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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (32)

January 2012

Here we are at the start of another New Year. Where has the time gone?! It seems that the wheels of time are turning ever faster... We are full of amazement and give THANKS for God's provision and HIS hand over us.

We are simply so glad to be travelling on together as a team with you for our Lord.

On the subject of 'travelling'...

The impressions of "mission–net" in Erfurt, Germany, are still fresh in our minds. Hans–Georg was very happy to take part in the European Youth Missionary Congress over New Year. In the end 2,650 enthusiastic young people from 40 different countries came together to find out more about the countless opportunities in world mission and to be inspired. There were over 130 participants from Austria alone, that's more than double the number who attended the last similar event two years ago. As well as helping to look after the SIM information stand, Hans–Georg saw it as **THE opportunity** to meet many of the different missionary leaders that we have already been working with for a long time and a whole lot of others which we aim to have a partnership with in the future. Now we are much in prayer for these young people, that the call into missionary work doesn't get stifled by their busy everyday lives and that there will be **a new move from Europe out into all the world!**

Travelling in the Ukraine...

We'd only just sent out our previous TT (31) when we heard from Erich, our colleague in the Foreign Missions Team (TAM), who told us he hadn't found anyone to go with him to **Luts'k in the Ukraine (15th–22nd Dec.)** to work out the logistics for the Austrian 'Christmas Parcel Scheme'. Hans–Georg decided straightaway to go with him and use the opportunity to have further meetings with the church leaders there. In spite of having little time to prepare, there were some personal conversations and several preaching engagements – some of which were completely unexpected but extremely helpful. However, **the journey there was not without incident!** Somewhere outside L'viv we accidentally drove down a pot–holed side road and went over an uncovered manhole. The heavy steel manhole covers and similar items are often the target for metal thieves. There was a loud bang and we found the **right front tyre had burst!** As we were changing the tyre in the twilight we were horrified to hear the **air slowly escaping from the right rear tyre...** Helpless and rather frustrated we managed to get to the nearest petrol station 200m further on. The attendant directed us (using hand signals as we don't speak Ukrainian!) to a little repair garage another 500m away, **just imagine:** they had **one compatible used tyre** which they fitted, and they patched up the other one. So we made it at last to Novovolyn'sk 70km (44m) away – our first port of call in which in mid January the 6 person team from Austria will give out some of the Christmas parcels in schools and children's homes – always in connection with evangelistic events. The next day there was **another challenge...** In the evening we were caught in **a blizzard** on a seemingly endless unlit pot–holed road and we couldn't see where we were going. There were many minor roads – but **not a single direction sign!** How glad we were when we somehow found the main road to Luts'k and eventually arrived in one piece – thanks to God for His grace and safekeeping!

Travelling – internationally...

We receive many **enquiries from all over the world.** Recently we heard from a brother in S. India ('St Thomas Church') who is looking for a placement in Hungary and a Nepalese person who would like to do missionary work in Austria. We hear regularly from a professor in Central Asia who lectures in Agriculture and Food Technology at a university and he requests prayer for his students in this country which is closed to the Gospel.

These contacts – and many more – remind us that we belong to a worldwide 'family', which is very encouraging.

Travelling in Burgenland...

We are pleased to say that our FORUM Christmas celebration was well attended and many of the visitors stayed late into the evening and there were some serious conversations. As they left, a doctor's family said, "You have given us a lot to think about!" Among others there were a former deputy mayor, his wife, daughter, son–in–law and two grandchildren. **So much to give thanks for!** We would have liked to do outreach at the Eisenstadt Christmas market, but then there was the unscheduled trip to the Ukraine, and Margret had a flu–like infection. At the FORUM we are **working very intensively on drawing up a constitution** and hope this will lead to the FORUM formally becoming a 'church'.

Our children are travelling on...

BENJAMIN (31) was invited to come back to his previous diving firm – very exciting!

MARIA our daughter–in–law is working at the uni (as well as elsewhere) and little **LENNI** (2½) is a bright little lad.

SEBASTIAN (29) and **ANNI**, his S. American fiancée (Peru), are busy planning their Big Day in the summer. A dear colleague is taking them through a wedding preparation course.

DAVID (27) is juggling his shifts at the Burgenland water company with his busy family life.

CLAUDIA has her hands full with kindergarten–age **TIMO** (4) and **LINA** (1½) who is discovering the world...

MANUEL (24) is a quiet serious type. He is currently decorating his little flat in central Eisenstadt.

ANNIKA (14) has made the most of her time at home before she went back to college in Oberwart on 9th January.

It is lovely to be travelling with you! Many sincere thanks for your friendship, prayers and support.

With love



DMG

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