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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (53)

November 2013

The past month has been so busy... Events, visitors, travel preparations, an unexpected opportunity at a school... Only to mention a few! It all followed in quick succession!

First of all, the 'Crossover' Gospel concert on 9th October

We'd been preparing for it for so long and it exceeded all our expectations! Over 150 people came and were swept along by the enthusiastic choir with all their songs and their clear message. Two members of the choir gave their testimony of how God had touched their lives and how they came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Lukas, a young doctor who is a worker at our FORUM, introduced the concert (it was a complete 'first' for him, but he did a wonderful job!). In the end **over €1.550,- was raised** for the 'Women's Refuge' project here in Eisenstadt. The entire staff of the Refuge sat in the audience and took it all in. The team leader admitted she had never been to a Gospel concert before in her life and that she was very moved by it. We will see her again on **30th November** at our **FORUM Advent celebration** when we will officially hand over a cheque for all the money raised. Although we are only a small team and there was a lot of preparation work, the LORD gave us the strength and a real joy in staging this event and now we are trusting that it will have an effect that will last into eternity! Recently there were **three new faces** at the FORUM Sunday service – people who had heard about us at the concert. **THANK YOU to all of you** who stood with us in prayer!

Besides a Ladies' Breakfast in Graz...

...Margret was also in Upper Austria a week later. We both travelled a total of 600 km (375 miles) to Bad Leonfelden. It was only a small place with 4,500 inhabitants, but it has a lively young church and a very dedicated Ladies' Breakfast Team! We were amazed to see nearly 200 women in the local festival hall who had come along in eager anticipation. That was a real boost for us! Margret always gives the ladies a clear warning about 'escaping into new age beliefs' and invites them to come to the Lord JESUS! Following the talks there is often a number of intensive discussions... On our return journey we saw a **beautiful complete rainbow over Eisenstadt**: for us it was a sign that indeed GOD is with us and we are so THANKFUL!

Visitors who have brought us joy!

Niki, who used to teach our lads when we were out in Papua New Guinea, put in an appearance at one of our recent FORUM services, together with her family from Switzerland! It was wonderful to see her again! She was having a short break over the border in Hungary. Our dear friend **Natascha** from Swabia (S. Germany) came by plane specially to help with the preparations for the Gospel concert. On one occasion we put **three young men** up for the night, a German pastor serving in Austria, a young Austrian who would love to work long-term in East Asia and their friend from Af.gh.an.ist.an. We have a family tradition of asking our guests to say grace. It was very moving to hear the young Af.gh.an give thanks before lunch in Fa.rs! – We had a working breakfast with our dear brother and sister **John and Liesi** from our FORUM team and it was good to talk to them. Also had a lovely time of sharing with **one of our guest speakers** and his wife from a neighbouring church. One afternoon we welcomed a **stressed-out teacher** who wanted to have a heart-to-heart conversation about her worries...

Green light for Niger!

It's now official: the **flights are booked** and Manuel and Hans-Georg – God willing – will be in Niamey, the capital of Niger, from **16th January to 16th February** to put right the faulty electrics in the houses of some of the Christian workers. Both father and son are looking forward to taking on this task! There are constant short circuits and even electrical fires. All attempts up till now to find local electricians have been in vain in this country which is among **the poorest in the world**. We would so much like to find a person who would be interested in receiving some basic training and who would then have the 'know-how' to carry out electrical maintenance work in the future. Since Manuel can't take four weeks' holiday all in one go, he is being allowed month's unpaid leave. It is good that he can be taken on for this time by the BEG (by 'Hilfe die ankommt' ('Help which arrives'), the welfare branch of the BEG), which is what some of our short-termers have done previously.

An unexpected invitation...

Recently we were in action at the High School here in Eisenstadt. Annika's former class teacher got in touch with us after six years and brought two classes together (about 40 pupils aged from 12 to 14) for a **double period** in which we talked to them about our **original mission field** in PNG. The small New Testaments that we had brought with us were gone in a flash, the kids pretty well snatched them out of our hands! There will be a continuation with two further classes on **12th Nov.**

Further dates for your prayers

8th Nov.: The **FORUM leadership team** (responsible for our FORUM church planting project)

9th Nov.: **Margret is speaking at the ladies' breakfast in Bad Goisern** (Salzkammergut)

At the same time Hans-Georg is attending a training session for the emergency counselling team on 'Guilt'

10th Nov.: **Preaching at the FORUM**

14th Nov.: **Christian lecture meeting in Eisenstadt:** "What comes after death?" (Tobias Kley 'Torchbearers')

15th/16th Nov.: Annual delegates meeting for our association of churches in Bad Aussee

23rd Nov.: We are leading a **workshop on 'Funerals and Supporting the Bereaved'** in Feldkirch, Vorarlberg

24th Nov.: Hans-Georg is preaching at the local fellowship

30th Nov.: **FORUM Advent Celebration** – we would love many friends, acquaintances and 'outsiders' to celebrate with us

THANK YOU once again and our warmest greetings. You are such a blessing to us!

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich

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