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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (42)

December 2012

A good friend of ours in Eisenstadt rang us up: “HELP! There is a power cut and in a quarter of an hour the women’s group are supposed to be meeting up here. I can’t even put the kettle on for a cup of coffee...” A short while later there were eight women sitting on the comfortable seats round our table, sharing from the Bible and praying together... Beforehand we had had only just enough time to clear away the breakfast crockery and move all the clean washing off the sofa...

In the last few weeks...

“**Can we come and see you tomorrow?** We’d love to come for breakfast!” – The next morning this dear couple from Styria turned up early on our doorstep... We had a close and valuable time of fellowship! – “**I’ve been wanting to see you for some time**, to share memories of PNG and just to have a chat. Would November be OK? I have some time in the next few days... If this isn’t OK for you, then it doesn’t matter. However, I don’t yet have my work rota for December!” – We haven’t yet had this visit, but it’s on our planner for just after Christmas.

A young mother called us: “I’m currently in Eisenstadt, the children are having a music lesson at the Conservatoire right by you – can I **come up to you for three quarters of an hour?**” Unfortunately on this occasion we were not at home...

“**I would like to make some definite plans for my missionary placement**, I need advice on how to go about it, but Eisenstadt is so far. Can we meet up halfway somewhere?” A few days later we are sitting with this lady in a coffee shop in the south of Vienna... – Somewhere in between there were **three dramatic situations** in which Hans–Georg was contacted to **provide emergency counselling**.

“**Flexibility**” seems to be the ‘**watchword**’ of the moment!

Once again we are so thankful that we can work like this – being available and able provide help.

‘Funerals’: Part of the teaching on special church occasions on offer to students

THANK YOU for your specific prayers! We needed many hours to prepare for teaching this module at EVAK (the Evangelical Academy – www.evak.at/) in Vienna. It has now taken place. We gave the students some ‘homework’: we asked them to put together their own life story as they would wish it to be told at their own funeral. The following day we received this e–mail:

“Yesterday I was there in class when you were teaching on ‘funerals’ as part of the ‘special church occasions’ module. I’ve just written my life story for my own funeral. I felt God powerfully at work in me and that He is saying: “I love you, I am healing you, I am watching you!” I’m so grateful! Thank you both of you for sharing your experiences!”

In the meantime we have had **further invitations** to repeat this teaching in **individual churches**, also in the Carinthia branch of EVAK in Summer 2013.

Family life

We are asked many times how our grown up children are doing.

ORF (Austrian broadcasting station) has recorded and broadcast an interesting feature on ‘Industrial divers at work’.

Sebastian and his wife Annie are getting ready to go to Annie’s homeland Peru. He will get to know more about her cultural background and her family will meet their ‘new’ son–in–law.

Our little grand–daughter **Lina–Marie (2½)** has just recently made up names for us: “Schatzi–Oma” and “Schatzi–Opa” (= “Lovey–Grandma” and “Lovey–Grampa”)! Her **Daddy David** is doing shift work as a switch controller with the Burgenland Water Company.

FORUM Advent/Christmas celebration

There were more visitors than we expected and in the end we ran out of space. What a lovely problem to have!

It was swarming with children and our FORUM team had put together a cheerful outreach programme that had something for even the youngest ones. Everyone worked very hard and with enthusiasm. The response at the bookstall was overwhelming! At the end every visitor was given a pack with a calendar and a New Testament.

THANK YOU for praying for our stand at the Eisenstadt Christmas market. This turned out to be a great opportunity to make contact with the citizens of our town, to invite them to the FORUM, to sell Christian books, to give out evangelistic literature and to build up relationships over a cup of tea.

We also want to give out invitations to our first FORUM Christmas Eve Family Service on 24th December (3 pm).

Hans–Georg will be preaching there as well as on 30th December (End of Year Service).

Thank you for every prayer, thank you for every thought of us, for every encouragement and financial support, thank you for the many joys of every kind, great and small, which you have given us in 2012!

Christmas 2012

The Good News is announced, the sad are consoled, the suffering find comfort, the despairing find new courage, the lonely can come home, the embittered can forgive, the guilty can lift up their heads, no one has to be without hope, no one has to be in despair because of need. For everyone there is this hope: “**In Jesus Christ there is life and HIS life is the light for every person**” (John 1:4).

Wishing you a happy and blessed Christmas,

Greetings from

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich



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