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TT – 'Travelling Together' (88)

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.” (Isaiah 66:13)

Dear Friends,

December 2016

Here we are again: Advent – the pre-Christmas season – the time of waiting.

This is our verse for December: **“My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen wait for the morning.”** (Ps 130:6)

The feeling which the psalmist is describing here is one of **longing**. His soul, his deepest innermost being, is longing for the living God. For security and safety and the life which he can only find there. There is probably nothing more beautiful than to experience longing fulfilled. But there is nothing more depressing than disappointed longing. For the psalmist it is quite different! He is not only full of longing, he is also full of **hope** in God's promises and in HIS love. He knows that with this kind of longing he is heading in the right direction – towards God. There is nothing depressing about this kind of longing. It draws him nearer to God and awakes in him the wish to meet this God. **God keeps His promises!** Whoever seeks shelter with God will receive it. Whoever asks HIM for protection will experience it. Whoever calls upon HIM, HE will hear him and come to him. **Advent and Christmas** tell us about God's coming. In the Lord Jesus Christ God becomes our friend. We human beings are not alone. **God gives us HIS undivided attention!** It is worth it to wait for HIM and to put our hope in HIM. With HIM we are safe. Now it is up to us to know HIS name and to put our trust in HIM. It **really is** worth it!

We have had a very full weekend (18th–20th Nov.) in Reutte in the Tyrol...

There was a **ladies' breakfast** on the Saturday and a **preaching engagement** on the Sunday. The number of guests at the ladies' breakfast broke through the 100-mark for the first time! There were 105 ladies present and we know of one who invited the Lord Jesus into her life following Margret's talk. Afterwards there were also many deep searching conversations with various participants. **Thank you for praying with us!** Also for the church service, the Foreign Missions Department (TAM) mission report and Hans-Georg's opportunity to preach at the BEG Church there. We also used the time to visit **Rev. Stieger, vicar to the Protestant 'diaspora'**. Before he came to the Tyrol 23 years ago he worked in Transylvania in Romania. He and his wife come from the home town of Hans-Georg's parents, Cristian near Sibiu. His congregation (over 600 people) is scattered throughout the mainly Catholic Tyrol – a huge area. Often it is not easy to get round the challenges and meet the various needs. And yet together with his wife he is still doing a great work today.

Advent – Christmas – New Year at the Eisenstadt FORUM

The **four Sundays in Advent** are planned as **outreach services** with the title **“Christmas in four words”**... **Truth:** Is there such a thing?! – **Faith:** Question and answer at the same time?! – **Love:** Only a feeling or something more?! – **Hope:** An illusion – or does it really exist?! On **11th December** our FORUM Church has, as in previous years, hired the **club stall at the Eisenstadt Christmas Market**. From 2pm to 8pm we will be present in the pedestrian area, giving out free fruit punch, evangelistic calendars and biscuits. For the first time we will have a **New Year's Eve service** with **Hans-Georg preaching**. Afterwards we will see in the New Year as a fellowship and celebrate together.

Mission continues to go out from Austria to the world...

Recently we received the following request: “I have been in Austria for four years. **I come from Syria and I am a Christian!** I can speak many languages (Arabic, Kurdish, Aramaic...). I am interested in doing some sort of missionary work for the Lord Jesus! Can I come to you and work with you? Blessings, M.E.”

Following that **Amir from an Iranian Church in Vienna** called us several times. He and his wife who is expecting would like to visit us as soon as possible to find out where he and his family can serve in missionary work...

A lady from Upper Austria has applied for our **“50 PLUS Programme”**. This is part of TAM's work, helping find suitable placements for the over-50's wishing to serve in missionary work, short-term or longer. She wrote, “In the summer I was at a Christian school in Africa. Many a times I talk about my dream as a young person to go to Africa. It's late – I am now “50-PLUS” – but this dream has come true! Please send me your **“50 PLUS” flyer!** I already have a number of possibilities...”

An **Anglo-Austrian family** e-mailed us: They can no longer get a visa for their original country of work and are now asking, “What has God got in store for us? You have got a lot of connections and you're familiar with a wider spiritual context. Do you see any possibilities for us serving elsewhere?”

And last but not least: On **11th December Anna is being sent out** from our church in Kufstein (Tyrol, near border with S.Germany, for **long-term work in Chile**. God willing we will be at the service and **Hans-Georg is preaching**.

The year is slowly drawing to an end and we are amazed and overwhelmed at how much 'favour', safe-keeping and guidance we have experienced! You have encouraged and supported us in so many ways! Many, many thanks!

We wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas time, Yours in His service,



Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

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