

Brenda Ziska – Austria
September – October 2017

Dear Family & Friends,



“Zumba for everyone” classes were held this summer in the community center where our church services are held. It was one of the great ideas lead by Terrin Sanidad, a Zumba trainer on the summer evangelistic team from Crossroads Bible Church in Bellevue, WA. The team came this summer to work in Klosterneuburg. We prayed that they would raise the level of visibility in the community for the church and reach out to many people in the neighborhood with invitations to our

special meetings and church services. There was a good response to the evangelistic outreaches that were planned. Pray that those who visited some of our activities will come back to get to know Jesus and us better. A great big thank you to the Crossroads mission team!!!

Left is a picture of one of the dinners we had with some of the members of the mission team. The young woman on the right is a student at the Evangelical Academy in Vienna that Joe helped to begin and where he taught classes. She has become a valued part of our fellowship and has been one of the women I’ve been meeting with for coffee regularly throughout the year. It was a special joy for all of us when she decided to be baptized in August. She worked with the mission team and has now started teaching Sunday school at church.



Please pray for the Klosterneuburg Women’s Breakfast on October 14th, 2017. The speaker is Andrea Herzog , a psychotherapist.

Her theme is:

“Victim” – or “Decisive Woman.”

To be a victim means to feel you’re being treated unfairly and are unable to change the situation. We all know that kind of situation. The question is: What helps us to get free?

Continue to pray as we work out all the new details and changes we’ll be making for this new start of the evangelistic women’s breakfasts in Klosterneuburg. Pray that women will be touched by God.

Church Retreat



It was great that all of the teens from the children's home were able to come to the church retreat along with the director of the home. It worked out beautifully. The teens attended all of the adult meetings on spiritual gifts. We had several tours in the neighborhood and only one special meeting for the kids alone. Our group is standing in front of the famous St. Barbara Church in Baernbach, Austria that we visited. The church was re-designed by Friedenreich Hundertwasser. We also visited the

Lipizzaner Stud Farm Piber in Styria, Austria.

The church people included the kids in everything that we did and they loved it. The director thought it worked out very well. She and I were able to get to know each other better during the retreat. One of the wonderful things that happened was that one of the girls from the home gave a testimony about how God helped her. Her brother even asked if he could say a prayer up front.



At church the next week I had a talk with the girl. I asked her if she sees her family. The older brother is no longer in the children's home. When he was there he kept pressing her about her being Muslim. Her mother often sees her in a mall in the neighborhood. She tries to avoid her, because she keeps telling her she has to wearing a Burqa.



As we talked, I asked her if she was muslim. She said, "No, I'm a Christian, you know, like you are." I was really happy to hear how sure she was about her commitment to Jesus.

She and I have often talked together about her friends. She wanted to know how she could help them become Christians. At one of the birthday parties way in the beginning of our visiting the home, Joe had told a story about Daniel and the lions' den. Later at the party her younger brother asked Joe if he could have a Bible like the one Joe used for the story. Joe said we'll have to see what the director thinks who was sitting at the same table. When the other children heard what the boy said, all the other kids chimed in and said they wanted a Bible. In the end we were given permission to give a Bible to all of the children in the home if they said "I want one" – which of course they all did! Amazing how God works, isn't it! That director back then is the one who came to our retreat.



School has started all over Austria. Below is a picture of Danielle, one of our GEM (Greater Europe Mission) missionaries. She and her husband are also working with the Klosterneuburg church like I am. She is walking her son to school. Last week was the first day of first grade. For this special occasion the parents, grandma & grandpa can go to school with the child. They stay only 1 hour on that day and get a “cone” full of school supplies, treats and games to mark this special occasion. Can you tell he’s happy about starting school?



The teens at the children’s home started school last week also. Some are returning to the same school and others are going to new and very hard schools. All of them would appreciate your prayers.



In Austria if you want to go to

college, you have to graduate from one of the harder schools. That’s where they call the teachers “Professor” and stand up when the principal comes into the classroom! When tests are taken in class, all grades are read out loud in class!! AND “D’s” are great, because at least you passed!!!

Please pray for our birthday party at the children’s home at the end of September. We’re looking forward to see what God is going to do in the teens’ lives this school year. Again, as always, I thank you for your prayers and support for my ministry here in Austria and for the Austrian people. May God bless you and your families and churches as you serve Him this fall.

*Love in Christ,
Brenda*

brenda.ziska@yahoo.com

Greater Europe Mission
18950 Base Camp Rd.
Monument, CO 80132-8009

Greater Europe Mission Canada
100 Ontario Street, Oshawa, ON L1G 4Z1
Canada

