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*Dear Friends,*

**TT – Travelling Together’ (35)**

April 2012

In the past few weeks our attention has been drawn repeatedly to **2 Peter 3:18: “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ!”** More grace from HIM and more knowledge of HIM! That’s what we long for! Yes, that’s what should be growing in us! In our April TT we want to share some of our experiences with you again. These have also involved growth...

### **Growing in relationships...**

It was over a decade ago that we first met Gustav, the son of a doctor whose funeral we took. At that point Gustav was a young man at a very low point in his life, without a way out of his addiction problems; however he accepted an invitation to come and play the guitar with us. Together we sang a song which includes the words: **“Never forget the fact that you are alive was not your idea!”** He told us at that time that he still had the chance to be reconciled with his father shortly before the father’s sudden death. We stayed in touch with him over the intervening years. By chance we helped him to find a place as an assistant cook at a Christian youth camp, although (in his opinion) he didn’t have a clue about cooking. For the first time he experienced being accepted in a Christian fellowship, he listened to Bible stories and also learnt how to cook. Thirteen years after our first meeting we met him again recently. With great joy he told us over the phone, **“You told me back then about believing in Jesus and now HE has found me!”** Together with his African fiancée he told us about the shocking experiences of abuse and hate that she was delivered from, and also about reconciliation and a new beginning and the deep peace of God in their lives. They both now belong to a Christian fellowship and are actively involved in it, and they are preparing for their wedding! **We are amazed at how God works in people’s lives and sometimes we are able to be a piece of the puzzle, which is so encouraging for us!**

### **Growing into something new..!**

When she was still a teenager, S. decided that when she got married Hans-Georg would take the wedding service! Now her wish is coming true and we are able to support S. and M. (from a village by Lake Neusiedl) through their preparation for marriage right up to their wedding in mid August and help them plan the wedding service. So for the first time the **‘Marriage Preparation Course’** is being used for which Hans-Georg did further training several years ago. It is exciting and challenging to work with the young couple and all four of us would be **glad of any support in prayer! Almost at the same time we received the following request from a couple that we know:** “...The past hasn’t been easy for us – part of it goes right back to childhood. This has left its mark which is difficult to overcome in our marriage. In our view we need ‘outside’ help. Would it be possible for you to help us?” We have recently met them to ‘take stock’ of their situation and we are excited to see how God will work over the coming months as we discuss these matters in depth and how things will change!

### **Growing in experience...**

Even when working with the Red Cross! We worked for 12 hours practically without a break with the ambulance crews and all the people they had to deal with... dialysis patients, people with dementia, those with acute mental illnesses, people who had attempted suicide, the elderly and also people with broken bones and all their anxious friends and relatives. There were interesting conversations on the various journeys as we travelled many kilometres in Burgenland, Lower Austria and Vienna... close alongside people who were often really desperate! We have also taken two more funerals and been involved in a dramatic counselling session.

**We find that we need courage especially and wisdom far beyond our human capabilities!**

### **Many, many THANKS!**

We have really felt your prayers for us! God has heard them, but read this for yourselves: Various circumstances meant that Margret travelled to Graz for the ladies breakfast meeting under a lot of stress. Her joy was rekindled and she came back strengthened by the fellowship there. The **lecture meeting in Eisenstadt on ‘The Bible, God’s Word or the work of man?’** was very well attended. The message was clear and Jesus was the focal point!

**EVI** – our friend with severe migraines – is finding a slow improvement in her long-standing condition and is planning to come to the Easter service at the FORUM for the first time.

### **Import dates to remember in your prayers:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Apr.: Open air FORUM children’s activities in the park behind the Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt
- 11<sup>th</sup> Apr.: Meeting of the Foreign Missions Team in Linz – 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.: Hans-Georg is preaching at the FORUM
- 18<sup>th</sup> Apr.: Nursery, Unterwaltersdorf: PNG presentation – **Evening:** FORUM leaders meeting
- 21<sup>st</sup> Apr.: Ladies’ breakfast meeting in Sierning near Steyr – 28<sup>th</sup> Apr.: Ladies’ breakfast meeting in Freistadt

Our dear friend **Rita: her brain** has now been affected by the cancer, as well as her lungs. She asked us for support at this difficult time. **Your prayers for comfort and peace** would be a very great help!

**Thank you for your interest in our lives and in all that which God can do with us (and sometimes inspite of us)! Thank you for your prayers, your faithfulness and your love!**



**DMG**

Deutsche Missionsgemeinschaft

Wishing you a happy and blessed time over Easter!

*Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich*

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