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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (42)

November 2012

We often have requests such as the following: "...our daughter is about to start work with an Austrian firm and will be moving from Germany to Vienna – she has already found a flat in the 21st district. She is looking for a Christian fellowship in that area. Can you advise us...?" We are always glad to be able to help! You can find a whole range of Christian churches in Germany, Austria and Switzerland by looking at <http://www.christliche-gemeinden.eu/index.php> with 12,153 entries..!

Encouraging developments...

There is already a **Chinese** fellowship and a **Polish** fellowship in the BEG. They are now being joined by an **Iranian** fellowship! What a wonderful addition! On **11th November** their church leader is preaching here in Eisenstadt on the occasion of '**Persecuted Churches Sunday**'. There is **much to give thanks for**, as God is at work in these times among Iranian and Afghani migrants in Austria and beyond: in various parts of the country **thirty Farsi-speaking asylum seekers alone have come to a living faith** in the Lord Jesus!

In our 'TT' 36 (May 2012) we reported on the 20th anniversary of our Association of Churches. The chance has unexpectedly arisen for the BEG and other free churches to be officially recognised in state law. A committee is now hard at work producing documents and holding consultations. **Please pray for God's guidance in this matter!** Up to now far we have been in a grey legal area. Here in Austria, for instance, the term 'evangelisch' = Lutheran is registered (protected in law); that's unique in the whole world! Many free churches had suddenly found themselves at odds with the law, when choosing 'evangelisch' as part of the name of their church. **9th–10th November** the **BEG delegates** are having their meeting in Bad Aussee (near Salzburg), at which this matter will take up much of the time. Hans–Georg will give a report on the Foreign Missions Team (TAM).

'Hope and Joy 2012 Christmas Parcel Scheme'

In previous years the parcels have gone to Albania or Poland; this year half will go to the Ukraine and half to Serbia. It is a joy to see our FORUM workers hard at work preparing parcels in various children's nurseries and among their friends! It's a good opportunity to be active evangelistically.

A whole lot of new applicants for missionary placements...

We've had a number of new applicants in the last few weeks, including a young couple. What really delighted us was that two young female applicants are ready and are intensively preparing to work full time in world mission! Recently Hans–Georg took part in the retreat for the Association of Evangelical Missions of Austria (AEM–OE), at which the co–operation between the various missionary societies was reaffirmed. **Thank you** for your prayers for C & J who in the meantime have miraculously got their visa – in a different way from what they expected, but it has made it possible for them to continue in the country where they are working. For all workers in foreign countries, this is most important to know: It needs a considerable amount of flexibility to adapt to unexpectedly changing circumstances!

Family news...

We are looking forward to having our fourth grandchild (May 2013)! Please pray for **Maria, Benjamin and Lenni (3)**. Our mini–break at the farm in Styria (up in the mountains east of Salzburg) was really refreshing – much to be recommended! A wonderful spot directly opposite Mount Grimming (2,351m) just round the corner from Kulm (a famous ski–flying–hill). During a mountain walk on the autumnal alpine meadows at Tauplitz we were so glad to see a fantastic view of the Dachstein Glacier and a wonderful sunset...

FORUM Eisenstadt news...

1st Dec. we would like to invite people to our Advent and Christmas celebration at the FORUM. This is also an occasion to point our guests to the Lord Jesus the Saviour! Preparations are already in full swing. For the **16th December** a stand will be available again at the Christmas market in the Eisenstadt pedestrian precinct (13.00–21.00). This is a good opportunity to engage in conversation with people, to have a drink of tea punch with them, to offer Christian literature and to just to be a presence there!

As well as the dates already mentioned, here are some more – for your prayers:

- **8th Nov.:** FORUM house group
- **24th–25th Nov.:** Christian fellowship in Karlsruhe (southwest Germany) ladies' breakfast and preaching.
- **30th Nov.:** The Evangelical Academy in Vienna (EVAK) has invited us to lead the session on 'funerals' as part of their 'special church occasions' module. This is an interesting challenge for us. Please pray for success as we prepare and put together the course material.

Our planner always seems to be very full. However, it is clear to us that all these activities are no guarantee of spiritual life and activity. God's Spirit must work, or else our efforts will be 'in the flesh' and in vain!

We wish to seek fervently and pray for this work of the Holy Spirit!

It is such a big encouragement that you are standing with us! THANK YOU so much!

From our hearts we wish you a cheerful courage and all the good gifts that are promised in Romans 15 V13!
We look forward to hearing back from you!



DMG
Deutsche Missionsgemeinschaft

With loving greetings from

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich

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