

AUSTRIA

OCTOBER 2017

bread of life bible fellowship

for Jesus

Traunsee, Austria

Dear Team,

Our summer is nearly over and cool fall breezes have begun blowing our way, but the wonderful things God has done the past few months will continue warming our hearts for quite some time to come.

Summer began with a full schedule, four Bible studies per week and a steady flow of counseling appointments. Each of the studies has their own particular way of making us laugh; there has always been an abundance of joy every time we meet.

We had scheduled a BOLBF Board meeting and a visit with our children in Portland, Oregon late in the summer. We only spent a few days in San Diego, where we loaded up on some needed things such as real Mexican food. Being isolated from mature Christians over the years has not always been easy. The Board members listened to our "God-stories" and then prayed for us. We would welcome your prayers as well whenever you think of us.



Torrey Pines Beach, San Diego

All filled up on Burritos, Enchiladas, & Tacos, we flew to Portland where we caught up with our first grandchild, Lukas. It was my first time seeing him. All the joys of parenting came flooding back when little Lukas was handed to me.



Little LUKAS

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Our children wanted to entertain and take us places, but we were quite happy loading Lukas into his four-wheeler at 6:30AM and head off to Starbucks. We strolled the neighborhood introducing Lukas to the local alley cats and singing/squawking birds. Anne & David, along with David, our youngest son, sent us off to our very first concert after 32 years. Neil Diamond was playing at the local sports arena. I couldn't get over all the old people at the

Omi & Lukas



← Proud parents of Lukas



Opa & Lukas



Dave, Monika, Marry, Anne & Lukas
(David's Parents)



Christina, David & Lukas

concert; I felt so out of place. Our time in Portland flew by and soon we were on our way home... back to Austria.

We visited Danny & Rebecca for a few days at their home in Wagrain, which is located in one of the prestigious ski areas of Austria. It is about an hour from Salzburg. In case you haven't heard the exciting news, Danny & Rebecca are expecting their first child in mid-December. We had fun meeting some of the American soccer missionaries who are helping with the refugee ministry.



Sami turned 40

From Danny's we traveled to a village on the Traunsee, Austria's deepest lake. There we attended a friend's 40th birthday party located at a beautiful villa near the lake.

Mingling and meeting people, we were introduced to a distinguished looking gentleman who was nicely dressed, very well kept, and sported a short, neatly-trimmed beard. He was both charming and entertaining to say the least. While chitchatting with us and sipping from a glass of red wine, we learned about his family, hobbies, and travels. Then he told us about the "best decision" he ever made, which was the selling of his dream home with its beautiful garden, vineyard and fruit trees for a comfortable, cozy, condo right on the lake. Monika's timing was perfect as she slipped into the conversation, "I had a 'best decision' experience, too!" Curiously he asked, "What was it?" She began sharing her deep desire, even as a little girl, to be forgiven of all the wrong things she had done. She talked of being religious, faithfully attending the Catholic Church and doing everything it required, yet still knew in her heart that she was not right with God. Then came the moment when she explained how she found and received the forgiveness she had so longed for. She told of Jesus setting her free and giving her a brand new life.

He was caught off guard; most people usually are. As human beings, we almost never think about death and the life awaiting us. God wants each of us to know the truth, and it just happened to be that sweet gentleman's lucky night!



Villa hosting Sami's Birthday Party



*Castle on Traunsee
founded around 1080*



"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes." Romans 1:16

I took the car in for its yearly inspection. After being certified as mechanically sound, left the mechanic's shop toward an appointment in Vienna. As I stopped at a traffic light, a tremendous storm came out of nowhere. Wind shook the car and debris went flying everywhere. I was just thinking how lucky I was to be sitting inside and protected from all the trash and sand swirling around, when I looked out the side window and saw a young black man with a backpack fighting his way toward the bus stop. Our eyes seemed to lock onto each other. The young man pointed towards Vienna, and I motioned for him to hop inside.



Wanting to set the young man at ease and to introduce a bit of humor into our ride, I let him know right up front that I wasn't going to rob him. He was from Nigeria and had been living in Vienna for about three years.

"I bet you are wondering why I left sunny San Diego for a place like this?" I asked. (It's the most often asked us, so I figured I would just get it out of the way.) "I left a great place and came here so I could tell you about the new life I found when I gave my old one to Jesus. I told him that every person deserves the opportunity to get a new life if they want one!" He just listened as I shared how discovering God's love changed my life. Only God knows what people secretly carry in their hearts that they would want to be freed from.

PRAYER NEEDS

- 1. Many of our Arabic friends have been waiting nearly two years for legal papers to reside in Austria. (pray for government approval)**
- 2. Monika's cousin has cancer. (salvation)**
- 3. Several people in our fellowship are looking, changing, or starting new jobs.**
- 4. Always pray for opportunities for us to share the Gospel with people, especially those wanting help.**



**33 Years serving the LORD together
as husband & wife**