

What's Happening with Hannah?

"I am very excited to get to Austria" - that is the phrasing that sounds the best. The unspoken part is that sometimes I am frustrated that I am not yet there. I did not think that raising my financial support would take this long. Sometimes I wish that *God* would get on board with *my* timeline; instead, there are moments where it is a lot of work to find peace and contentment with His timeline and to understand that His plan is purposeful and good.

A couple months ago, someone asked me if the fact that this process is taking so long is God's sign that He doesn't want me in Austria. However, I am not wondering about God's leading. His leading seems very clear to me; it's still to Austria. Here are two very recent stories:

A couple months ago, I sent a church a packet of information about who I was and the ministry I'll be doing in Austria. A couple weeks later, I got a phone call from their pastor, "I don't know why I'm calling you; I was going to throw your stuff away. However, would you like to meet up for coffee?"

That church usually only supports missionaries if there is some sort of personal connection between them and the church. However, he had felt led to present my packet to the deacons, then do some research into me. He still seemed a bit bewildered as to why we were meeting up. But coffee led to an invitation to present at their church, and now this church is a part of my partnership team, giving even more than they had originally talked about giving.

God arranged this.

Yesterday, I showed up to worship at the "wrong church." Same name, different city than the one I had planned on going to. I just didn't pay attention when I plugged it into my GPS. This particular church was not a church I had ever thought about attending. I viewed it as too big; whenever I had attended churches of comparable sizes in the past, I had trouble connecting with anyone and was also told they wouldn't be interested in discussing missions. However, I was there, and I wondered what God had for me.

I had no trouble connecting with anyone. It was a very welcoming church. Many people recognized me as a visitor, and I was invited to sit next to someone during the service.

I just so happened to sit directly in front of some missionaries. The husband/father had been a missionary kid in *Vienna, Austria*. He came to the US for university, where he met his wife. They got married and then returned to Vienna to do *university ministry*, and all three of their children were born and raised there. They now have a different role in the organization that has brought them back to the US.

He asked all about me and shared about his experience there and the university culture in Vienna. He was excited to learn about my technology degrees, since he said that in his experience, the tech students were the ones who often were the quickest to come to salvation on the university campuses of Vienna. It's a bonus for me to "understand how their brains work."

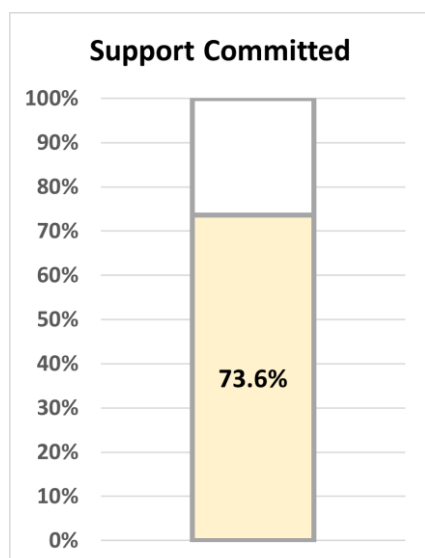
What are the chances that in such a large sanctuary I would sit in front of this man? God arranged this.

Now, I don't share these because I feel as though I need to justify the fact that I am still in the support raising journey. I am sharing them because these have been big ways that God has encouraged me recently, and I hope that you also find them encouraging.

I have always been a "planner." I want to bring my big plan to God and tell Him how I'm going to get everything done. And while I do think it is right and good to make plans and have strategies, it is ultimately God's plan that will be done. Without Him, I cannot accomplish anything.

I'm glad I'm learning to hold my plans - and my timeline - loosely and to trust Him. Sometimes, we refer to these in-between times as "waiting periods." But I don't think we should ever just be twiddling our thumbs. We should be looking with eyes wide open ready to learn whatever lesson God has to teach us. These last three and a half years have been full of lessons. I'm growing, and I'm learning more about God.

I'm excited to get to Austria. When I do, it will be as a person who is better able to serve God there because God has been using this time to work on me.



My monthly support has recently increased to 73%. I am so thankful to those of you who have joined my team in this way. My field leaders, missions coach, the finance team, and I are beginning to plan for a September departure date. I'm beginning to gather documents and such for my visa, looking at the A1 German language exam, and prepare for September in other ways.

To leave for Austria, my monthly budget and my outgoing budget do have to be at 100%. If 23 more people or families joined my financial partnership team giving \$75 a month, I would be at full monthly support.

Please pray and give praise:

- that we serve a good God who never changes and is always in control. I am thankful for the way He has increased my financial support in this last month. Please pray that it will continue to increase.
- for my role as a youth leader at my church. Please pray for someone to be ready to take over that role when I leave if that is necessary. Until then, please pray that I would lead well and teach accurately.
- for me as I prep for the A1 language exam. Pray that I will feel prepared and will do well when I take it. That will be in the late summer.

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