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## TT – ‘Travelling Together’ (56)

“AS FOR ME, IT IS GOOD TO BE NEAR GOD.” (Psalm 73 v 28)

*Dear Friends,*

March 2014

It is now nearly two months since you last heard from us... The reason for this isn't that we have nothing to tell you – in fact it's quite the opposite! Everything that we have to report, especially our impressions of Niger, would fill several pages. **We would prefer to tell you about it in person... If you would like that, please let us know.**

### A month in Niger, West Africa

On 16th February Manuel and Hans–Georg landed back here safely (with a 10–hour stopover in Istanbul, which they used to catch up with a lady co–worker). **Many heartfelt THANKS** to you for supporting them in prayer. God definitely heard your prayers and both of them were given much strength and safekeeping, even from tropical diseases! Behind them lay not only four **very busy weeks of work**, but also eventful overland journeys to visit SIM workers at various mission stations in the south of this huge landlocked country in the Sahel region.

Father and son worked together in the capital city Niamey to **rewire some missionary–houses**. This had become urgent as some of the occupants were getting frequent electric shocks (the local workers call them ‘widow–makers’ and there were some dangerous fires caused by electrical faults...). Under the hot tin roofs whole **electrical circuits were re–laid and fuses installed**. They were helped mightily by three local men: **Bakari, Musa and Abdul**. In the last few days there they were working at the well–known **Galmi Hospital**, about 700 km (440m) east of Niamey, right on the **border with Nigeria**. This hospital is the only one for miles, anyway, there is on average only **one doctor for every 30,000 inhabitants...** and what Hans–Georg and Manuel saw there was truly shocking! **Images which stayed with them** included a boy who had had an accident and the staff couldn't do anything for him, the Fulani man who was crying bitterly for his wife who had just died... and there was so much more misery besides! The hospital staff repeatedly have to – with great regret – send away many who are seeking help as the hospital is stretched way beyond its capacity! How good it is that there are doctors and nurses there from all over the world, **who do not turn a blind eye**, but who are dedicated to caring for the indescribably great needs of the people there and do not give up although no one would blame them as they would have good enough reason to do so... **Workers are being sought URGENTLY for all areas of the hospital! WHO wishes to be sent there..?**

### ‘I've arrived..!’

Here in Eisenstadt the spiritual work of our FORUM church–planting project is continuing. **Katharina (not her real name)** has been coming along for some weeks to our Sunday services, and also to the **newly formed house group**, still hungry for more from the Gospel! Katharina was caught up for ten years in New Age practices and she has recognised that this path leads to the depths! She wanted to climb out and start a new life with the Lord JESUS... Now she has done just that with the help of a female friend who is a Christian. In a radical way and to the astonishment of her circle of friends she has cut herself off from all that reminds her of her New Age past in whatever form! “I have finally arrived!” she said, full of joy. **Early in March we would like to visit her at home.** She still has many questions...

### Family News

**ANNIKA (17)** was asked by a church in Oberwart (the place where she is at college and where she is staying as a weekly boarder) for her help with starting a school prayer group. We would all be delighted if this group could get started!

**MANUEL** is going through a very difficult time at the moment as he is seeking a new direction in life.

**PLEASE PRAY for a renewed sense of purpose for him and a perspective for the future.**

**SEBASTIAN** is facing great challenges because of his ongoing unemployment.

### Our dates for the coming weeks:

**9th Mar.:** Hans–Georg is preaching at the Eisenstadt FORUM

**14th–16th Mar.:** Austria–wide meeting for church planters near Salzburg – opportunity for sharing and to new ideas

**19th Mar.:** Ladies breakfast meeting at Ybbs by the River Danube

**29th Mar.:** Evangelistic message for the registry office wedding of a friend in Burgenland

### Our sending mission, the DMG has changed its name and logo

The ‘Deutsche Missionsgemeinschaft’ (=German Missionary Fellowship) has kept its initials and been renamed ‘Damit Menschen Gott begegnen’ (= ‘So that people can meet God’). The purpose stays the same and nothing else has changed!

### We are encouraged...

...because we know that our heavenly Father loves to give! HE, who did not spare his own dear Son, doesn't hold back when we pray. We wish to come to HIM full of joy every day with our worship and our requests. **Thank you that we can share something of our work and our prayer requests with you and thank you for sharing with us!**



*Warmly, Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika*

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