



Matt and Nele Earwicker, IFES Co-worker in Vienna

PRAISE

- * for the time at the North Central consultation in Poland, and the reminder to refocus on God's grace
- * for the opportunity to talk with one of my English-language students about what it means to be saved by grace
- * for the lessons God is teaching me as I watch Timothy grow up

PRAYER

- * that the 200-odd students get visas for Linz
- * for an encouraging conference that leads on to more enthusiasm for OESM and Evangelism in Wien
- * for a time of personal encouragement as I adjust back to student work from the conference work

Ewald Ring, staff worker in Vienna

PRAISE

- * for my time as a staff worker with OESM in Vienna (six years), God's sovereignty, faithfulness, mercy and kindness throughout these years
- * for what he has done in and through the students I had the privilege to support
- * for my acceptance at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (MA New Testament)

PRAYER

- * that I might use the remaining time well to equip student leaders for the ministry God has called them to do
- * that God may continue to build his kingdom through the OESM groups in Vienna and in Linz
- * an Austrian staff worker to work alongside Matthew Earwicker (IFES)
- * for our family as we prepare to move to the USA (my wife Constanze, Davina (3 ys), Elias (8 months)) and the big open questions that still need to be sorted out (fund-raising, housing etc.)

VERENA Grafinger, ÖSM internship

PRAISE

- * for the time with the students from Linz and Hagenberg
- * for the encouraging inputs and encounters in Poland (IFES-consultation) and the Willow-Creek-Conference in Linz
- * for the challenges and that the Lord carries me through

PRAYER

- * for volunteers in the groups who take up responsibility
- * for wisdom in planning the summer semester (talks, social evenings, Bible talks...) and the next fall (idea: university week – in the area of economics...)
- * for guidance regarding my professional career – going on with ÖSM or elsewhere?

Johannes Hindler, staff worker Graz

PRAISE

- * for God's deeds in my life and that he draws me more into being dependent upon him
- * for the relationship with Monika, for growth and protection that we experienced
- * for my friends and supporters

PRAYER

- * for the trust in God's ways which are so much higher than I can imagine
- * for wisdom in the relationship with Monika, that I know what steps to take next

Andreas and Michaela Eyl, gen.sec.

PRAISE

- * for a good development of our staff team in the last weeks in terms of effectiveness
- * for many Austrian students attending the conference
- * for the job for Michaela as a speech therapist at the University Hospital in Innsbruck

PRAYER

- * for new staff, since Ewald Ring is leaving Vienna in Summer
- * that the many Austrian students will take home a burden and a vision to bring the gospel into their student world
- * for the transition into a maternity (paternity) leave and a good continuation of the work during these months

ÖSM group in Vienna

PRAISE

- * the stable groups at three universities (main university, agricultural university, medical university)
- * a growing heart for prayer and evangelistic zeal among some of the key students
- * God's faithfulness in the hard time the Vienna group had through the tragic loss of one of their leaders

PRAYER

- * that God might use the conference to set our group on fire for Jesus and the gospel
- * for Evangelistic initiatives that grow out of the Linz-conference
- * for a vision among the students for the citywide situation not just their own university
- * for student leaders to be well equipped and able to train others

ÖSM Group in Innsbruck

PRAISE

- * for the Leadership weekend in Kitzbühel
- * enthusiasm for the new semester

PRAYER

- * "Mentoring meeting" between female students and women from different churches
- * university lecture about Richard Dawkins' book „God is not great“
- * for motivation throughout the new semester and that people will get to know Jesus
- * small group

ÖSM group in Salzburg

PRAISE

- * for Valerie's good start - in her job and in the appartement
- * for all the Christian students in Salzburg who attend the conference in Linz
- * openness and interest for the ÖSM in the churches in Salzburg

PRAYER

- * that Christian students are salt and light at the university
- * for the future of the ÖSM Salzburg (e.g. to start a prayer meeting)

ÖSM group in LINZ

PRAISE

- * that the prayer breakfasts were truly times of prayer
- * that the „Nikolodinner“ on Dec. 6, was a success (approx. 32 persons)

PRAYER

- * that the Lord shows us how to purposefully reach students at the university with the gospel
- * that more Christian students are enthusiastic for the ministry of the ÖSM and that they are willing to invest themselves
- * that the IFES conference may be a blessing for the participants and the volunteers but also especially for Linz and the Linzer Uni

ÖSM group in HAGENBERG (FH)

PRAISE

- * that Ewald and Verena visited us
- * that we as Christians meet on a more regular basis
- * that we finished the 1st semester successfully
- * that I (Michael) had a lot of opportunities in the last couple of weeks to share the gospel

PRAYER

- * that we as Christians meet and pray more regularly
- * that the fellow students reflect about the discussions and that they start seeking God
- * that we start well into the next semester

ÖSM Group in Graz

PRAISE

- * for the effective planning meeting at the end of January
- * for the encouraging service in the church Falkenhofgasse
- * for God's working among us

PRAYER

- * for putting the ideas into action in the summer semester
- * for enduring encouragement after the conference in Linz
- * for a new appartement close to the university where students may meet

ÖSM Group in Leoben

PRAISE

- * for the contact to churches in Leoben
- * for all the Christian students who are already there

PRAYER

- * for regular evangelistic meetings in the next semester – that God prepares non-Christians and that he makes them hungry for his word
- * for a unified vision of all Christian students
- * for God's guidance and his ministry among the students

ÖSM Group in Klagenfurt

PRAISE

- * for the location in the KHG where we can meet
- * for the students who regularly attend the prayer meetings

PRAYER

- * for a definite „yes“ by the president of the university concerning our request for a room free of charge
- * that Christians at the university are motivated for prayer
- * that we get a good spot at the university



IMPRESSUM

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www.oesm.at

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PRAYER LETTER

01
08

EDITORIAL

www.becauseoflove.at

Don't be afraid – although in English this is still an ÖSM Prayer letter indeed. But why then in English you may ask? As you know the IFES conference is taking place in Linz in the next few days and we thought that this could be a great opportunity to make the ÖSM known to a wider audience. We printed 2500 letters of this special edition in order to hand it out to attendants of the conference. So people from all over Europe enjoy reading the prayer letter of the Austrian Student Mission – ÖSM.

ANDREAS EYL

Dear Brother and Sister,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

Linz 2008 – Because of Love is about to happen! This quadrennial event has been the flagship of the IFES work across Europe for many years now. It is a key event for all our national movements as it focused around the central theme of what we are all about as an Evangelical student fellowship – reaching our fellow students for Jesus.

We have been planning this European Evangelism Conference for nearly 2 years. We are excited to come to the point of this taking place with over 2000 students from around 40 different countries. We have taken the title 'Because of love' from Ephesians 5:2 '...live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...'

Because of love God first loved us, because of love we love God, because of love we love others. This is the basis of the Gospel and gives us the reason why we want to share it with our friends and spread it to the ends of the earth. We pray that our hearts will be set on fire af-

resh during this week by this wonderful news of salvation!

This is an evangelism conference. But one of our main emphases this time will be prayer. Does that make sense? Yes, I believe it does. We should know that reaching out to our friends with the Gospel will only be effective through prayer. And yet so often we are very slow to learn this. Prayer is powerful and God answers prayer. He even uses our prayers for his purposes. How does this work? When we pray it shows God that we are bothered and concerned. It shows God we are serious. It shows God we care and really want something. If we are not any of these things we won't make prayer a priority or make time to pray. It's when we are concerned and want something badly that our prayer life comes alive. When we pray it follows that we start to get to know God better, we pray with greater

faith, we come close to God, we ask with greater confidence, we align ourselves better with his will, we see God answering our prayers. I think the opposite is true too. I believe there are some things that God will only do if we are bothered and ask him for them! If we are not concerned then God won't do them. The challenge to us is this: Do we love our friends enough and are we concerned enough about their salvation and eternal destiny to pray for them? God wants to save them and is ready to use our prayers! Praying can be exciting! We trust that God may meet with us during this conference particularly as we pray together, and that we may see our prayers being effective as God answers them and brings fruit. Over the years God has used this conference powerfully to challenge, excite, empower and equip people in sharing the Gospel. We hope that once again this time would be very significant as each one of us meets with the Living God in a meaningful way.

Please pray with us that this will happen!

Every blessing

ANDREW JOHNSON
Chairman of the Programme Committee



TESTiMoNY Nothing is impossible for God

At the beginning of my degree program in business administration at the Innsbruck University somebody asked me at a book table: What do you think, who Jesus was?..... The result of this and many following talks was: I committed my life to Jesus about one year later. I started working with this Christian group, the OESM in Innsbruck.

Two years later I had the opportunity to take part at the IFES World Assembly 1991 at Wheaton College – USA. It was an experience I will never forget: Christians from all over the world, from more than 100 different countries. I was overwhelmed. I always thought: I know at least one guy, who will never become a Christian. It was a relative of mine. At the World Assembly I attended a sermon of a preacher who looked very similar to this relative. After I had met this preacher I knew: Nothing is impossible for God. God can

also transform the heart of this relative of mine. My time at the World Assembly ended with some days in Chicago where I spent some days with brothers and sisters from Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Swasiland, South Africa.....dancing, praying, shopping, swimming..... After this experience which was one of the most exciting ones in my life, I knew for sure: God has a large family all over the world and we are very close.

HERBERT GÖLZNER



Personell HEINZ HOLZINGER

It was in the late seventies, when I was studying electrical engineering at the university in Graz (Austria). There I heard about a Christian student group meeting every week on Mondays in a nearby student home. At ÖSM I not only found new friends - I found the Lord Jesus through reading the Bible together with other students, discussing religious issues until late at night or trying to find answers to ethical questions raised in different lectures at the university or ÖSM meetings.

These were initial experiences which influenced my life in many ways till now.

In one of these meetings I also met Hemma. About one year later we got married and after finishing university we moved to Vienna.

Since then I (we) always was (were) some kind involved in the Austrian student mission. We regularly had Bible-study-meetings in our home (in the start up period three bible groups a week), helped the ÖSM Vienna groups to get a new focus and grow to a new and strong Christian movement.

For many years I was a member of the board and it was a milestone in the ÖSM history when we were able to employ the first long-term Austrian travelling secretary. We both loved to work and share the good news with students not only in Austria. Living in Vienna many people visited us from all over the world and stayed at our home for a few hours or days travelling on to other countries.

A few weeks ago we got a phone call from a man who had had to make a stopover in Vienna on his way to Belarus many years ago. Somebody had given him our address and so he had stayed at our house a few times. As he came across our telephone number he wondered if it still worked and gave us a call. He works for IFES in Canada and still travels a lot to bring the Good News to the GUS (CIS) states.

When we heard about the Conference 'Because of Love' in Linz 2008 (we are now living in Wels, not far from Linz) we strongly felt the urge to contribute to tell Austrian and International students that God loves us. It is great to see how this international organization and planning team work together to set up this big event. We are looking forward to meeting you folks.



öSM_Live There is no „anyway“...

I thought it would be relatively straightforward to contribute an article to this column, but it has proved to be much harder than I expected. So I turned to my dictionary of quotations for some inspiration. Here is a typical example:

"Life is just one damned thing after another."
(Elbert Hubbard)

And even that great poet of love and life, Shakespeare, writes:

"Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage"

and then is heard no more: it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." (Macbeth Act V, Scene V)

Is this all life is? A series of hazards to be negotiated on the way to death? Is the only good thing to be said about life that it is better than death?

Of course, as Christians we all know that it is much better than this. Jesus said that he came to give us life in all its fullness (John 10:10), and so that must be what we have. But have you noticed that when someone asks us how we are, we feel we have to give a negative answer in order to be honest? You know the pattern - "How are you?", "Fine, thank you." "No, really. How ARE you?"

Life IS hard. In the Vienna group we are learning to cope with the death and the persistent coma of two of our best friends. I have to deal with the lack of self-confidence that comes from working in a second language. A friend of ours had a miscarriage. These are all difficult situations in their own way, and do affect us, but where then is this life Jesus talks about? Is all I have to offer my non-Christian friends 'eternal salvation' and not 'eternal life'?

Perhaps one reason is we see God's grace exclusively as forgiveness and forget the adoption. When I hear a student pray 'Thank you that you love me ANY-



WAY' I know what they mean, but wonder if that student is aware of the amazing truth - **THERE IS NO 'ANYWAY'**. Imagine my son does something which hurts me. Do you really think I will say to him 'I love you **ANYWAY'**? Of course not - he knows that my love is unconditional. So is God's love to his children. Make no mistake, he wants us to stop sinning, and will discipline us to help us get there, but that is the very thing that shows we are his children.

So what am I doing about it? I have the word 'Grace' on the inside of my front door, and hope each day to learn one more thing about what it means for me, and through me to others.

MATT EARWICKER



DATES

MONDAY, Vienna: bimonthly group meeting 19:30

Innsbruck: Monday noon: Bible Sit In

TUESDAY, Linz: prayer breakfast. 7:00, Habakuk

Graz: prayer breakfast 7:00, Attemsg. 5
Vienna: agricultural group

WEDNESDAY, Linz: prayer breakfast
THURSDAY, Innsbruck: prayer breakfast 7:00, CBZ

Vienna: group meeting main university
Graz: gas station 19:30 Alte Technik Rechbauerstr. 12

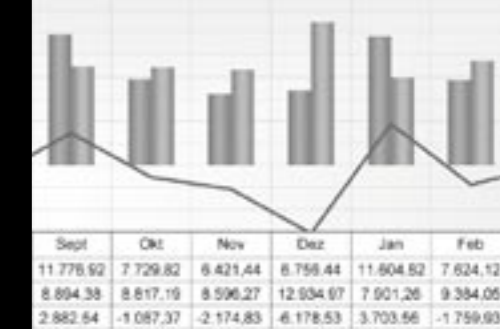
Klagenfurt: Prayer meeting, 12:00 - 14:00, KHG



FINANCES

This chart is our regular tool to inform our friends and supporters about the financial situation of the ÖSM. We are thankful for all the donations in the past and ask kindly for your ongoing support in 2008.

DONATIONS-EXPENSES SEPT 2007 - FEB 2008



Dates Finances