

Keeping the Vision Alive

by Joel Stapleton

Through bold steps, Country Life Institute in Austria is growing, spreading the vision of hope and health.

It was a beautiful fall morning as the team at Country Life Institute in Austria made its way over the mountain ridge, voices echoing off the stately peaks and smiling faces reflecting the bright, sunny sky overhead. A new school year was under way at the ministry's medical missionary training school, TGM.

The hikers reached the top of the ridge, looking out over a beautiful alpine valley ringed with stunning mountains. Taking in the scene, the team recalled the words of David: "I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).

Then, as the team looked back from the vantage point of a ridge top in time, they praised God for all His blessings and looked forward with excitement and trust to the future.

Country Life Institute had humble beginnings six years ago in a rented facility in Germany. Two years later God answered the prayers and patience of the small team by providing them with the opportunity to purchase a beautiful hotel in Carinthia, Austria, with enough space for the school and a lifestyle center. God's timely providence resulted in a much lower purchase price, one of many "right on time" blessings that helped make this fledgling institution a reality.



Far Left: Mountains provide a unique vantage point.

Left: The lifestyle center provides tools for better living.

Above: Country Life Institute was able to purchase a fully furnished hotel in the country.

Below: Students, staff, and guests enjoy the outdoors.

part working in the lifestyle center, continuing their classes in between sessions. In March the ministry opened the lifestyle center for year-round sessions and is now looking to increase its staff.

During the last few months of classes, gardening, outreach, health clubs, public meetings, seminars, and a mission trip, the team's "I wonder what will happen" attitude has turned into a "It's a wonder so much has happened!" At the end of last year, the ministry hosted a local church youth group. Some of the parents shared with the TGM students that the event reignited their children's spiritual experience.

The team at Country Life Institute is grateful for the chance to share and grow with others, as well as opportunities to keep the vision alive and their faith and hope strong.

Joel Stapleton is a leader at TGM, a training center run by Country Life Institute-Austria. To learn more about the school, visit www.tgm-austria.at.

