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*Dear Friends,*

**TT - Travelling Together' (55)**

January 2014

This verse, which is our word for the year, wasn't written just for 'fair weather' times! It expresses the experience of the writer Asaph who was worse off physically and materially compared with many others around him who weren't walking with God. In his situation there was only one thing that comforted him: being near to his God!

**'mission-net' – the New Year missionary congress in Offenburg** (SW Germany, near the border with France)

We weren't long back from the congress, having had many interesting conversations at the SIM booth and around the missionary exhibition, when we started receiving the first e-mail enquiries from young Austrians requesting application forms for missionary placements! In the meantime it has been made possible that all who travel out on placements to be taken on and insured by the humanitarian branch of the Association of Evangelical Churches of Austria (BEG: [www.BEG.or.at](http://www.BEG.or.at)), known as "Help Which Arrives" ([www.HilfeDieAnkommt.at](http://www.HilfeDieAnkommt.at)). This is a tremendous relief, something that we have prayed and strived for a number of years.

Around the world workers are being sought for a wide variety of areas of service! **Anyone's skills can be used!**

Apart from anything else, the 'mission-net' was a joyful celebration and a passionate call to the ca. 2800 participants from 50 different countries to take part actively in the task of mission!

It was also a good opportunity between our times on duty at the stand to visit some dear friends who live near Offenburg and in Alsace, France.

**16<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> February: our stay in Niamey, Niger**

THANKS TO our dear SIM colleagues in Switzerland Hans-Georg and Manuel have **received their visas** without any problems. The practical preparations for the working visit are now under way. Manuel is very happy to back out in the African sun; even the sweaty heat (40°C in the shade) doesn't bother him! The main thing is he can at last escape from the icy blanket of fog which has covered Eisenstadt for the past few weeks... ☺ After all, he was born and grew up in the jungle! **PLEASE PRAY** especially for safe-keeping on the journey and during the electrical maintenance work and for protection from tropical diseases. **Many THANKS for all your support!**

There are some things which HAVE to be done BEFORE our departure – these include...

**Matters to be sorted at the Eisenstadt FORUM...**

Visiting new co-workers, preparation for the **leadership team** meeting and for Sunday **12<sup>th</sup> January, the first meeting for the workers** in 2014.

Hans-Georg is also **preaching at the FORUM**.

We are thankful that after consultation with the FORUM workers we can take the bold step of employing John part time (30%) through Association of Evangelical Churches of Austria (BEG). Together with his family he has been living here since 2007 and has shared with us the vision of planting a church here in Eisenstadt right from the start. Together with his wife Liesi and his two small lads he is at the moment putting a lot of effort into it and is building up a team of supporters.

You prayed for our work at the **Eisenstadt Christmas market** and for the Christmas Eve service, for which we THANK YOU warmly! We've never had **so many visitors** at the charity hut or **so many good conversations**. At times we were struggling to keep up with giving out the fruit punch, also the 200 evangelistic calendars went very quickly and were gladly accepted. We also have another funeral service coming up soon. **THANK YOU for standing with us!**

We had a joyful time at our Christmas Eve service; there were contributions for the children and a lot of singing. We were glad to welcome **some new visitors**, interestingly some older folk!

At home we sat down together with David and his family, Sebastian and Annie, Manuel and Annika to enjoy our Christmas dinner. Then Hans-Georg read out the Christmas story. We had a time of prayer and at last the presents were given out, which was what our grandchildren had been waiting for...

**Just before Christmas...**

...and right in the middle of their house move, Sebastian unexpectedly **lost his promising job** at the Austrian Railway Company (OEBB) in Vienna. A hundred other employees were also made redundant at the same time! The reason given was to cut costs. It was a bitter blow for him and Annie with whom he had commuted into Vienna every day.

**Being near to God...**

The cheering experience of being near to God and seeing HIS intervention is what we would like to wish you all for every day of 2014! HE will help you through thick and thin.

With HIM even the difficult times can become good times.

With our warmest greetings,



**DMG**  
Deutsche Missionsgemeinschaft

*Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich*

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