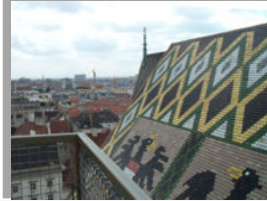




Vienna Tidbits: Saint Stephen's Cathedral, the centerpiece of Vienna, is unique among European cathedrals because its roof is covered by 230,000 glazed tiles.



Karl King, longtime preacher and father of Kari Lockwood, passed away on February 8. For his tribute please see page 3.

February 22, 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

UNO City

www.viennateam.org

Vienna Team Newsletter

THE DATE IS SET—JUNE 30, 2007

Speculation surrounding our leave date has been buzzing for some time. Since we announced our intention of going to Vienna our response to the question of “When?” has taken several forms, some of those being: “... in 2007”, or “June 2007”, or “summer of 2007”. But now we can officially say we are leaving on June 30, 2007, and arriving in Vienna on July 1, 2007. Wow, we said it, we published it, and now a burden has been lifted but an anxiousness has taken its place. We would be lying if we told you that the team meeting when that was decided was just normal and routine. Butterflies fluttered in stomachs, fantasy met reality, reality set in, and now we can honestly say, the countdown has begun!

• Preparation Continued

As mentioned in our previous newsletter Clyde Antwine has been tutoring a few of us in German. Clyde speaks marvelous German and is a very good teacher. Each class begins with Clyde sharing the *faux pas* of the day. Most of these are examples of a misuse of the German language by a well-intentioned missionary upon an unsuspecting native. As humorous as these stories are they underscore the need to know the language of your mission field as well as the importance of keeping your sense of humor!

• Serving the Church

Fundraising and ministry duties continue for the men of the mission team. Josh and Ira are starting a program that will help integrate new members into Memorial Road Church of Christ. They are responsible for developing a process that will help members in each class identify, introduce, and follow-up with people that visit, join, or have not been attending a Bible class. Brian and Jake meanwhile have hopped on board with Egg in the Dark, a community event held each year at Memorial Road the Saturday before Easter. Kids ages 3 and up can hunt Easter eggs in darkened rooms while toddlers and newborns can pick and choose from several piles of eggs laid out on the floor. Along with the egg hunt, egg coloring, live bunnies, a picture booth, and a moon-walk round out the activities in which kids can participate. Although this sounds like a long-eared tale, we have been assured we won't get egg on our face! Brian and Jake are the point persons for this event, making sure 6000 plastic eggs get stuffed with candy and trying to get everyone in place for this massive undertaking. ~ Jake

Prayer requests of the Vienna Team:

- Alisha recovering from back surgery
- Our team's continuing fundraising effort
- The Lockwood and King families on the death of Kari's father, Karl King
- The upcoming move from Oklahoma City to Vienna
- Bell Trust application

FUNDRAISING STATUS

Over the last month, God has blessed our team with additional support. The following churches have committed to providing on-going salary support for our team: Catoosa Church of Christ in Catoosa, OK; East Main Church of Christ in Holdenville, OK; McPherson Church of Christ in McPherson, KS; New York Avenue Church of Christ in Arlington, TX.

In addition to our salary, a number of individuals and churches have contributed to our relocation expenses. The second graph to the right shows our relocation status. We have approached the Bell Trust and are planning to approach another foundation to help secure a substantial portion of the remainder of our relocation needs.

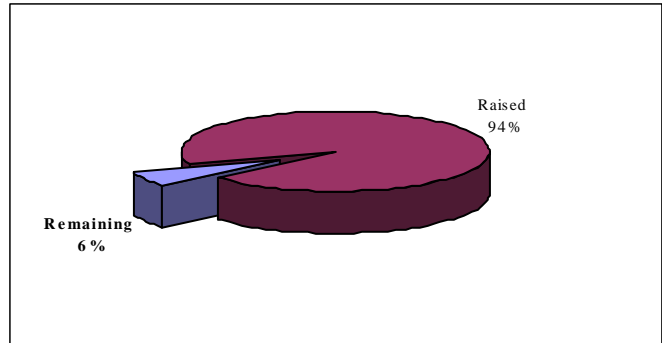
We thank God for the many churches and individuals who are supporting our team. Please pray that God will provide additional churches and individuals to partner with our team in expanding His kingdom in Vienna. ~Josh

STRATEGY SERIES—WHY VIENNA?

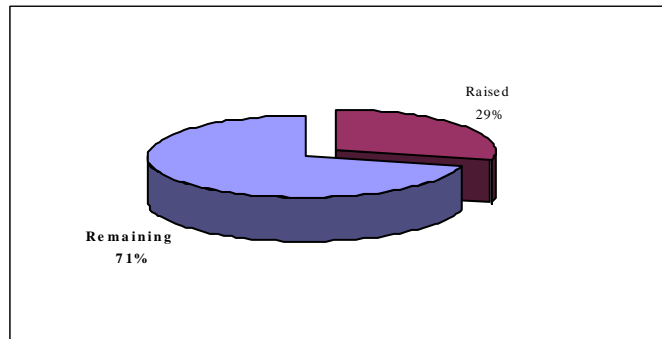
Note: This the first of a series of articles that will appear in our newsletters concerning the need for evangelistic efforts in Vienna, Austria and our strategy to reach the lost of this city.

Vienna is a city that Christians should target with church planting evangelism because of its significance to the whole European continent. It is a major city in the geographic center of Europe. It is a city with a strong economy, an increasing population, and a growing influence upon the whole of Europe. It is a city with a deep story and a rich history, but it is also a city, like most other cities in Europe, that needs a strong, vibrant church to provide a Gospel witness to the people there. A dynamic church in Vienna not only influences the city itself, but also the country of Austria and even the continent of Europe.

In this regard, Vienna is much like Ephesus was during the life of Paul. Ephesus was the most important city of Asia Minor, it was a major port city with a bustling population and a tremendous culture. What happened to Ephesus impacted the entire region of west Asia Minor. We don't know how the church was established in Colossae, Laodicea, Thyatira, or Smyrna, but more than likely it was a



Team Salary Support Status



Team Relocation Support Status



Foreground—St. Peter's Church

Background—St. Stephen's Cathedral

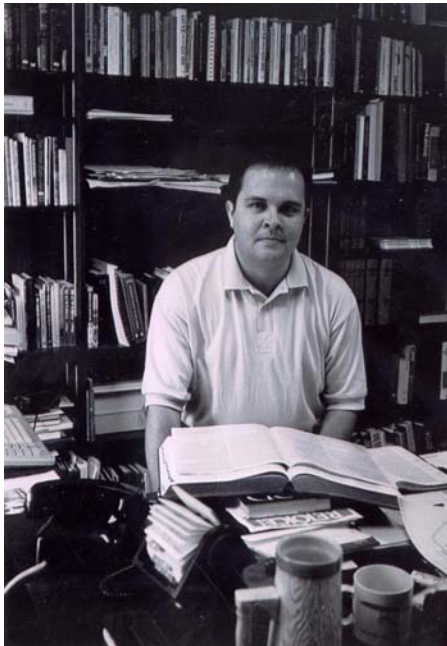
result of the work of Paul and his co-workers in Ephesus. Vienna's culture can be experienced throughout the continent of Europe just as the culture of Ephesus

once impacted Asia Minor. Once Christianity permeates Vienna's culture, then it will carry throughout the country, region, and continent in such a way not offered by other cities in Europe.

The most important reason for our moving to Vienna is that the people in that city need the Gospel of Jesus. There is, though, a strategic significance to Vienna that is not lost upon the members of our team or our sponsoring churches. It is our desire to see Christianity grow throughout the entire continent and Vienna is the type of city that can ignite such a church planting movement. ~ Brian

"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." ~ Colossians 1:28-29

SERVANT OF THE LORD



Our family experienced a great loss this month. Kari’s dad Karl Wayne King died on February 8th. He preached for 30 years in the ministry of the church of Christ. I could write several pages describing Karl’s positive influence and faithful service over the years, but I would like to share a simple phrase that provides a very meaningful description. Karl was a *servant of the Lord*. This phrase appears several times throughout the scriptures describing men like Moses, David, and Isaiah. With company like that, it might seem that I am putting Karl up on a pedestal. That really isn’t my intention because I think the phrase carries a different meaning. I believe it describes someone who, in the words of Christ, “becomes last” for the sake of God’s message. It means that Karl was faithfully submitting his will to God regardless of the situation, up front and leading or working behind the scenes. This truly is a praiseworthy description, but it is fairly easy to praise. The challenge for me as I reflect upon Karl’s life is to go beyond admiring and praising. The challenge for me is to follow his steps in the same manner he followed so many servants before him including Christ himself. We will miss Karl. ~ Ira

WHEN A C-17 CARGO PLANE MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA!

Apparently setting our leave date was the easy part, its the logistics that follow that are hard! It has become blatantly obvious that booking a flight for 8 adults 5 children and 4 dogs does not happen very quickly, especially if you all want to travel on the same flight. The problem, as crazy as this sounds, is that airlines do not use large enough aircraft on every flight to allow four dogs to fit in the pressurized cargo hold. Perhaps that is why they are going bankrupt—they



Daisy

don’t cater to the pet loving population! Anyway, regardless of the cost benefit analysis of catering to allow four dogs on every flight, we are still left with the

problem of getting our pets to Vienna. You never think of your dog as overtly “large” until you are forced to admit that her full body weight plus the weight of her carrier is a three digit number. Our dog is a golden retriever named Daisy and is able to curl into a cute little fur ball on the couch but still outweighs half the members of the team if you include kids and dogs. So how will we solve this dilemma of getting adults, kids, and dogs on the same flight to Vienna? Stay tuned as we are considering several options one of which will send Daisy via cargo plane. No, not on the monstrous C-17 Globemaster III capable of easily hauling a 70 ton M1Abrams tank, but one that United Cargo deems necessary.

~ Jake and Amanda

A GROWING FAMILY

One of the great blessings in life is family. This has certainly proven true for Kim and me. We both have strong Christian families that have played a vital role in our spiritual development. Our parents have taught us to love God and to love others. They have modeled an attitude of service for us many times. As we grow older and now have children of our own, we realize more and more the great sacrifices they made to provide us opportunities to explore God’s will for our lives. It is this close relationship and deep love that

we have with our families that makes this the hardest aspect of leaving for Vienna.

While leaving our family to live and minister in Vienna will be difficult, God continues to bless us with a growing family, both physically and spiritually. Kim and I have a new nephew Brett Wiley (pictured)—born on February 15, 2007 to proud



A GROWING FAMILY—CONT.

parents Kent and Amy Wiley. Not only has God blessed our family with new additions, but he has also *caused* us to grow spiritually. Answering God's call in our lives to move to Vienna to serve the people there has forced us to trust

GRANDPARENTS AND SUCH

Like many of you, I have rich memories of visiting my grandparents as a child. Both my mom's parents and my dad's parents live in Holdenville, OK. This meant that any given trip to my grandparents was twice the fun and twice the attention. I can remember my Grandpa Rusher taking me out with him to check cattle, and I have vivid memories of freezing-cold mornings when my Grandpa Smith took me fishing. I have many good memories of time spent in Holdenville with my grandparents.

Many of my memories involve attending the East Main Church of Christ whenever I was in Holdenville. My great grandfather was an elder in this congregation for many years, and my Grandpa and Grandma Rusher have been members of this church for most of their lives.

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY

In November of last year, Alisha ruptured two discs in her lower back. After nearly two and a half months of physical therapy, several different trips to several different doctors, and more pain killers than I could possibly begin to count, we decided that surgery was the best option. On February 14, Alisha had one of the two rupture discs repaired by the hands of the marvelous Dr. Hahn at the Oklahoma Spine Hospital. (It was determined that the second ruptured disc was not significant enough to bother with surgery.)

Alisha is recovering nicely, and all of the pain she previously was experiencing is gone. Please remember us in prayer the next couple of weeks so that God may bless Alisha as she heals from the surgery. We are truly blessed to live in a place with such wonderful, cutting-edge healthcare. ~ Brian



From left to right: Ira Lockwood, Brian Rusher, Jake Haskew, and Josh Hensal in their office at Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond, OK.

more in God to strengthen our families despite the distance that will separate us. Please pray that God will continue to strengthen our families. ~ Josh

When I was a teenager, I often lead singing (usually at the behest of my Grandpa) at the East Main church—this includes the only time I ever tried to lead “He Bore it All” (it was a complete disaster no need recounting here).

Last December, Alisha and I visited the East Main church and gave a presentation about our plans for Vienna during the Sunday morning class period. During the worship service I delivered the sermon. It was really nice to be back in Holdenville, and it was nice to have the opportunity to share our plans for Vienna. Because the East Main church is so close to the heart of my family, it is particularly special that they have chosen to labor with Alisha and I through prayer and support. We both look forward to working with the East Main church in this ministry. ~ Brian

SUPPORTED BY FAMILY

Growing up at New York Avenue Church of Christ I always loved it when the missionaries we supported came to visit. I loved looking at the slides the missionaries brought to help tell the story of their work in distant lands. I remember sitting on the front pew in the auditorium as Ron Clayton shared his stories from India and Salvador Cariaga told us about the work in the Philippines. Each story planted a seed within me—a desire to share the Gospel to people around the world.

I was very excited last year when Brian and I had the opportunity to share our plans for Vienna with the church at New York Avenue. As I sat on the front pew listening to Brian tell the familiar story of our goals and preparation, I imagined that perhaps God was using us to plant a seed for a future missionary. I'm very excited that the church of my childhood is providing financial support and I look forward to sharing with them the stories of God's work in Vienna.

~ Alisha