

Introduction

My Name is Johann Gutenbrunner.

It was in the year 1961, April 24 that I was born. Along with one younger brother and two younger sisters I was raised on a remote countryside farm in Austria.

My first profession was to become a trained chef. That's how I got interested in different countries and cultures. I grabbed several chances to “see the world” and learn how other people live. For more than ten years I lived and worked abroad in countries like the USA, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, South-Korea and Japan.

I was working for different non-profit organizations as volunteer helping with fundraising projects or assisting in organizing intercultural and inter-religious events.

In 1987 I met in Manhattan (New York City) a beautiful young Japanese lady with great virtue. Two years later we got married.

When I returned to Austria in 1992 with my wife came with me. I decided to go for higher education to make the best use of the language skills and valuable experience gained abroad.

For four years I attended evening courses in a business college (Handelsakademie) which I completed successfully in the year 2000. This enabled me to get a position in a Computer Software company within "Softwarepark Hagenberg" as a Computer Software localization manager for about seven years duration. Our company was re-publisher and global distributor of the math software "Derive (TM)". In 2006 development of "Derive (TM)" was discontinued. The company closed down and I was set free.

This was the time when I decided to start my own business offering translation and localization services as well as IT support. Making a living from this for my family seemed to be difficult. Through an acquaintance in a Japanese travel agency I got motivated to take courses and the national exam for tourist guides (Austria Guide) in 2007.

Currently my main activities as an independent tourist guided are based in Linz City. Since 2007 I hold an Austrian business licence for a consultancy which allows me to offer what I call "Intercultural Assistance".

Since summer 2009 I run a travel agency for “Guide-Taxi” to offer a combination of Taxi transportation and guided tour for individuals and small groups.

My wife and I have two children a son (1996) and a daughter (1997). In 2001 I inherited my parents farm, an organic farm, which my family takes care of. We provide farm vacation (Urlaub am Bauernhof) in a calm and beautiful natural environment.

Communication in an intercultural environment has become very important in my life - for example communicating with my wife and her family. It is my deep desire to be of good assistance in helping to enhance communication and harmonious intercultural exchange in this world, thus hopefully to contributing towards world peace.

One thing that I have gained by living abroad and having an intercultural family is my deep conviction, that all human beings are bestowed by their creator with equal value and are meant to enjoy equal rights to partake in the resources and bounties of nature and having guaranteed the basic human rights.

It is my great honour and joy to co-operate with Mr Rafiu Bello, a native Nigerian, and his Taxi company in Linz.

I got very inspired by the US election of a black president. Hopefully soon we can have also in Austria politicians and officials with different colours and cultural background.

Thanks and acknowledgments

Ingrid Hauseder (Teacher and mother)

In 1979 on a journey through Austria I met Ingrid in Graz City. She introduced me to the teachings of the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon and the Unification movement. This encounter has made a profound impact on my life.

Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon

His teachings of true family values and guidance have enabled me to participate in intercultural and inter-religious exchange programs. Through his wisdom and love I got to meet my beloved wife Mrs. Tsuyako Shiotsuki from Japan. In January 1989 we received the eternal wedding blessing for our marriage.

Mrs. Tsuyako Shiotsuki-Gutenbrunner

For all her love, sacrifice and support for more than twenty years now. For her care and love for our children and for her willingness and resolution to live in Austria.

Johann und Maria Gutenbrunner senior

To my parents for their love, trust and constant support.

Dr. Bernhard Kutzler

As my employer for his trust and support during the seven years of employment at Soft Warehouse Europe GmbH, as a patient teacher and a great friend in many situations.

Johann Gutenbrunner
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