



Haskew Family

Missions in Wien

Quarter I Newsletter





Haskew Family: Missions in Wien

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Catching Up

It's been a while since our last newsletter, and so much has happened in the months since. Here's a quick update on what we've been up to:

- Since June, our congregation has mostly worshiped in our home. Although we signed a contract for the location we have been praying for in July (more on that in the next article), renovations took much longer than expected
- In August, Amanda, Katy, and I returned to the States for furlough. We couldn't possibly share everything that happened during those weeks, but we came back encouraged, refreshed, and deeply grateful for every conversation, meal, and prayer shared with us along the way.
- October brought a month-long LST campaign to Vienna—the first in several years. Steve and Val McClean, who attend the Rothenburg retreat and have been doing LST for nearly as long as I've been alive, branched out to offer both English and German sessions (they lived in Hanover

for several years and have done LST there ever since). We distributed flyers at the university, hosted info meetings at Café Stein, and watched God open doors for English and German conversations that turned into spiritual ones. It was a joy to host them and see them encourage everyone they met. We look forward to welcoming them back in 2026.

- In mid-November, Scott and Sonya Young visited—always a huge encouragement. A few days later, we packed the car and drove to Rothenburg ob der Tauber for the annual fall retreat.
- We spent Christmas and New Year's in Colorado with my parents.
- When we returned to Vienna in January, we found water in our basement (more on that later). The following weekend, January 10–11, we kicked off planning for this summer's Teen Camp.

It's been a full season. Thank you for walking it with us.

Zlata

We first met Zlata when she came to “teen time” at our house, fresh in Vienna and not really knowing anyone. Her father was in the army, stationed near the front at the time, and she was deeply worried about him — we prayed together that night for his safety. Everything was new and scary. The gathering was part of our effort to help encourage the youth group after the organizational change at the Porzellangasse church — we wanted more teen activities, but we also saw it as a chance to build cooperation between the churches.

Zlata is quiet but very intelligent. She joined Teens Camp that year and quickly found a friend to pal around with. She'd been part of the church in Ukraine but was only now beginning to explore her faith on her own. After camp, Anna — one of our new youth leaders from Ukraine — began studying with her. The following year at camp, I had Zlata in my discussion group and was amazed at her thoughtful contributions to our conversations about hearing God's voice.

Soon after, she decided to be baptized. We were in the US on furlough at the time, and though we didn't want her to wait, she insisted we be there. What an honor — praise God for our new sister in Christ! Zlata has since taken the initiative to bring the Vienna church onto social media, starting an account and posting regular updates. Praise God for her desire to spread the Kingdom in all she does. Please pray for her as she continues her faith walk.

Of Houses and Homes

By Jake

For years, we've prayed for a permanent gathering place for Donau Gemeinde Christi. In July, we found it: a location at Schwarzspanierstraße 15, right in the heart of Vienna, just on the border of the 1st district. We signed the contract, and the owner began renovations, hoping we'd be in by fall.

Fall came and went. Renovations stretched into October, then November, then December. So we did what we've done so often before: we opened our home. Sunday after Sunday, from June onward, brothers and sisters gathered in our living room to sing, break bread, and pray together. Our teens even met there in December, followed by a Christmas market outing. It was crowded. It was holy. And it reminded us that our house has always been more than a house—it is, and continues to be, a key part of this ministry.

In January, the keys to the new location finally arrived. The owner's renovations were complete, and on January 18, we held our very first Sunday service at Schwarzspanierstraße 15. We had chairs, songbooks, and a single table for the Lord's Supper. That was all—and it was more than enough.

February brought the next challenge: no kitchen yet. So Jake hosted a Vienna-wide men's breakfast at our house. The kitchen was built that month (though countertops were still to come—we were learning patience). In March, Jake hosted the Donau Gemeinde men's breakfast (again at our house—Amanda cooked this time), and our friend Amy Beauchamp arrived with a full decoration plan and the energy to execute it. As furniture arrived, members joined in assembling it, walls were painted, and Amy's vision came together. Countertops finally appeared. The empty rooms began to feel like home. We

think we can safely say the majority of the new location is finished!

But the new location hasn't been our only focus. When we returned from our Christmas trip to Colorado in early January, we found water in our basement. Cleanup was the easy part; what followed were weeks of assessments, repairs (heating system and, this month, walls), and the slow work of putting things back together. We're grateful it wasn't worse—and grateful, again, for a home that has served so many and will continue to do so.

This summer, we're expecting two sets of interns to live and serve with us. Our home will once again be a hub: a place for meals, Bible studies, late-night conversations, and the kind of formation that happens when people share life under one roof. Please pray for us as we prepare—for both buildings, the new one downtown and the old one we call home.

"Oh and did I mention that our apricot tree fell over during our last snow..."



Rothenburg & Teen Camp 2026 Planning Session

Articles By Amanda

In November, we once again traveled to one of our favorite places—Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany—to attend the annual Euro American Retreat. As we have shared many times before, this event is one of the most important of the year for our family. This time of fellowship, worship, study in God's Word, and even a little rest truly feels like oil for our souls.

This year, Jim Martin of Memphis, Tennessee served as the keynote speaker and did an excellent job teaching on "Burning Without Burning Out". Scott Young led us in meaningful worship, and Dale and Vicki Hawley led a great class on "Confessional Living-Sharing Our Stories", along with a special time of discussion and sharing focused on navigating transitions.

One of the highlights of the week is reconnecting with friends and hearing what God is doing in mission points across Europe. Life on the mission field—or in any ministry role—can often feel isolating, so gatherings like this are vital reminders that we are not alone. We have already marked our calendars for next year. We are especially grateful to Memorial Road Church of Christ for helping keep the cost of participation affordable for all involved.

We had barely caught our breath after the holiday festivities and travel when we held our first in-person planning session for Teen Camp 2026. This will be our third year hosting a summer camp for teens from Austria and Ukraine, and it has become one of our favorite weeks of the year. We were excited to get an early start on planning.

We had hoped to host this meeting in our new facility and church meeting space, but renovations were not quite finished, so we pivoted to meeting in our living room instead. Two members of the Ukrainian team were able to join us in person, which made the time together especially meaningful. It is remarkable how much more progress can be made face-to-face compared to Zoom—especially considering the ongoing power outages many in Ukraine experience.

Over the past two years, we have learned a great deal about what works—and what doesn't—when planning and hosting this camp. We were able to use those lessons as we planned what we believe may be our best camp yet. Please keep this upcoming event in your prayers, and especially those who continue to live and serve in Ukraine.



Love,
The Haskens