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TT - 'Travelling Together' (98)

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

Dear Friends,

October 2017

"There is joy in the presence of the angels over one sinner who repents." (Lk 15:10) Our verse for October comes from the unique "Missing Persons Tracing Service" chapter which is only to be found in Luke's Gospel. **"The lost sheep"...** **"The lost coin"...** **"The lost son"**. It's only about the one individual who is lost. With all their energy the shepherd keeps seeking till the sheep is found and the housewife tracks down the lost coin, and the father waits patiently till the wayward son finds his way back home. Jesus has **ONE great passion**: to love lost people and call them into fellowship with God. It's a day of rejoicing like none other: when a person who is lost understands this: without God I have no future, but with HIM I can have a new beginning! As soon as just one person repents, heaven goes mad with joy – unrestrained joy! The angels are overcome with joy and they get excited! Even hostility and oppression haven't been able to stop it, right up to the present day: **the church of Jesus is growing on every continent**. Lost people belong to Jesus, It's only with HIM that they find their rightful place, it's only with HIM that they are truly at home. This is what Jesus's heart beats for – and our hearts? – what are they beating for?

Just back from the Tyrol...

We have just come back from a fulfilling and educational weekend in Innsbruck! This was the fourth time that we've had the opportunity to take part in the Red Cross **Emergency Counselling Training Days**. Each time the training days have been well organised and very interesting. There were **almost 600 participants**, from the South Tyrol (Italy), Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Holland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. The competent and experienced speakers make this follow-on training session a real highlight each year. This time at least three of the speakers referred directly to God's Word, the Bible, and in their talks they mentioned enduring Christian values in emergency counselling. – On the Sunday, after the service at one of our BEG churches, we had another **great time with a young African couple**, who speak perfect German. The husband belongs to the church leadership team and he has just got a PhD in "Strategic Business Management and Leadership" while working as a lecturer at the Innsbruck University. They would definitely like to get involved in some form of spiritual work here in Austria: **where could their future place be?**

Hoprich Missionary Visit

Many heartfelt thanks for your prayerful and financial support for our planned project: **Visit to PNG and ministry at** the National Conference and 70th anniversary of the South Sea Evangelical Church, which we worked with from 1985 to 1996. We are amazed by the unbelievable new opportunities for communication with our friends in Papua New Guinea (PNG) which we could never dreamt possible 20 years ago. Recently we have been frequently in touch with PNG by social media in connection with the planning and preparation for our visit. Actually we are surprised at how well we can still communicate in 'New Melanesian Pidgin', the trade language that we used back then. It's very exciting when our friends tell us how the work started back then has developed in the intervening years... **Please see below for information on how to send donations.**

Our Forum Church here in Eisenstadt...

Sadly we also had to say goodbye to a dear friend (she was 41) from the Eisenstadt church: she died during a serious operation. **Please think of the young widower** – we have recently had a very moving meeting with him to plan his wife's funeral. It was his wife's wish that Hans-Georg should take the burial service that took place October 11th.

Because we keep on being asked...

We have nothing specific to report that's new regarding our future area of ministry. In the meantime we have received a few more offers and we are in the process of praying and fact-finding. We are delighted that we are able to spend **13th-20th October at the Buchenauerhof**, the mission centre (in S. Germany) for our sending mission, 'DMG interpersonal'. While we're there we will meet up again with many of our missionary colleagues and we will have the opportunity to report on our work here in Austria at the **Mission Council Meeting** and the **retreat week** afterwards. Perhaps there will be some new inspiration and some guidance regarding our final years of active service.

In October...

5th-6th Oct.: retreat for our Association of Churches: All teams, including TAM presented their goals for the next years.

7th-8th Oct.: Margret had a ladies' breakfast meeting in **Perg**, Upper Austria. Hans-Georg was preaching on the Sunday

20th-23rd Oct.: deputation work and ministry at a church in **Nuremberg** and in the surrounding area

27th-30th Oct.: Margret: ladies' breakfast meeting in **Lienz, East Tyrol** on Sat. 28th. Hans-Georg is preaching

Thank you so much for lifting us up in your prayers and for all the support for our work – whether you've been with us for years or whether you've only just joined us! Thank you for being active in your respective situations! May God bless you – wherever you are. Yours in His service,

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

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