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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (26)

July 2011

Gradually we are learning to accept that **our days often turn out very differently** from what we'd originally planned! This is due to our work with the Crisis Response Team and our willingness to accept interruptions in our 'normal' daily lives because of bereaved people needing support and counselling. **On the day of our 32nd wedding anniversary at the end of June** we were planning a celebration when we had **an alarming phone call**: "My husband has become violent – the Police are at the house – the children are upset – PLEASE come quickly and help me!" It turned out to be a wedding anniversary that we'll remember for very different reasons...we had to catch up on the romantic part at a later date! And again we think of the legacy of the highly respected **Prof. Dr. Hans Grueber**, a former administrative director of our sending mission, the DMG/GMF, who died only recently. In 1984 in our early days as missionary candidates he gave us the following **essential advice** for the future: "**Never forget that, as missionaries, you must always be really flexible!**" How true! We're still working at it! Even in the first week of July we had to take **two funerals**, including meeting the mourners and all the organising which needs to be done.

What have we been involved in?

– The weekend with the 'OASIS' church planting project in Enns! **THANK YOU so much for all your prayers**. There weren't many at the ladies' breakfast, but the Papua New Guinea evening (with authentic food!) was surprisingly well attended!
– An **unforgettable highlight** for us was the **BEG Horizons Day on 19th June!** We drove to Falkenstein, a small place in Weinviertel in the north of Lower Austria. In the year 1539/40 a group of Anabaptists were captured, **incarcerated in Falkenstein castle and then chained together – still singing – and taken to Trieste**, to be sold as galley slaves. A museum has been set up by the ruins of the castle, together with a reconstruction of a galley ship. About 500 people came to the open-air service and official opening of the museum.

Setting out in service...

3rd July: We were able to go together to a valedictory service in Vienna: Having completed her agricultural studies, **ANNA-THERESA** is beginning a year's placement in an agricultural project with an indigenous Christian family in the Peruvian Andes. PLEASE PRAY for all the necessary preparations and for the training days which we will have with her 27th–28th July. Also **BETTINA, a young physiotherapist** is preparing to start working with street children in Brazil. The effort of getting a year's visa is enormous! She wishes to travel out in September, but still needs to get over several bureaucratic hurdles in the meantime! We would like you to pray with us that she will get the necessary papers in time. **URSULA** from Carinthia, would like to find a new place in **SERBIA**. She has been doing missionary work there for a number of years and knows the country, the people, the language and the culture. At the end of September we are planning a trip to Serbia to find out more about possible projects run by our partner missions. We will also visit **SLAVO**, a Serbian Christian who is in a wheelchair. Shortly after he came to faith while in Vienna, he felt compelled to return to his home town of **Sabac, SERBIA** and with **great personal commitment and at considerable financial cost**, is reaching out to his compatriots and building a church. **ROLAND** from Carinthia has been studying for the last 4 years at Prairie Bible College in Canada and it was there he met his wife **BRITTANY** and got married. His particular gifting is in street preaching. Both have already been accepted by the 'Open Air Campaigners' (OAC) in Brazil. They have a pressing need to find friends here in Austria who will follow their progress and support them in their long-term work. Our task includes building bridges between our country and OAC in Canada and Brazil. Would you pray with us that this will be successful?

A wonderful offer...

Friends of ours have a fully furnished apartment in Vienna which they would like to make available free of charge to Christians in full-time service for a short holiday! Please get in touch with us if you are interested.

Family news

MARGRET has to have a minor operation for investigation on 21st July. PLEASE PRAY that this will go smoothly. **ANNIKA** (14) is going to an English-language holiday camp in Reutte (Tyrol) 25th–31st July with her friend Conny. Please can we pray for the approx 30 young campers, that they will find great joy in God's Word and in the fellowship and that it will have a lasting effect on their lives.

For which we rejoice...

E.g. the **Burgenland women's group** who are praying faithfully for a spiritual breakthrough in Burgenland. They had invited us to meet them on 8th July and they wanted us to share about our experiences. The **FORUM house group**: even during the summer months when the rest of the church life is quiet, we would like to continue our house group for people who are seeking. We will be looking at the example of St Peter's life (every fortnight on a Thursday). A mixed, but very attentive group from the Eisenstadt area has built up. **PLEASE PRAY** that God's Word will touch and transform the hearts and minds of the participants and that they will not lose interest.

THANK YOU!

We really need to say a big THANK YOU! Your prayers and your gifts have made a big difference! We wish you God's safe-keeping during the summer and HIS blessing and refreshing during the holiday season.



Hans-Georg & Margret Hoprich with Annika & Manuel

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