

**Report on Church growth**  
**Elisabeth Cook**  
Vienna, February 2011

Last year we could see 10 families move closer to the Church again, from associated members to active members, altogether 20 persons.

Also, because Vienna is the Capital of Austria with many universities, 2nd Gen students come from other parts of Austria to study in Vienna, and, some spouses of Blessed 2nd Gens moved to Vienna.

Finally, 2 new members joined last year in Vienna.

That's why our Church grew in 2010, and the Sunday Service attendance increased.

The internal reasons cannot be pinned down exactly, so I will describe where we put the emphasis on.

1. Strengthening the structure of the Church by empowering team leaders:

There are 5 teams for families from the 1st gen, and since last year autums 4 teams for 2nd gens over 18.

I meet the team leaders of both groups regularly to share experiences and to discuss activities together.

The team leaders of the 1st gen try to their best abilities to look after the 10-15 families in their team, by organizing meetings every 6 weeks, the teams of the 2nd gen meet once a month.

Through this system all families and church members can be looked after (ideally).

They can share their views on things, and the team leader comes to know their strong points and their struggles. The members feel appreciated and recognized.

We still have to work on that and improve, because personal care for families and young members is essential for church growth.

According to my experience this point is the most essential one.

2. Strategies for the Sunday Service:

- a) Great efforts have been made to improve the sermons: almost every sermon includes a PPT presentation, meditation or other interesting elements (which is one sign that serious preparation has been made), such like news from Korea or providential events in other places. The preachers strive to give a sermon that fits for guests and members, and we had the experience that it works.

There are guests in almost every Service, average 5-10 persons.

- b) The music, mostly played by 2nd gen members, improved the atmosphere at the service substantially. (drums, guitar, keyboard, violine)  
Professional singers and musicians sing or play solos (guests, Peace Ambassadors, young members)
- c) Once a month the Service is done by 2nd gen members: the sermon, the music, Mc, everything. These Services are usually very inspiring for young and old.  
2nd gens are also actively involved in every Service (music, Mc, reading etc).

Probably that's one reason why a high percentage of 2nd gens come to the Service.

According to my observation, the increased number of young people and their active role in the Service inspires older members to come again.

- d) Once in 2 months we do an Interreligious Service, organized by UPF, with Peace Ambassadors playing an active role, and with more guests attending. The last Interreligious Service was held on the Bahai's Holy Day, the „World Religions' Day“. 21 guests attended. They are usually very inspired and stay for a long time afterwards, which gives us time to discuss various points with them.

### 3. Regular witnessing activities

Since 7 months we have regular witnessing activities: distributing invitations on the street and a DP lecture every Thursday.

About 10-15 members joined these activities regularly and made it possible to continue it until today. Although we only witness once a week for a few hours we could find people. Now there are 5-6 guests who have come in this time period, who are close to our Church and are bringing their guests now.

2 brothers (Dr. Czerny and Johannes Stampf) are teaching DP. They have invested a lot of time and effort to improve the standard version of the PPT presentations by making new slides, inserting new pictures etc. The guests appreciate it, as well as the members who come to the lectures.

Having these activities running regularly, creates the feeling in the members: „I can always bring a guest on Thursday!“ Or: „Something is going on in the Church!“

Also, this activity is for some members easier to join than meeting VIPs.

I think through that members got more confidence in the Church again.

4. High percentage of ODP-workshop participants: There were 3 ODP workshops in Austria until now with many members attending. Many of them could make a new start.
5. Extraordinary prayer – and bowing conditions by several members.

#### My personal inspiration:

- a) reading regularly the Cheong Seong Gyeong (the content is just sooo amazing)
- a) Pastor HJN's example and words (also In Jin Nim's,) their style of leadership
- b) The cooperation with the families (young and old) of Vienna.

Thank you

Elisabeth Cook, Pastor (better in German: Gemeindeleiterin)

# Church Development in 2010

Austria, Vienna

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in a darker teal color, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# Church Growth through investing in three areas:

1. Strengthening the structure of the Church through a team system:
  - ◆ 5 team leaders for families of the 1st gen, 4 team leaders for 2nd gen.
  - ◆ Regular meetings with the team leaders
  - ◆ Regular team meetings

## 2. New Strategies for the Sunday Service

- ◆ improved sermons
- ◆ Improved music
- ◆ Services done by the 2nd gen
- ◆ Interreligious Services by UPF and WFWP

Result: higher attendance of members and guests

# The Musical contributions at Sunday Service improved





# Young people from the 2nd gen take responsibility for the Sunday Service







# Sunday Service Attendance improved



# Interreligious Services of UPF and WFWP





# 3. Regular witnessing activities

- ◆ Street witnessing once a week
- ◆ Divine principle lecture once a week

## Results:

- ◆ 10 guests average at the DP lecture
- ◆ 5-6 guests who know the DP, are close to our Church and bring their own guests now.
- ◆ 12-15 members active in witnessing every week

# 2 new members:

Julian M.



Anuj P.

