



Vienna Trip

| Nathan Graves

01 December 2017

GUTEN TAG!

IN HAUS DARIA

Mission Possible

Mission Directive:

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to enter a government-run housing facility for refugees. There you will renovate a kitchen on the sixth floor.

Mission Location:

This facility is known as Haus Daria, It was once a hospital in the heart of Vienna City during World War II. Now it is a converted living space for several hundred refugee women and their children.

Mission Obstacles:

This mission must be done in two days. There are no lifts (elevators) so all equipment must be taken up and down the six flights of stairs each day and secured in a locked room. The renovations will involve painting, some plumbing, cabinet and countertop installation. Due to the language barriers and the fact that it is a government-run facility, open evangelism is not a suggested means of communicating faith.

Mission Personnel:

On this project you will have Dawn and Bob as your team leads, and your team support will consist of Nathan (Me), Ronni and

Melvin. Your Contact person will be Pastor Shawn Ginder, the missionary and carpenter.

Mission Debriefing:

After 20 hours of hard work our team successfully completed the kitchen. We did not have the opportunity to share the gospel with these women, but our act of love spoke volumes. As they entered their new kitchen area the excitement in their eyes was all the thanks we needed.

As Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians, "I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength," and our little team definitely experienced that truth in those two days.

End transmission . . .



Before

In the old kitchen we had to pull out the old counter top, shelves and patch holes before we could start painting. We also assembled cabinets in the room while painting at the same time.



After

Lightening up the color brighten up the room and the added cabinets made food prep a bit more manageable for the ladies.

A CHURCH OF MANY NATIONS

I recently returned from a missions trip to Austria, where I had the opportunity to serve with Shawn and Chapa Ginder. Shawn grew up in Lancaster County at the Worship Center, where he received his calling to share the gospel in Austria at Vienna Christian Center (VCC). There he serves as missionary pastor over the International Fellowship at VCC. VCC is not like any other church; it's a church of many churches and many nations.

VCC began in 1987, when an Assemblies of God missionary, Bonnie Mackish, answered the leading of the Lord and started an English-speaking service in Vienna. In the years to follow, God sent different leaders to pastor, ignite new ministries and launch outreaches into the city as Vienna Christian Center began to take shape.

In the early 1990's, Omar and Pat Beiler continued leading VCC and established the small group ministry. This resulted in the expansion of the different language services and fellowships, such as the German Fellowship (known as Jesus Zentrum), the



Filipino Fellowship and the French-African Fellowship.

Since that time VCC has expanded to 9 congregations, and 13 services, meeting on 5 campuses, with an average weekend attendance of about 2000 people. Pastors Larry and Melinda Henderson have been leading VCC since 2011 with the vision of further impacting Vienna, Austria, Europe and the World!



Melvin Cisney was always at breakfast before everyone and probably drank more coffee than all of Europe too.

Spotlight on Melvin Cisney

Melvin Cisney is one of the team members on our trip. Melvin is one of those quiet, unassuming individuals who keeps to himself at church. But after rooming with Melvin for over a week, I quickly realized there was more to him than meets the eye. Melvin was gracious enough to sit down with me for a minute and share a little about his life.

Melvin where were you born?
Chamberburg, PA

What is your favorite color?
blue

What is your favorite food?
Pizza

What do you do for fun?

I ride bicycle around Lancaster County with a bicycling group.

What excited you the most about coming on this trip to Vienna?

I like to travel to new places and meet new people.

Was this your first WC (Worship Center) missions trip?

No. I've been on missions trips to St. Croix, Belize, Hungary, Argentina, Mexico, Wisconsin and Jamaica.

AROUND TOWN



Here is our team, out having fun overlooking the city in the Prater's Wheel.



The Fabulous Five

Our Vienna Team (l to r) was comprised of Nathan Graves, Melvin Cisney, Bob Weaver, Dawn Weaver and Ronni Sakamoto.

SPOTLIGHT ON MELVIN - CONTINUED

What was the most challenging thing about this trip for you?

The work! I don't work near this hard at my regular job.

What did you not enjoy about this trip?

I didn't enjoy going up the mountain, but it was beautiful.

Where do you feel God challenged you the most on this trip?

Learning to connect with people. I can just come and work and not really try to connect with people. Reaching out to people is a challenge.

Anything interesting we don't know about Melvin?

One trip to Israel I rode a camel. I do not like heights.



Bob Weaver (Left), Rafa (Center) and Melvin Cisney (Right) talking after the International Fellowship service on Sunday.

THE IRON MEN

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend" Proverbs 27:17, NLT

One of my all-time favorite reality shows has been, "The Iron Chef". You take the best trained chefs in the world, put them in one kitchen with the same ingredients and have them create amazing dishes while learning from each other. That is an ingenious concept but not a new one.

When you strip away the product endorsements, the lights and the prize-winning title, what you have left is discipleship or mentoring. Jesus had the ultimate Iron Chef competition, when he enlisted 12 ordinary men to follow Him for 3 and a half years, so that they would sharpen their gifts for ministry together.

I experienced an iron-sharpening moment on the trip that I will soon never forget. I got to work with Rafa, a native of Fiji, who is a UN soldier stationed in Vienna. There he attends VCC (Vienna Christian Center) with his wife and three children.

Rafa is a big guy like Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson", garnishing this huge smile and a quiet, humble presence. We met at the airport and I rode back to the church with him, while the rest of the team road with Pastor Shawn and in that short hour ride the Holy Spirit showed up and brought our lives together to sharpen one another.

Rafa and I began to share with each other immediately about our recent bouts with depression in our lives, his resulting from the loss of his teenage son and mine from an injury that had taken me away from my job three years earlier. There was crying, sharing

of failures and successes, but ultimately healing through Christ.

You could say the two of us were pretty inseparable throughout the week. We were always talking, laughing and worshipping together. We still contact each other at least once a week. He has become more involved in the church, and I have become more intentional in sharpening other men.

The Next Step...of the journey

First, let me say thank you once again ! Thank you for supporting my work in missions over the last 25 plus years. Some of you have been with me since the beginning when I traveled with ACYC (American Christian Youth Chorale) back in my high school days. But the work is not yet done.

Many of you know I moved to Lancaster to work at Sight & Sound Theatres to perform on stage. Even though I had plans of putting down roots, the Lord had other plans in mind for me. In 2014, during the show Moses, I incurred an injury that kept me from performing. This was my Burning Bush time, where God drew my heart back to what He first called me to. . .pastoring ! And He has opened many doors for me to preach again locally.

To put it simply, I felt the calling of the Lord to return to Vienna as a missionary. So, I took a few weeks after returning from the trip to pray and seek the Lord's guidance. I wanted to make sure I wasn't coming off of a spiritual high. Well, months later, my heart hasn't changed. I am presently in communication with the missionaries in Vienna and my missions pastor at church as I move forward to pursue God's will for my life and continue to impact the world. I covet your prayers as I continually seek the Lord's direction through this season. To God be all the glory !



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT : NATHAN GRAVES

Mailing Address : 84 N. 10th St.

Akron, PA 17501

Email : ngraves007@gmail.com

Facebook : [facebook.com/nathan.graves3](https://www.facebook.com/nathan.graves3)

Touched By An Angel

Julie Ann Weaver, 84, of Lancaster, passed away on May 31, 2017. She was born in Los Angeles, California to Lottie Evans and John Watson. She was a member of the Worship Center.

She enjoyed gardening, music, singing, giving, shopping, and most of all dancing. Julie is predeceased by her son James Donald Storms II. She is survived by her siblings Joseph Evans, Bernetta Hardy, Cheryl Watson & Rosie Evans; daughter Kathryn Storms & son Michael Weaver; 4 grandchildren; Shalana Glass, Kimberly Glass, Ashley Weaver & Skye Storms, and great-granddaughters; Aria Kayla Vargas.

Miss Julie was a bundle of light who touched the lives of everyone she met. Her vibrant spirit and energy will live on. I'm sure she's dancing in heaven now.

Julie was more than just a nice obituary. She was my friend, my cheerleader and my own angel. And this is her legacy.

Julie Weaver was known by many names such as: The Queen, Mama, The Grand Duchess, The Lady, Happy Feet, and the Princess of Pasadena. You always found her front and center at church, dancing before the Lord and singing at the top of her lungs.

Her style was like no one else's. All you had to do was describe what she was wearing and you knew someone had run into her around town. Whether shopping for music at FYE or perusing the aisles at the local Goodwill store, this missionary was always sharing the love of Christ.

Julie had an unmistakable love for young people. Her sacrificial love has been evident since the day she landed in Lancaster from California, to help her daughter raise her children. That was only the beginning, Julie has assisted several young couples in raising their children through rough times just because she loved them.

Julie has never had a bad word to say about a single person and always found something positive to say about you, even if she was correcting your bad behavior. She gave it to you straight and didn't hold back.

Julie especially loved her pastors. A Sunday wouldn't go by where she didn't ask me, "How shall we pray for Pastor Sam or Pastor Matt?" Personally, I think she just enjoyed

hearing me pray. But what I miss the most is her 7 am calls. Every day for almost 5 years, she would call me and encourage me. She wanted to remind me daily that the world needed my pretty smile because it had become so ugly. Even on the mornings when I was too tired to pick up, she always left a message. I'm so glad I saved them all.

My only regret is that we didn't get to dance one last time. Julie, thank you for the friendship. The love and most of all the tough honesty. There will never be another like you. I will honor your life by sharing your memory.

As Miss Julie would say, "keep doing the do."

PRECIOUS MEMORIES

The incomparable Miss Julie Weaver!



Miss Julie and Leona Smith.



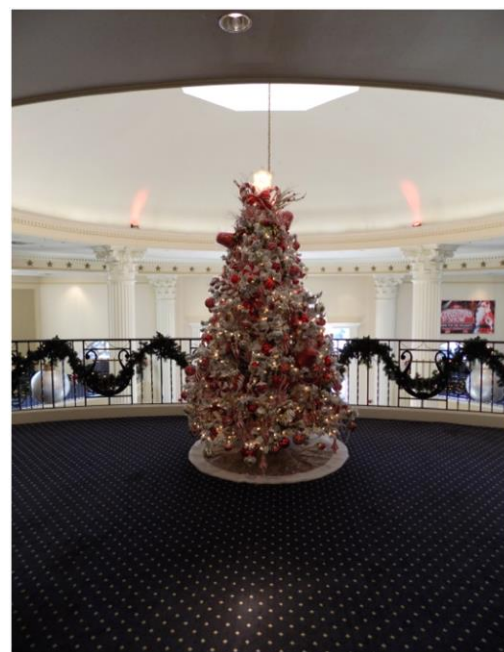
VCC's 1st Men's Worship Night

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

As the Holiday Season is upon us, I find myself reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped to shape my life in a more significant way. I thank God for each of you and look forward to when I can fellowship with you again. I pray that you have a warm and Happy Christmas as you enter the new prosperous year.

In His service,

Nathan Graves



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84 North 10th Street
Akron, PA 17507