

Give Me Jesus!

What a truly amazing month it has been! The Month of Missionaries will forever be etched into our memories as one of the most divine Holy Spirit inspired months of ministry of 2017. The days seemed to be filled with divine opportunities to witness and share the gospel in power! Street evangelism, contact coffees, bible studies, unexpected visitors, witnessing to friends around the dinner table, deep intercessory prayer, and prayer walks around the cities - the Holy Spirit poured himself out and He was glorified! There are so many stories we could share with you, but we decided to just highlight a few for you so that you can be encouraged by the effectiveness of your prayers! *(It is a lengthy report, but please do read and hear how the Lord used your prayers to bless others!)*

Street Evangelism in Schwaz with the team from Switzerland:

Seventeen of us met for worship and a time of prayer before heading out onto the streets. Our group spanned the generations, the youngest being in their twenties to retired folks in their sixties. Splitting up into 4 groups the goal was simple... let's give the people of Schwaz, Jesus!

One group witnessed to a group of Muslim teenagers. After initially mocking our friends, the Holy Spirit moved upon their hearts as they began to open up and share about their soccer injuries. It started with one, as he allowed a member of our team to pray for healing in the name of Jesus..and then another one asked and another asked for prayer!

The second group witnessed to a group of individuals who were drinking by the riverside. It is amazing how conversations turned to their perceived needs: their loneliness, brokenness and emptiness. As the team prayed for a lady she wept as she had never been prayed for before by a stranger.

The third group witnessed to the janitor of the local shopping mall and gave him a gospel of John. This group came across a woman with her leg in a cast, carrying a gospel of John in her hand. She was tag teamed by our groups having been witnessed to by another group!

There were a number of other conversations that took place that evening. Not all were positive. Some were mocked, told to move on or ignored. But despite this, seeds were sown and God's word proclaimed. Follow-up visits occurred later in the week with the woman at the riverside as well as with a Muslim man asking for a version of a Christian flier in Turkish.

We praise God for His leading and for your prayer support for this event. We ask that you would continue to pray for these individuals and for further divine contacts!

Two phone calls...one Spirit

The week before the outreach event, we arrived at Friedl's house for bible study to find an unknown man sitting at his table tucking into a hearty meal. A believer, having just been released from a three month prison sentence, and struggling to find somewhere to live, he had been walking the streets of Schwaz. Soaked through from the falling rain he sought cover in a

breezeway and came across our Church's show window and subsequently called Friedl. In prison he had met a Lutheran pastor who ran a charity which would be able to help him establish a new life in Innsbruck. Unfortunately, this pastor was out of town for a week and so, Thomas found himself out on the street. I was personally overwhelmed by our Gemeinde. As the evening went on, individuals, one by one gave him money for accommodation and at the end of our meeting, drove him to book him into a motel for the night. This is the last we have seen of Thomas. But we trust that the Holy Spirit continues to minister to his soul.

Another phone call...

This time the phone call was from holiday makers from another part of Austria. They rang Saturday to ask about the time and place of our service. It was obvious that this family (Thomas, Angelika and Lea) were strong believers. I was sharing during the service, how blessed I was to be a part of a caring community that not only talks the faith, but puts it into practice. I used the ministry to Thomas as an example, as well as the street evangelism outreach. As Kathleen's children's sunday school this day was about filling the God shaped hole in our lives, she asked if I would sing a particular song before they went to children's church. The song was "Give me Jesus" the lyrics:

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you can have all this world but give me Jesus....

And when I am alone... give me Jesus!

And when I come to die... give me Jesus!

I emphasized, that come what may, Jesus had to be our focus, our only desire. To be honest, I could not make it through the song but was overwhelmed with emotion. What was supposed to be a solo, ended up with people filling in the lyrics that I left out.

As the song was over, our guest asked if he could share something. He explained how touched he had been with what had just occurred. He said that years ago, he had been that man.... the one in prison. He had been a drug user and had spent time in jail. On his release, he also had nowhere to go. A Christian pastor had welcomed him into his family. He had stayed with him for four days and because of the love he had experienced, gave his life to Christ. "The amazing thing though", he went on to explain, "is that this pastor had continually sung a song during my stay. I have not heard that song since then... not until today".

"Give me Jesus" rings out in our hearts and souls. I pray that He truly would be our everything: the one we go to when we wake, the one we cry out to when we are alone and the one we desire when our race is run.

Zero to Thirty-Five in Twelve!

Our Missionary friends from Mexico brought exciting news since their last visit three years ago. During their first visit, we shared our reasons for home schooling Ava, our call as parents to instill in her a Biblical world view of life instead of a worldly one. They listened intently, at the time quietly pondering in their hearts the message they heard. As they returned to Mexico they began praying more intently about what the Holy Spirit was speaking to their hearts. Leaders of their Church, they shared with the congregation what they believed the Holy Spirit was saying, others began praying and caught the vision. They carried a burden to minister to the local children within the framework of a Christian school. Within a year, they had started a local homeschool based on a Christian curriculum from the USA.

The first year there were fifteen children ranging in age from Kindergarten to Highschool. The following year there were 35 children! These are children, many of whom would otherwise not receive an education at all, let alone grow up with a Biblical World view - most important of all they are being given Jesus! We are in awe of Him, for using our conversations to help birth a ministry in another continent!

End of year exams...

Last week, Ava had her annual school testing. Over two days, she was given a set of exams and tests in Mathematics, German, General Knowledge, Arts, and Music. Today we picked up the results. The School Director spoke highly of both Ava and her teacher parents. Ava aced every test in every subject. And this in addition to the American curriculum she does on the side! We praise God for his guidance and forbearance. In great and small matters he is Lord and King.

Our ministry report could go on and on...we serve a truly amazing God! He is gracious and loving and willingly chooses us to reach those lost, living in the darkness...we joyfully go in His name and give them Jesus!

At times we are overwhelmed with the privilege to serve Him, and we know that without the prayers and support of the body of Christ we could not do so... thank you for your countless hours of prayer and unwavering support on behalf of ourselves and the ministry here in Austria.

A special note of thanksgiving to those who have given or have committed to additional financial support so that Ava and Kathleen may return home for a visit this summer. In mid August they will return for a months visit with the family. This is truly a special gift, one of great blessing for us and for Diane and Joe. May you be doubly blessed by the Father for your sacrificial giving.

For His Fame!
Daniel, Kathleen & Ava