

Issue 5, April 2010

In Focus...

Congratulations Dr Elizabeth Domig!



Recently Beth received her DMin. in the US. This is such an important milestone we asked her about it.

What was the study area for your Doctorate? "I earned a "Doctorate in Ministry to Marriage and Family" - a "practical" doctorate in contrast to a "theoretical" or research-oriented one. This 3-year programme integrates Theology with Psychology as we learned about "Systemic Family Therapy" and applying it to marriage, family, and church issues".

Why did you decide to take on this programme? "When Arthur went through this doctoral program 17 years ago, I took part in some of the classes. As our children were small, I could not join in his studies but I LOVED what I saw, and the dream was born to do this program. When the opportunity presented itself 3 years ago, immediately I said, "YES!"

What was involved? "It was a great deal of work, often stressful, but I loved it! It entailed being on-site in the US four times for intensive 3-week classroom time. The rest of the work was done in Austria. Instead of one larger doctoral thesis, it was 3x 60 page "Professional Papers". The first: my understanding of Marriage and Family, integrating my theology with social-science theory. Next: to design an experiential learning situation, direct it, and analyse it. Lastly: the practical application of all I learned to the setting in which I work. I designed, carried out, and evaluated a seminar for each of the areas in which I work: 1) A Marriage Enrichment Seminar. 2) A Women's Retreat dealing with the subject of making peace with the past (Family

of Origin issues, etc.) 3) A Seminar on Teen Sex offered through the Austrian Christian Counselling Institute".

What do you plan to do? "I mainly undertook this journey to personally grow and learn, and to do a better job encouraging individuals and strengthening marriages and families. I feel that I accomplished my goal and as Arthur and I work together as self-employed counsellors, speakers, and authors, I trust that this newly-won competency will bear fruit, and perhaps even open some new doors".

Thank you Beth and God's blessings to Arthur and yourself.

Inspiring words

"Live fully, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God."

Anon

SICC CALENDER

Weekly Events

- Sunday: **Worship** at 11am
followed by Coffee time
- Wednesday: **Women's Bible Study**, 2.30 pm,
Strubergasse 49/5/12
- Thursday: **Sacred Space**, 1 pm, hospitality
lunch at the Mozarteum Cafe

Coming Events in May

May Bible Study to commence Tuesday 4th May: Strubergasse 49/5/12, 7.30pm, and repeated **Sunday 9th May (after coffee)** in the Gemeindesaal

Saturday May 22nd: Student Breakfast
9.30am at Strubergasse 49/5/12

Sunday May 23rd: Pentecost: the birthday of the Church

Sunday May 30th: Tanzabend with Sandra and Jim in the Gemeindesaal from 5 to 8pm

Vision Sunday: On Sunday April 11, *Vision Sunday*, following our Worship Service (51) about 40 remained to share lunch and discuss *Being Church in 2010*. Prior to lunch we had a creative and constructive discussion on SICC, our dreams and goals for our congregation and our personal satisfaction, commitment and contri-



Discussion time

bution to SICC life. The presence of baby Matthildur and her family who joined us for a delicious lunch blessed us. Michael, our Treasurer, reported briefly on church finances, which led to a discussion on financial commitment and pledging.

Student Breakfast: Seven students gathered for breakfast on Saturday 17th April for our second student breakfast. It was a great time listening to each other's stories and life in Salzburg as a student. Some even enjoyed the Icelandic dried fish brought along by Aron. Next breakfast: Saturday 22nd May.



Glynthea, Liz, Anna, Megan, Jessica (USA) Unnur and Aron (Iceland) and Moira. Not in photo: Younhee from Sth Korea

(see our website www.salzburgchurch.com for more photos and information)

ECUMENICAL NEWS

Muslims and Christians in the troubled region of Darfur, Sudan are working to build a church in the South of the country, as a symbol of peace, gratitude and solidarity. The members of the Darfur Students' Association at the University of Juba said they wish to express gratitude to Lopez Lomong, a Sudan-born Catholic track and field athlete, who has publicly urged China to pressure the Sudanese

government into ending the conflict in Darfur. Lomong carried the US flag in the Opening Ceremony at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Some 200 Muslims have volunteered to build the Roman Catholic church in Lomong's home village. "We appreciate that Lopez stood up for us. "We are helping to build this church to show we never again want the people of Darfur to be used against their brothers in the South." It is hoped that the church building will be completed in the autumn of this year.



Jottings from the Pastor's Desk

This poem was used during our *Vision Sunday* sermon. It spoke to all present and became 'our vision' during afternoon discussions.

I dream of a church... with outstretched arms

A welcome for all,
loving, enfolding
the great and the small.

I dream of a church... with an easy smile

A joy to be shared,
warmly accepting
the timid and scared.

I dream of a church... with busy fingers

A need to involve,
working and helping
life's problems to solve.

I dream of a church... with ready feet

A dynamic stride,
bravely advancing
with patience and pride.

I dream of a church... with thankful voice

Singing of love,
worshipping, praising
the Lord high above.

I dream of a church... with listening ear

Attentive to all,
earnestly waiting
for the Spirit to call.

I dream of a church... with praying hands

Where any can come,
knowing, believing
the dream has begun!

(Sylvia M. Bradford 2004)

God bless,

Glynthea