

## Interreligious Breakfast Meeting

Vienna, Austria, 5. April 2014

On April 5th, 2014 our brother **Alois Seidl** organized another interreligious breakfast meeting in Vienna Headquarters.

The guests this time were two young ladies who represented the Spiritist Church of Vienna (“SEEJA”: Sociedade de Estudos espiritas Joanna de Angelis”). They gave insight into the principles of their association and their founder, Mr. Allan Kardec, who lived from 1804-1869 in France. He was a student of Pestalozzi and thoroughly studied spiritual phenomenon. In 1858 he founded the "Société Parisienne des Études Spirites". He published several books about the connection between physical and spiritual world. These books stand in the core of the Spiritist Church.

Their central principles are the worship in spirit, without any external items, such as statues, pictures, candles or sacraments. They see themselves in the role of the Holy Spirit: “Spiritism calls people to the true principles of Heavenly law and consoles people through faith and hope (Allan Kardec) .

The two young ladies informed us that in Brazil this association is the third biggest church in Brazil.

The other guest was a member of “**Marriage Encounter**”, which is a catholic initiative to support married couples in their spiritual growth. It was founded in Spain and then spread to America and back to Europe. They organize weekends for married couples where they take time to look at their feelings towards each other, and they are encouraged to write love letters to their spouse. After the first weekend they form “basic groups”, consisting of three couples, who meet once a month.

The most important principle of “Marriage Encounter” are Jesus’ words: “Love each other as I have loved you!”

Sometimes they have workshops on a specific topic, like “The five Languages of Love” or others.

Mrs. Schachinger, who introduced this initiative, said that for her and her husband these meetings were the most precious experiences of their lives. After her husband died she could sense his presence many times and also had many experiences with God.



*Alois Seidl, the host of the meeting – the ladies from “SEEJA” spiritist church – Franz and Marija Fronek – Mrs. Schachinger from “Marriage Encounter”*

Report by Elisabeth Cook