



By HIS Grace...
based in Vienna
serving in Central Europe



Tim and Lori Ford Prayer Letter - January, 2013

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! ...
... Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Psalm 99:1-3

God is awesome and we Praise Him. The past two months have been a real whirlwind of activity, and we see God's hand in what we are doing.

The five weeks we spent in Austria were confirming that we are heading in the right direction!

(see more page 2)

We had a great spot in the line to turn in our paperwork for our Residency Permit on January 2nd.

(see more page 3)

DBC's extended missions conference was incredibly encouraging.

The next 4 months promise to also be busy as we wait to hear back from the Austrian Immigration officials.

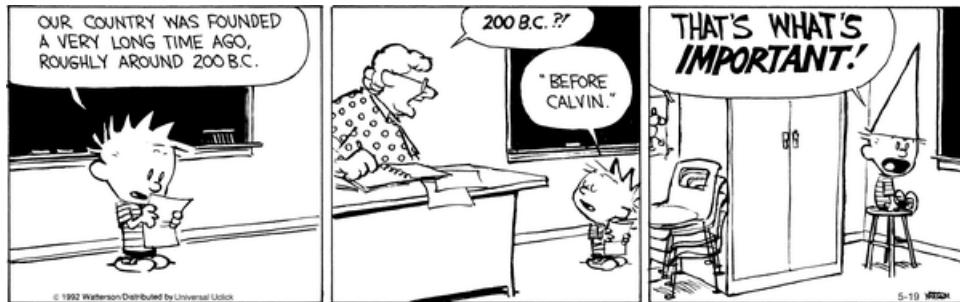
There are many meetings to be had ...

- ... with potential ministry partners
- ... with friends and family in Denton and around the country

There are all the details to complete ...

- ... selling our house and all that goes with that (we finally made this decision).
- ... sorting ALL our stuff. Take it with us? Sell it? Give it away? Throw it out?
- ... packing what we will take into two 50 cubic foot boxes and several suitcases.

Reading over this list we realize how easy it is for us to make the same mistake of thinking everything revolves around us that Calvin makes in the comic strip below.



To help us combat that, please let us know how we can be praying for you.

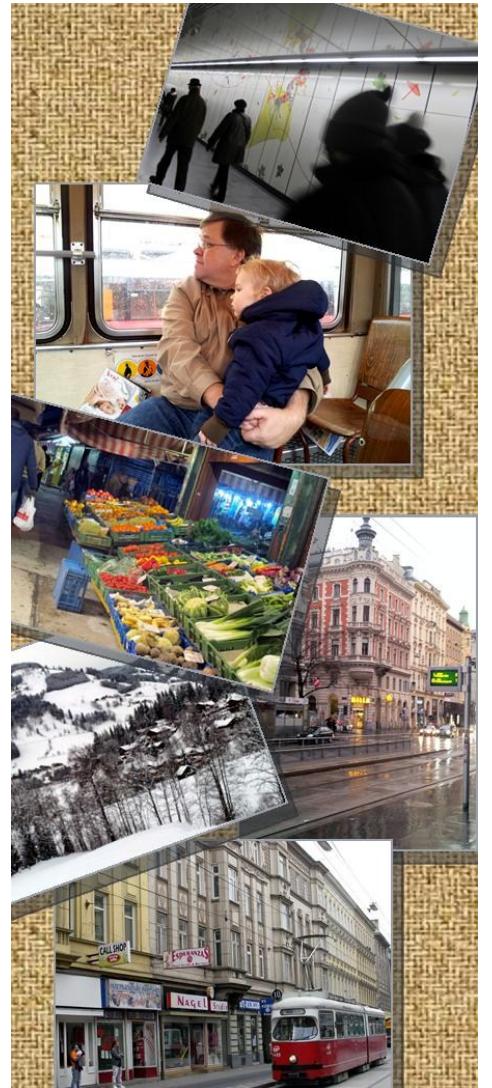
Five weeks in Vienna

Our time in Vienna was both encouraging and eye opening.

Our trip began with a team retreat to the mountains. This time was rich...we grew much closer by sharing testimonies, struggles, joys and spending time in prayer together. Back in Vienna, each day brought new experiences like figuring out how to open a bank account or navigating a grocery store. We were blessed to visit with many missionaries as well as with pastors and leaders of numerous churches. Most of our time with these folks was asking questions and listening in order for us to learn. When we did share our vision, all agreed that our desire to come alongside local churches in Austria and throughout Central Europe to help develop leaders is sorely needed.

God also blessed us in a special way as our daughter and her family, who live in Italy, were able to make the nine hour drive to visit us for Christmas! What a treat that was! On Christmas Eve and Christmas day we had a full house with our two single team mates and our daughter's family with us. We did miss the rest of our family and friends back in the States. Skype is great, but is not a real substitute for being there.

We did also experience some difficult time while in Vienna. In a place where you see all around you signs that people in days gone by had a real and abiding relationship with our savior, it is difficult to reconcile today's reality. Today there are less than 1% evangelical Christians in Vienna. In fact, more people in Vienna believe in reincarnation than in the Resurrection. We came to understand what people mean when they say a place is dark spiritually; it is like you feel this tangibly. Please pray that God will prepare our hearts to combat this spiritual battle.



We can not **THANK** God enough for you
We praise Him for your love and friendship
We praise Him for your financial support

Even though it is God whom we praise and support...
Know you are appreciated.

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Residency Permit for Visa line

Last year our team mates Kasey Krominga and Adam Spencer arrived to line up at the immigration office to turn in their paperwork for their Visa midafternoon the day before the office opened. We met with another missionary couple and decided we would take turns scoping out the immigration office on January 1st to see if a line was forming. I (Tim) took the first trip there at 7am and to my underdressed surprise a line had already started. By 8am the line had grown much longer, so we were very glad we went early and had our names on “the list.” Since the office did not open until 8am on January 2nd, this meant we had to wait in line for over 24 hours, outside, in Vienna, in January.

Although we were not especially looking forward to this time, this became a favorite memory for us in Vienna....God showed up in unexpected ways. Not only were we blessed by the fellowship of our teammates who visited with us during our wait, but also by the fellowship of other missionaries and their teammates who were with them. Then a new friend we had met at a church we had been attending showed up with enough coffee, food and blankets for us to share with our new friends, including the Rugby team who had been paid to hold spots in line for others. Because of this act of kindness, we were able to get into some spiritual conversations in the middle of the night. One of our new friends even came to an all-German speaking church with us the next Sunday and helped translate for us. So, think of that experience as an all-night party. It would have been more fun if it was above 24 degrees, but we had a good time.

In the end, the two people in front of us in line represented 28 folks. So, Lori and I were numbers 29 and 30 to turn in our paperwork. The immigration officials asked us no questions; they just stamped our paperwork as received and took our fingerprints. We should receive word our Visas are ready in the next 2 to 4 months. If our paperwork was not complete, we will need to turn in whatever was missing.

Back in TEXAS!

We returned to Denton just in time for DBCs missions conference. It was great to see many of you and many DBC missionaries! As the theme of that week said, we are indeed ordinary people serving an extra-ordinary God.

