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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (23)

May 2011

We've had a very busy month and many things have not turned out quite as planned... Here we are with TT-24, which means we are celebrating the **SECOND anniversary** of our monthly news update 'Travelling Together'! Of course we are HUGELY delighted to have any feedback from you – perhaps you would like to use the occasion of this anniversary as a good excuse!

While on the subject of feedback...

Recently Andrea wrote to us, "I have just read that you, Margret, are taking part in another ladies' weekend and that reminded me of the one I went to at Hintersee (nr Salzburg) when you spoke on 'Joy- Snatchers'. When I got back home, I **painted a few stones green** and placed them in the garden to make a 'crocodile' and whenever I go past them, I am glad to be reminded about the 'Joy-Snatchers...'"

Time and again we have the privilege to link Christians up with each other, and sometimes that leads to some interesting meetings: Recently we met **M a young friendly Af.ghan**, who had fled from his war-torn country in very complicated circumstances. To this day he has not been able to get in touch with his family. Someone looked after him here, and then he was moved to a refugee centre which 'just happened' to be near a small Christian church. We were notified about this and we let the church know, and soon afterwards M was visited by a church worker. **M became a believer and expressed the wish to get baptised**. Now he is involved in the little church and happily calls it 'HIS family'!

During a visit to the same church a previously unknown couple introduced themselves to us.

They said that after moving home, they had heard about this church through an e-mail from us and now they are happy to be going there! **THIS is SUCH an encouragement for us!**

A good friend from Linz was moved when he told us how, following an appeal for funds, a child from his fellowship gave him **€4 for Haiti** and **€6 for Japan** in the service!

On May 2nd we let people know about an urgent need for workers at a Christian school in south Asia – replies from people seriously interested in this quickly came back from all over the world. Some – e.g. in New Zealand – put this request on their own networks... **We are amazed at how God puts the 'pieces of the puzzle' together so wonderfully!**

Burgenland Crisis Response Team (KIB)

After having responded to a KIB emergency-call Hans-Georg met 'by chance' a family that he had come across previously when we took the funeral of one of their relatives. Now another relation had died suddenly of a heart attack while on the way to hospital and had been laid out. The family were so grateful that Hans-Georg had gone with them to the chapel of rest at the hospital. On such sad occasions and in situations where people are still in a state of shock, it's so important that we don't just stand there not saying anything, but it needs a lot of wisdom to have the right words at the right time!

Events coming up in May:

Following the sudden death in March of Irene, the dear lady who had hosted our house group, we have wanted to re-organise the way we meet. Please pray that the individual participants would be ready to **make their homes available in turn for the regular house group meetings (Paula & Georg, Hermine, Bianca, Anni)**

13th–15th May: we are taking part in a workers' training session for our Association of Churches at Bad Aussee (s.e. of Salzburg). The subject is "The generations working together in the church".

We are looking forward so much to meeting our colleagues and fellow Christians from all over Austria. Give thanks with us for these special days of teaching, meeting friends and encouragement.

18th–26th May: Hans-Georg is planning another trip to **Lutsk in the Ukraine, via Suceava in Romania**, together with two Romanian colleagues, Teo and Valentin, to continue discussions and foster contacts.

They will consider how the Ukrainian churches can take part in the world-wide missionary task in practical ways.

Valentin has a good command of Ukrainian, which will be very useful. Please pray for safekeeping on the rather dangerous roads in the east and also for the building up of good relationships and that tangible progress will be made towards the goal.

21st May: Margret is going to a **Christian women's day at Nitra in Slovakia together with her friend Thirza from Vienna**.

The morning will be on the topic "Keeping in good health, that's the main thing... – or?" In the afternoon she will report on our time in Papua New Guinea. Please pray that the message will be clear when it is translated and that it will reach the hearts.

29th May: Hans-Georg has been invited to **preach** in the morning and in the afternoon at the **Chinese fellowship in Vienna**. The Sundays there are very full, because everything has to be translated and because of their culture, but we love having fellowship with our Chinese friends!

Please pray for our Annika (14), that she will get through her exams successfully without having to do any re-sits. She is in the process of doing her final vital pieces of course-work at the Grammar school (esp. Maths and English) before transferring to the Nursery Teacher Training College in September.

When we look back at how April went, it is clear that it was **YOUR ongoing support** that gave us the strength and courage for the many challenges we faced and the various areas of service we were involved in.

We know that we have been so richly blessed and we THANK YOU sincerely!



DMG
Deutsche Missionsgemeinschaft

From

Hans-Georg & Margret Hoprich with Annika & Manuel

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