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Dear Friends,

TT - Travelling Together' (49)

End of July 2013

On 3rd July shortly after midnight we arrived safely back in Burgenland, having had a long weekend in Swabia (S. Germany) during which we had met many different people. The main focus of it all was the 550th anniversary of our homeland sending church, St Peter's in Gerlingen (www.ev-petruskirche-gerlingen.de), with a celebration service on Sunday 30th June. What a joy it was to see so many familiar faces and to meet people who have been supporting us for many years! We spent time sharing and catching up with what our friends are doing... These times were a wonderful source of mutual encouragement!

Memories of a holiday...

We managed to get out of the Chiemgau region (Bavaria) before the big floods. We had been there for a week's 'down time' together with friends. There were some really wet and cool days, but we found it quite refreshing, as was the whole holiday. In the evening we all watched the DVD '10 Great Dates', a new concept in marriage enrichment.

The people behind this concept, **David and Claudia Arp**, have recently visited us here in Eisenstadt to introduce it to us.

Some time ago they contacted us unexpectedly as they wanted very much to get to know us...

The Arps have written some very helpful books about marriage, partnership and bringing up children.

Now we are considering how we can use '10 Great Dates' in our work here.

Have any of you had any experience of using this? We would be grateful for tips and hints!

Family news...

ANNIKA (16) has successfully passed the second year of her nursery teacher training course (BAKIP) and has 'only' three more years to go till her finals. Now she is enjoying the long summer holidays...

MANUEL (26) is experiencing a renewed joy in his faith and he is getting baptised on Sunday 7th July

DAVID & CLAUDIA: Timo (6) is starting school in September and **Lina (3)** is enjoying nursery.

Through a Christian friend, **SEBASTIAN** has found a new job in his qualified profession as carpenter at the 'Austrian Federal Railways' (OEBB) in Vienna. **ANNIE** will shortly finish her training course as a nursery assistant.

PLEASE PRAY for a bigger flat for them. There are not many available here in Eisenstadt.

BENJAMIN, MARIA and Lenni (4) are delighted with little **Sammy** who is growing and thriving.

As for us, '**GRANNY & GRANDDAD**', we celebrated our **34th wedding anniversary** on 23rd June - 'by chance' we were in Carinthia again and with the same friends as last year...

July dates and prayer points...

On 4th July we were **taking another funeral**.

The family was suffering much from the loss of their father and husband - it hasn't been easy to comfort them.

THANK YOU for praying for us for wisdom in what we say on these funerals and for God's special word for the bereaved.

In July there were a number of appointments for **individual counselling** in which we were work through past experiences for some of our fellow workers and were seeking encouragement, forgiveness and a new direction for the future.

We are grateful for the trust shown in us, but we also know our limits and we have to rely all the more on God's intervention and leading. We depend very much on your prayers for us!

On **Sunday 7th** we had our very first **FORUM baptism service** by Lake Neusiedl.

It was such a celebration! We got blessed with glorious sunshine all day!

The **FORUM leadership team** was meeting at our house on 19th July. We were planning the next few months.

Our prayer was that God would lead us in our common desire to invite the people in our area to faith through word and deed and that as leaders we would grown closer together.

On another occasion we were unexpectedly invited to a **confidential discussion with a vicar**.

Straight afterwards we spoke to a young mother whose 10-year old daughter had expressed the wish to get baptised...

There are also many **conversations to give advice** by telephone, Skype and through many e-mails - this is the way communication works these days...

For our next 'TT-50' we would like your honest feedback! How do you find our TTs??

1. I would like to know more about...
2. I'm not particularly interested in...
3. I find the written letters interesting / too long/too short / imaginative / boring...
4. I read your TTs regularly / when I have time/not often / hardly ever / because...
5. What I would like to say is...

THANK YOU for your time and your honest opinions!

Many decades ago Ernst Modersohn, vicar, evangelist and author, found a text on a wall at a house of a Protestant order many years ago with the three words '**Ganz... - gerne... - gleich**' (wholly... - willingly... - immediately).

This inspired him so much that he put it up on his own wall. Someone added:

'I have decided that everything that I do, I will do willingly. Since then I have enjoyed my life.'

We leave this thought with you and we THANK YOU so much and wish you a joyful and refreshing time during the summer weeks.

With love from

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich