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Dear Friends of Brenda Ziska,

I am writing to you today to thank you for the prayers, support, and friendship you have given to our friend and colleague, Brenda Ziska, during this time of such deep personal loss. Joe's passing on December 4th was both a blessed release and a great sorrow. Thank you for standing with Brenda, for lifting her and her sons up in prayer, and for continuing your support for her. As you can imagine, these are difficult times of adjustment to a new chapter in her life.

With this letter, I would like to let you know that we have asked Brenda to not only continue in her ministry, but increase it. Brenda is a core part of the ministry in the newly planted Klosterneuburg church, where she is involved in discipling new believers, mentoring and counseling women and reaching out to the lost. The leadership team in Klosterneuburg is counting on Brenda's help as the church reaches out to the community and grows to maturity. She has vital role in connecting to a local children's home, where God has opened doors to shine the light of the Gospel into the lives of these disadvantaged children and the staff. Brenda is also on the executive committee of an evangelistic ministry, also in Klosterneuburg, called Women's Breakfast, organizing events, leading table discussions, and following up both one-on-one and in small groups.

Brenda's experience and maturity, her years of service in Austria, and her contagious love for Jesus have given her a unique platform for ministry, far beyond the Klosterneuburg context. On a personal level, Brenda is a huge resource for our GEM mission team as she works with me to encourage our newer missionaries. Brenda will be having an increased responsibility for the women on our team.

I could go on, but I think you see how strategic and significant Brenda's ministry here is. It is without exaggeration that I share with you my confidence that these next few years will likely be Brenda's most effective years in ministry. That is why I am so thankful to you for your continued financial and prayer support for her. How much longer she will continue in this full-time capacity will depend on several factors, but we anticipate another four or five year, as God grants her good health and strength.

For the sake of the Kingdom, yours in Christ,

Jim Hatcher, Field Leader of GEM-Austria