

February Prayer & Praise 2012

Joe & Brenda Ziska in Austria

Dear Family & Friends,



We're finally back home in Austria. Yeh!!! We had a great time in Canada and America visiting and seeing most of you. We enjoyed being with Bess, Diane and Mark and their families in Georgia and Delaware during the Christmas holidays. There were three new babies among the offspring of Joe's sisters and brother.

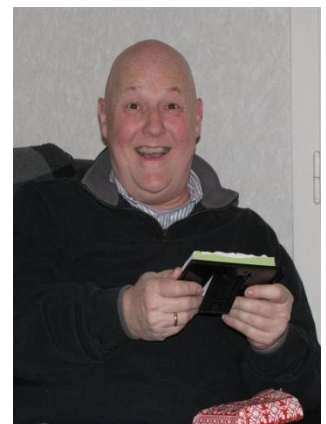


Remember we had you pray for Bess' son, Ray, but unfortunately he died. On the left is his son, Ray Jr., looking very startled at Joe's very bald head. Right before Joe got his last chemo treatment, they offered him a free haircut. When the boys called from Austria, I told them there would be no "solidarity" haircuts. In Europe shaved heads may belong to the neo-Nazi scene.

We arrived in Vienna on Dec. 30th and got to bring in the New Year watching hundreds of fireworks light up the night sky near our own house. Then because we missed our family Christmas, we decided to celebrate the Orthodox Christmas on Jan. 6th. Joe and Daniel even found a big tree on Dec. 31 at the "tree trashing" spot. It was beautiful and free!!



On the right you can see not only our Christmas tree that we put up on Jan. 1, but also our Advent wreath. We wanted to celebrate Christmas together as a family with our sons in Austria. It's been fun being back home in Vienna with our sons and friends.



Urgent Prayer Requests for the Klosterneuburg Fellowship:



Our Swiss co-worker, **Jonathan**, has been in and out of the hospital in January. He had a gall bladder operation at the end of December and ended up back in the hospital, because of the high level of bilirubin in his blood. The doctors have been unable to find a reason for it. Although there has been a slight improvement, he is still having significant problems and will have to be off work until March. Please pray that the doctors will find the cause for this condition and how it should be treated. There is also **another man** in our fellowship who is in the hospital and seriously ill. Pray for **his wife and adult children**.



Please pray for a Bible study group led by Jonathan in Vienna. The **young adults in the study** are struggling with his being so seriously sick. Joe may occasionally help lead Jonathan's study. Pray also for Jonathan's wife, **Raphaela**. This is quite a hard situation for a newlywed couple. Right now Raphaela has become the leader of the committee for the semi-annual Women's Breakfasts in Klosterneuburg. We're beginning the preparation for the **next breakfast** to be held on April 14th. I know she would appreciate your prayers.



Already on Jan. 8 Joe preached in Klosterneuburg. He used the same sermon as when we visited our supporting churches in Illinois. It dealt with affliction and adversity. In both Illinois and Klosterneuburg the message seemed to have been handpicked by God for the hearers.

Jonathan told us he thinks the Lord timed our return to Austria to coincide with his sudden need for an operation and all the complications that have happened since. Joe can now cover the responsibilities he is unable to handle.

All three of our home studies have begun. Joe will be leading two of the studies and helping with the third. Praise God for **two new men** beginning to lead worship and one of the studies. We'll be visiting with some of these new people who have become regulars in the fellowship. We're celebrating being back with the fellowship (right).

From Feb. 9th to 11th we'll be having a retreat with our **fellow missionaries in Greater Europe Mission** who work here in Austria. Joe will lead one workshop there. Pray for us as we plan with God what our **next steps as a field** should be in the coming years in Austria.

Praise God that Joe's PSA dropped from 4.00 to 0.17 after chemo in the USA! Joe now has an oncologist at Vienna's main General Hospital (the largest hospital in central Europe). Not surprisingly, the doctor has prescribed a new round of tests (CT & MRI), but has recommended Joe take a temporary break in his chemotherapy to let his body recover. We'll go back to the oncologist on Feb. 16 for a consultation. Pray for **wisdom** as we look at what our options are here in Austria.



Needless to say, we're jumping right into the work here with both feet. We're excited about being in partnership with you and our Austrian friends. Be praying that we'll be **wise with our time** and **sensitive to God's leading**.

Love in Christ,
Joe & Brenda Ziska
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