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TT – 'Travelling Together' (90)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." (Ezekiel 36:26)

Dear Friends,

February 2017

As we go into February we are encouraged by these words that the Lord Jesus spoke to His disciples: **"When you enter a house, first say: Peace be to this house!"** Luke 10 v 5. Here Jesus is sending His disciples on ahead to places which He is going to visit Himself. They are His messengers of peace and preparers of the way. Jesus Himself can then build on this connection in the houses where He knows He will be welcome. Even today Jesus is sending us out with the same principle to the houses of this world. We are His messengers, taking with us the best news of all time: peace with God through Jesus Christ! At that time Jesus' disciples often met opposition: **"See, I am sending you out as lambs among wolves."**

People without God, without the peace of Jesus, can be really cruel! But nothing and no one can rob HIS followers of peace. And because the harvest is so great (v 2) we are praying for workers to come to houses prepared by Jesus as messengers of peace. We also pray that they will be kept safe from the wolves!

"Peace be to this house!"

"Are you still there available?" – this is always the first question that the funeral directors ask us when there is a funeral to arrange... Recently – after a long break – we were asked to take a funeral in a village near Eisenstadt! We made an appointment to **discuss the arrangements with the family**. Three generations sat round the table in the living room in a modern terraced house: widow – daughter – granddaughter. The family had **cancelled their church membership many years ago**. All three said that if there was a God, He would be "cosmic energy and made up exclusively of love..." We told them of the hope that carries us through good and bad times. But then the elderly widow suddenly burst out: "But I don't want to know anything about the crucifix, how can anyone sacrifice his own son and say that he is love? I can't and won't believe that!" Bit by bit we explained to the three of them at the table, that **the cross is empty** and the **death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus** is one of the best witnessed facts in history. Jesus is alive and we can have **peace with God** and a personal relationship with Him! Suddenly a sense of peace came over them – and a deep mutual trust! **What a gift from God!** On the day of the funeral and the family's farewell, our message about the "house of life" was there at the heart of it, right after the eulogy: **"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."** (2 Cor. 5 v 1)

So it was that we could freely share our hope at the funeral and give the mourners a clear invitation to come to Jesus! Yes, there are always special moments for sharing the Gospel message of hope and the love of God!

You have overwhelmed us...

...with your reaction to Margret's diagnosis and your concern for her! Yes, many thanks also for your kind enquiries! The date for the surgery has been set: **24th Feb. in the Vienna General Hospital**. Sadly it can't be sooner, as the semester holidays are coming up (the surgeons will be off skiing) and the operating schedule is full up... The specialist in Vienna can't say for sure what the extent of the surgery will be; only during the operation will they know what they will need to remove and what follow up treatment will be required. We wish to **cling tightly to the Lord Jesus** through all these uncertainties! HE has the overall view, HE is the Healer and HE can still do miracles today! We are trusting HIM. We are deeply grateful for all the good medical care and especially for you, our prayer-partners! We have had a lot of encouragement from the Bible verses and reminders of HIS promises that you have sent us, by e-mail, telephone calls, texts and caring messages sent via "WhatsApp". The worldwide family of God is such a blessing! **We would value your prayers and support hugely!**

Answers to prayer...

On 6th February **MANUEL** is able to start working full time in the installation department of a solar panel company. This is a wonderful gift! His out-of-sync sleep pattern, however, is a cause for concern and is a serious matter for prayer.

SEBASTIAN has received a number of job offers in various sectors and now has to make a choice.

ANNIE has now finished her maternity leave and is working in Vienna again.

Little MIRIAM loves going to the crèche. At home she loves Latin American music and dancing... ☺

Among other things in February...

5th Feb.: Preaching at the International Grace Church in Vienna

19th Feb.: We are taking part in the annual **Mission Sunday** at the "Quellenstrasse" Church in Vienna

26th Feb.: Hans-Georg is preaching at the **valedictory service** for the Deimel family (Austrian-Japanese) going to Japan.

They are being sent out by the Lutheran Church in Urfahr district of Linz

We hope very much that all is well with you and that you are cheerfully on your way in the early months of 2017. Many thanks for your interest in and support for all that is happening here!

With loving greetings from Austria,



Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

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