



What's Happening with Hannah?

May XX, 2026

I have now been here for a full year! On the one hand, I can't believe it's been that long. However, it has also flown by. My language has progressed a lot, but I still find myself needing to be patient when I make mistakes. I also know I need to push myself out of my comfort zone more than I do to use my German in certain social settings.

I think one of my absolute favorite experiences here so far actually happened just this past Sunday. A small group of 15 university students acted out the entire gospel of Mark. It was a very good drama production to attend for several reasons: I knew several of the students involved, the acting was incredible, and I found that I also understood nearly all the German, which felt like a personal language win.

There was a strict no photography policy at that event, but please enjoy these other photos that I've taken over the past few months.



[Left] In March, a few Easter markets pop up. I visited two of them with a new OeSM (student ministry) worker. I was most impressed by these beautiful and fragile hand-painted eggs.

[Right] All of Austria has been in a drought recently. However, we did get a short rainfall while I was in language class recently. I snapped this photo of a beautiful rainbow near the Oper (Opera house).



Here is a photo of most of the Connecting Cultures staff and some students who attend our monthly iCafe group. It is a wonderful evening where we use students' desire to practice German and/or English to introduce the Bible to them. Since the students come from all over the world, it is also a great place for them to make friends, and Lukas and Maria also help explain parts of Viennese culture that might be challenging. Our final meeting for this school year will be in June.



[Left] Here is a group of the international students who meet together every Wednesday to study the Bible. The one taking the photo played a Pharisee in the Markus Theater that I mentioned at the beginning of my newsletter. I teased him for being too good at the role. He also led the most recent Bible study, and did a very good job.

How to pray for me

- So far, I have only gotten to know the city of Vienna. In a couple of weeks, I'll be taking a short trip to see other parts of Austria. Please pray that the trip goes smoothly, particularly with transportation and Airbnb. I had a horrendous experience with Airbnb when I first arrived in Austria, and it has made me a bit nervous to use the service again.
- Please pray that I make the best use of my time this summer as I continue to strive to learn the German language.
- I am very excited for this summer at my church. Nearly every Sunday, there is an activity after the service. I found last summer that these are great opportunities to get to know people. Please pray that this is again true.
- Please pray for rain! We are currently under a burn ban. This affects a few different activities that iCafe and OeSM had planned. More important, it is bad for the agricultural and wine industries in Austria, which are big parts of the economy.

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