

The Tares in Europe

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CHANGE OF NAME A COUPLE OF TIMES

This is our very first Newsletter therefore allow me to introduce to you these bunch of lovely people in the photo. From left to right: Pastor Mars - my husband and my pastor, Nida - that's me, Nidette Grace, the youngest of the three siblings, Marjun Daniel and Marson Philip.

We don't have any plan of changing our family name. We will remain The Tares even if the word "tares" in the Bible has a negative connotation. If ever there will be a change, it will be Nidette's family name but that will be a decade or two from now because she is only 14. Marjun will soon be 21 and Marson just turned 19.

What I mean by "change of name a couple of times" is the name of the ministry (VCF) the Lord has allowed us to partner with Him for the last 18 years now.

The Vienna Christian Fellowship (aka Philippinische Christliche Gemeinschaft in Wien) was **born in 1993. Months before it be-**

came a recognized group in Vienna, a core of 10-15 people were already meeting in houses for Bible Study & Worship.

VCF went through tough times in 1997. Very deep valleys. Corrie ten Boom says; "There is no pit so deep that He is not deeper still." We experienced the nearness of God during those times. We believe that the Lord has allowed it to humble us down as leaders.



In 2007 a daughter church was born in Graz. The Bundespolizeidirektion Wien approved the legal papers of both churches as one. PCG Wien became PCG Oesterreich. This was the 1st change.

In 2009 a Fellowship in Germany was born followed by two other countries: Italy (Modena) and Czech Republic (Prague, Brno, Vilem) in 2010.

In early 2011 we applied for change of name of the Fellowship. In July 2011 the approval was released by the Bundespolizeidirektion Wien. Since then it is called PCG Europa. The 2nd change.

Today, PCG Europa covers 4 countries in Europe: Austria,

Czech Republic, Germany and Italy.

In October of 2011 we sponsored a Sports Festival & Fellowship in Prague. After the games (basketball and Volleyball) the Gospel was presented by Rev. Gammy Alba, a visiting minister from Philippines. The Lord added a hundred of souls to the Fold that day! Glory to His Name!

In Vienna, it is very difficult to obtain Bibles in English as well as in other cities of Europe which do not use English as an official medium of communication. But the Lord is good and the ministry is His indeed! In His Sovereignty, He touched people in America to ship Bibles for our Outreaches! Also, a few VCFers brought some from Philippines.

The first shipment of Bibles from a special friend came few hrs. before our trip to Germany where we promised to give them Bibles. The second shipment came shortly before Christmas day intended for Czech Republic. On Christmas day, 5 of our brothers and sisters from Brno worshipped with us in Vienna. We were able to distribute 15 Bibles for the fellowship in Brno as there are 15 of them there. Isn't God Sovereign?

To become an international ministry? We don't know. What we know now is He wants us to move where He is already moving in Europe.

“The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.”

We need people behind us to support us as we obey.

PCG Europa - Graz (Austria) meets regularly using the building of Graz Baptist Church. Graz is two hrs. drive from Vienna. Sometimes, the assigned preacher leaves Saturday and comes back Sunday evening by train. If using the Van, the team leaves early morning and comes back in the evening. In the past, we used private cars of VCF members.

Modena, Italy is 8 hrs. drive from Vienna. Usually, the team leaves Vienna on Friday evening and comes back Sunday afternoon. It is more expensive to take the train than using the Van. But sometimes, if no driver is available, the assigned person travels by train. Usually two people go by train. This happens once a month.

PCG Europa - Oberhausen (Germany) is 10 hrs drive from Vienna but with heavy snowfall it can be a 16 hrs. drive. Now, if there are special events in Oberhausen the team takes the Van. Otherwise, the assigned person takes the plane. If booked earlier, it is cheaper to take the plane (2 persons) than drive. Early booking is only possible when there is money in VCF account. Otherwise, only 1 person flies to Germany. Recently, the team of 4 people used the van. Driving 12 hrs in the rain and snow with only one driver was exhausting & challenging for Bro. Mar S. Driving back, the team was able to drop by a friend's house in Kassel which is another city in Germany and spent the night there for fellowship and bonding. We found out that the host is conducting a Bible Study of 25 Filipinos once a month. He wants us to partner with him.

Brno is the second biggest city in the Czech Republic next to Prague. It is one hr and 30 minutes drive from Vienna. Last year in February, we had an Evangelistic event where around 40 Filipinos attended. Some were from Prague. At the end of the challenge to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord, more than 20 came forward. We used the building of The Czech Salvation Army Church. Today, there are prayer groups trying to meet once a week and VCF tries to visit them once a month if possible.

Another city in the Czech Republic is Vilem. In one company, 17 Filipinos are employed. They all

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



live under one roof. We had an Evangelistic Bible Study with them and all of them accepted the Lord. They went to Prague too when we had our Sports Festival and Fellowship in October 2011.

What the Lord is doing here in our part of the world is overwhelming! We're so convinced that now is harvest time among Filipinos in Europe. It is time to have a regular Worship Service in Prague. Please pray with us and for us as we search for place to conduct Sunday Worship Service regularly.

Always, when we visit the Czech Republic, we bring Filipino food for our brothers and sisters there. We make them smile when they see Filipino food like, pinakbet, dried fish, kare-kare, etc.

VCF as the Mother Church, spends a lot for these outreaches. We are thankful to God for our VCF members who captured the vision of the Church and are at the same time "givers". In 2011 we experienced financial crisis because of the many trips conducted but we believe that because the work is His, He will continue to provide for us.

We need your prayers badly & if you wish to give to the ministry of PCG-Europa, you may send your contribution for the expansion of His Kingdom among Filipinos in Europe to:

Vienna Christian Fellowship

Acct. No. 03010314029

BAWAG Bank 14000, Vienna Austria.

Serving Christ with you,

The Tares in Vienna