

CLASS OF 2011



Anne has graduated from San Francisco State and is pursuing a teaching credential in Los Angeles.



