



# AUSTRIA

*for Jesus*

DECEMBER 2008

## THERE PROBABLY IS NO GOD

Dear Team,

I first heard of the THERE'S PROBABLY NO GOD campaign a few months ago from one of the ladies in our Home Group. Then Monika brought this newspaper article home, and we saw it with our own eyes. This really represents the mind-set of Europe. However, God sent us here to set the record straight!

Moinka and I want to wish you a wonderful Christmas season. I pray that the wonder of God becoming a man would stir your hearts and occupy your thoughts as the world will probably continue its ever indulgent ways. We are a bit sad not having David and Anne here.

We will be having some of Monika's family over for Christmas dinner and visit friends. Then we hope to travel to the other side of Austria and visit a fellowship of believers we have known for many years. They have had a tremendous amount of snow this year and it should be beautiful.

This month has been exciting for Monika and me. We had been asked to visit a Catholic woman who will soon be in heaven unless God heals her. She has a cancerous brain tumor and is in the hospital. She refused to have the Catholic priest come and requested Monika and I come anoint her with oil and pray for her. So we drove two hours and received a great blessing.

Monika read her scripture, and she said, "Yes, that is all I want! I want to hear God's words." Monika was the blessing! **"How beautiful are the feet of them who bring good news."**

A couple of days later, I was asked to meet with an Austrian man who had woven a very complicated web of sin which had both trapped him and made him physically ill. He had consulted a psychiatrist and an astrologer. (He was pretty desperate to consult such extremes.) In sharing my testimony, I mentioned that before I became a Christian, I had two lives; the outward life and the inward life. He stopped the conversation, and with a look of amazement said, "That is just like



advertisement on the London bus lines

### CONTACT ADDRESS

Brunnengasse 82/19  
A-2230 Gänserndorf  
AUSTRIA / Europe

### SUPPORT ADDRESS

(payable to Bread of Life Bible Fellowship)  
7340 Florey St.  
San Diego, CA 92122

### EMAIL

breadoflifebiblefellowship@yahoo.com  
[www.BOLBF.ORG](http://www.BOLBF.ORG)  
SKYPE: pantonrobert

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me! I have two lives, too.” It is a rare moment when human beings are as open and honest as that man was. Austrians do not make rash decisions, so I explained how to become a Christian, and he told me that the first thing he was going to do when he got home was to ask Jesus into his heart.

Last weekend Monika and I visited a church and met a girl who mentioned that her brother was having problems. She said that he was currently at a mental hospital, and I told her that I would be glad to go visit him. She was quite excited that I would help. So we went together to the hospital, and she translated for me. Every young person who is dabbling in drugs should be required to visit such a place. The effects of drug use is frightening, and in some ways they looked like ghosts. There is the image of a body, but no connecting thoughts for meaningful conversations. I met with her brother and believe that he is a Christian but has never been disciplined. Please pray for this man and many others that I have been meeting who are in need of being disciplined in God’s word. Pray specifically for a place in Vienna for us to meet.

Finally, Monika and I want to thank you for your prayers. I wish we could tell you that Austria is a fun and easy place for us, but Monika and I are convinced that it will never be easy here. We struggle day to day, but know that many people here are watching how we live the Christian life. Perhaps they are learning more through our trials than from our teaching. Nevertheless, we are honored that God has chosen us to be here and pray that HE is glorified through our lives. We also want to send a BIG THANK YOU to those who support us financially. (We do not say much in any way about money given to this ministry, because it is more important that you give because you want to rather than feeling any obligation; but we do want you to know that we are very grateful for every gift.)

Your friends in Austria,

the PANTONS

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- a location for new Bible study in Vienna
- direction for ministry this next year
- need a worship leader
- video equipment for youth ministry
- direction for Monika’s teaching
- leadership class
- refreshing for Danny... that God would draw him closer
- God’s encouragement for Robert & Monika
- encouragement and wisdom for David & Anne
- growth for all the new people we have met and fellowship with