

Dear Ministry Partners,

It has been some time since we last shared an update and so we wanted to share some wonderful news with you, as well as some tragic. Please take a moment and as *Romans 12:15* says "*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*" *We truly covet your prayers during this season of ministry.*

It began with a question between two little 6 year old girls, late night, sleepover bedtime conversations. "Who is this God and why is He so important?" Questions every missionary longs to hear even at the age of 6! Having recently impressed upon Ava the importance of being able to share the gospel, explaining to her that one day someone would ask her, "who is God and why is He so important," we wanted to make sure that she was equipped and prepared.

However, all our preparations for her couldn't have prepared us for how quickly it would happen. What a surprise awaited me as I popped in to check on the girls before going to bed. Ava said to me (in front of her friend), - "you were right Mommy! It was just like you said, she asked me just what you said she would!" My pulse quickened and my hands started to sweat, as I squeaked out, "and what was it that mommy said?" Waiting to be totally embarrassed by my child's open honest communication skills I braced myself for what was to come. But joy, not shame, flooded my heart, when she went on to explain how she shared with her friend about God, sin and Jesus dying for her because he loved her so much. For the next 30 minutes I had the privilege of being drilled by her friend on the basics of the faith.

Weeks later, Ava's friend is over for another *spend the night*. We're eating dinner and watching a Hillsong Kids Praise & Worship video when the speaker of the video talks about the need for a savior and asking Jesus into our hearts, Ava's friend looks over at Ava and says, "I want to do that - let's do it together!". The speaker goes on to invite anyone who wants to ask Jesus into their hearts to raise their hands. Both kid's hands go straight into the air and both repeat a prayer of repentance! Tears streaming down my face, I sat there praising and thanking the Lord for bringing us to Austria.

Bedtime discussions again, this time questions about nice people and them not having Jesus in their hearts .... where do they go when they die? .... more questions about her brother, sister and mother who don't have Jesus in their hearts and how she wanted them with her in heaven. So we prayed for them together and then she went on to make the point of saying that we need to pray for all people who don't have Jesus in their hearts, the nice people and the bad people. Yes, sweet child, we do.... for so many here in Austria don't know they have a savior who loves them, they don't know the hope they have in Jesus.

People like Christine, a recent widow of 55 met regularly with Gabi, one of our church members. They walked their dogs together, and Gabi witnessed often about God and the hope that is found in Jesus. Other members, Dieter and Ursi also shared their testimony of healing and deliverance through Christ with Christine, but Christine was blind to the hope and life in Jesus.

Christine is now dead, having made no profession of Jesus as her savior. On the last day of her life she mowed the lawn, cleaned the house, ironed the laundry, paid all outstanding bills, laid all of her important documents in a neat pile on the dining room table, and wrote a letter to each of her sons before hanging herself in the nearby woods. Our hearts are overwhelmed, we are tormented by our inability to reach Christine with the love of Jesus, with the hope of Jesus. She is just one, among thousands and thousands who live without the hope of our risen Lord.

Such news may seem shocking, but not for us living in the Tirol. In the last year alone, another four people known personally to members of our Gemeinde have committed suicide. In the last three months three people have committed suicide in the village of Kramsach where Gabi lives. The reasons for such widespread high suicide rates? There are many, but one that cannot be overlooked: there is an enemy who seeks to steal, kill and destroy. The enemy is relentlessly at work to stake his claim on the people and this land. He seems often times to be winning the battle, but we know who wins the war! Thanks be to God, Satan is defeated. The victory *does* belong to the Lord. This we know and in this we trust. And it is this that we base our prayers upon.

***Would you also pray with us in such an unrelenting fashion against this spirit of hopelessness - that the name of Jesus be lifted up over this land, these people and that Satan has no other option but to flee from the name of Jesus?***

***And would you pray that more Christians across the valleys be bold and courageous to share their faith, unashamedly to the Glory of the Father? That we would all be equipped and ready to share the HOPE that we have! That this land and her people be set free and cleansed from the false beliefs, the lies and deceit of the enemy, that the norm in this society becomes what Ava was privileged to witness: a childlike opening of the heart to Jesus as Lord and Savior?***

We are so blessed and privileged to serve our Savoir, to partner in the gospel with such faithful ministry partners. We thank the Lord daily for you - remembering your kindness, your love,

your support, and your sacrifices for the Kingdom work here in Austria. Thank you for sharing and serving with us in this Kingdom work!

For His Fame Among the Nations!  
Daniel, Kathleen & Ava