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## TT - 'Travelling Together' (62)

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

*Dear Friends,*

**September 2014**

Here in the east of Austria the schools have now gone back after two months' holiday – and with it there is a new opportunity and a challenge for the **Free Churches in Austria (FKOE)** which were legally recognised as a church denomination at the end of August 2013. Among other things they now have the right to offer **religious education** in schools.

It is thanks to a very dedicated team that this is becoming possible in a very practical way, complete with qualified teaching staff and a relevant teaching plan, and this team has mobilised and equipped potential RE teachers throughout Austria in the past months. It is our joint wish that it would be successful in attracting even **non Free Church children and young people** to take part in RE lessons... A **fantastic opportunity** to acquaint school pupils with the Gospel!

### **On the subject of the Gospel...**

For the first time we had the opportunity to share the message of hope and eternal life at a funeral in Mattersburg, a large town not far from Eisenstadt. One of the mourners came and spoke to us; he said he surely knows us. **14 years ago (!)** he went to a funeral 'just like this one' that we had led in his home town by Lake Neusiedl and he could still remember exactly what was said! A short time later a Burgenland lady phoned us from a nearby village whose brother we had buried **ten years ago (!)**. She told us straight out that the people in the village STILL talk about that funeral TODAY which was very different for them and they often refer to it. Now she was asking us to arrange JUST SUCH a funeral for her 90 year old mother who had just died. **We are very encouraged by these unexpected meetings! God's Word works in a unique way and does not return empty Nothing is lost or in vain. HIS Word is powerful and effective! (Isaiah 55 v 11)**

### **Gifts for Ukraine...**

For a long time we could not understand why in 2012 the 3,500 Christmas parcels which were lovingly packed and sent from Austria were detained in customs in Ukraine! It made no sense! At last – **after 19 months** – they have been released by the authorities and distributed by the local Christian churches. Not only the Christmas parcels from our **'Hope and Joy 2012'** campaign arrived at the right time to help, but also the approx 5,000 loads from other organisations have been released in the past months also after a long time of being blocked.

### **Eisenstadt FORUM Church**

As a church leadership team we are currently still **working out the church structure**. We wish to have an official constitution as a church. We are considering obligatory membership, and also we wish to know what God has in mind for our church (vision). Recently George (GB) and Anna (A), our **oldest FORUM visitors**, requested for Anna's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday that she should be **blessed in the service and anointed with oil**. We were very happy to do this. It was a very moving occasion!

### **Family news**

**ANNIKA** (17) has managed to get her driving licence in suspected record time between May and August!

**MANUEL** (27): his search for a suitable place of work is at an end – for a few weeks now he has been in a technical post working with wind turbines. He loves this new challenge!

**SEBASTIAN** (32) is still longing for a permanent place of work so he can support his wife **ANNIE** who will soon start evening classes for teacher training in social studies.

**AS A COUPLE** we have been invited to spend a **few days on holiday at a vineyard belonging to a Christian family in the south of Styria**. We are looking forward very much to this time away!

### **Please remember these events in September...**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sept.:** Meeting in Vienna with a young couple who would like to work part-time with our Foreign Missions Team

**4<sup>th</sup> Sept.:** Discussion with the Doss family, our **FORUM workers**, following their deputation work back home in the US.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sept.:** **FORUM leadership team meeting:** Agreeing dates for autumn events and church structure are on the agenda

**19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Sept.:** Conference and training for the **Austrian Crisis Counselling** work in Innsbruck

**21<sup>st</sup> Sept.:** Valedictory service for Nadina in Dornbirn (Vorarlberg) who is going out to **Guinea Conakry in West Africa**. "...I've got peace about going inspite of the Ebola virus and I can leave it in God's hands!"

**24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Sept.:** Retreat for **Foreign Missions Team in St Veit / Glan (Carinthia)**: New workers have come forward...

**27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Sept.:** Outreach by the youth from Graz at the **FORUM**: Evening of praise and worship and youth service.

**We are only too happy to have your prayer requests – just send them to us!**

**We are so glad that you have taken the time to read our 'TT' once again. Your feedback is always welcome!**

**Together with you in His service,**



*Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika*

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