

AUSTRIA

JANUARY 2017

bread of life bible fellowship

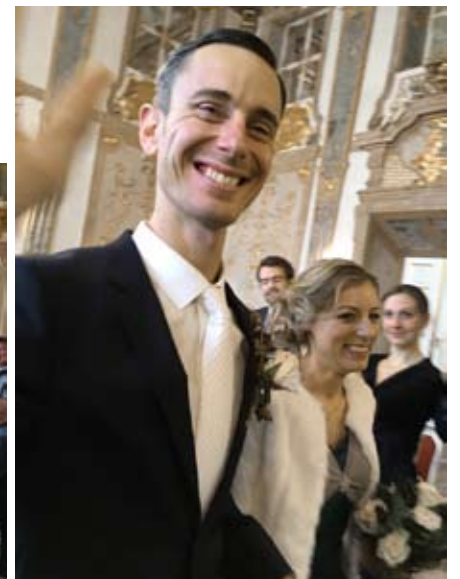
for Jesus

Congratulations Danny & Rebecca!

Dear Team,

The New Year began with a grand wedding in Salzburg on the coldest day in thirty years, but the atmosphere was hot. There was the family dinner, a government ceremony, a ceremony at a Catholic church, and lastly the wedding party.

One of the most touching sights was the refugees streaming into the beautiful banquet room. They were seated right in the center of the main room up close to Rebecca and Danny. The poorest were treated as rich that night, which made me think of what heaven will be like. Everyone was welcomed, accepted, and treasured. I was amazed watching Danny address each of the more than fifty refugees by name. There was love in the air as food was devoured, music played, people danced with abandonment and joy, and everyone mingled amongst one another. Rebecca and Danny certainly did it their way; it was a wedding that will not be forgotten any time soon.



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ONE HOLY MOMENT

It began as a counseling appointment after the Arabic church service. I was to meet a former Muslim who had recently become a Christian. I decided to attend the service, so I went there early. Pastor Raafat asked if I would share something and gave me ten minutes to speak. A thousand things raced through my brain on what to say. Finally I sat down, quieted my mind, prayed, and asked God to speak through me.

As soon as I began to speak, I sensed the Holy Spirit was already working in people's hearts. After sharing my life story and a few Bible verses, I believed God wanted me to give an invitation for people to make a decision for Christ, something that is not typically done here in Austria as people regard this a very private matter. I know God wants everyone to have that opportunity and I wasn't going to miss it. "Please bow your heads; if God has spoken to your heart tonight and you would like to start all over again, and trade your present life for a brand new one then raise your hand." Hands went up all over the room. I was stunned and knew it was a very holy moment. Wondering if anyone had regretted not raising their hand and wished they had, I gave them a second chance. More hands went up. I saw older people, young adults and teenagers all staring at me with their hands held high eagerly desiring to accept Jesus into their lives. It was amazing! I made a commitment to help them grow and know God personally. After the service people eagerly came inquiring when the Bible study will begin.

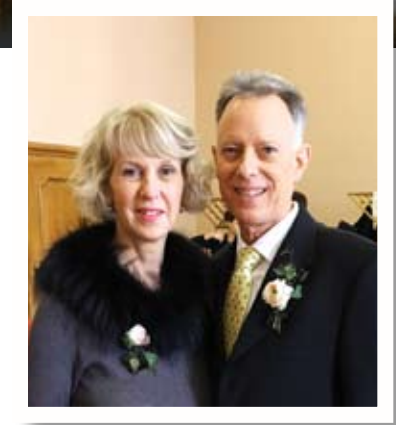
The following night my Iraqi assistant and I went to the house of the man with two families. He shared his life-story, and then secretly asked the translator if I knew he had two wives. He was so ashamed because Christians had been giving him a hard time because of his dilemma. When he was a Muslim, he had married two wives but now wanted to live right in God's sight but didn't know what to do. I told him that God was able to fix a man with hundreds of wives, so two shouldn't be a problem. I assured him that God loved him just the way he was, and so did I. We talked, ate, told stories, joked and laughed the evening away.

The refugees we are working with fled from war and terror in their home countries, risking their lives getting to Austria. Their prayers are priceless. Their worship is passionate, and their friendship is unconditional. We have been humbled by their love and appreciation.



How could we ever
thank you enough?

We have been serving in Austria for twelve years now. As we look back over the time we've been here, we thank God for all of you who have been such dear friends and continue praying for us. We attended church together, grew up together (spiritually speaking), served together, and encouraged one another through life's many challenges. God has used you to help us become the Christians we are today. It is our privilege to be here helping people from all over the world to know God. Thank you for remembering us.



*We ought not
rest content in
the mists of the
valley when the
summit awaits us.*

- Spurgeon

