

H.-G. & M. Hoprich & Family  
Jacob Rauschenfels-Gasse 8/10  
A-7000 Eisenstadt  
AUSTRIA

Mobile (**WhatsApp / Telegram**): +43-664-5544021  
Tel.: +43-2682-76021

e-mail: [Hans-Georg@Hoprich.at](mailto:Hans-Georg@Hoprich.at)  
SKYPE ID: HansMaggiHoprich  
Internet: <[www.DMGint.de/index-EN.html](http://www.DMGint.de/index-EN.html)>  
<[www.BEG.or.at](http://www.BEG.or.at)>

<[www.FaceBook.com/HansGeorgMargret.Hoprich](http://www.FaceBook.com/HansGeorgMargret.Hoprich)>  
<[www.Johannes-Rebmann-Stiftung.de/EN/missionaries/HOPRICH.html](http://www.Johannes-Rebmann-Stiftung.de/EN/missionaries/HOPRICH.html)>

## TT – 99: 'PostScript': "All Saints Day"

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

*Dear Friends,*

**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Having sent out our "TT – Travelling Together (99)" yesterday which included a paragraph on 'All Saints' Day', we received to our original German version the following reply from a dear colleague in Africa...

He sent us the following quotation from:

**Joni Eareckson's Devotional "Signs of Heaven: Inspiration for Every Day of the Year" (Reading for 1<sup>st</sup> November)**

"Many cultures throughout the world are familiar with the custom of praying for, or even to, the dead. I can imagine why. Whoever speaks to the dead can say whatever they like. The dead have closed ears. They don't respond with a critical look. They can't stand in judgement. The dead do not speak.

We do not need to concern ourselves with the dead. Furthermore God's Word tells us that we should pray for those who live with us. And that's what makes all the difference.

**James 5:16 tells us, "Confess your sins to one another..."**

Oh no, that's a lot to ask!

Why should I lay bare my personal weaknesses to another person?

Because the same word applies to them:

**...and pray for one another...**

We should admit our mistakes, so that we can pray for one another. This presupposes that the relationship is one of trust, sympathy and acceptance. Here there is no mention of judgement. Quite the opposite, we should pray for one another,

**...so that you will be healed.**

Sin makes us ill.

Just as having a cold weakens our body, so unconfessed sin has a negative effect on our soul and spirit. Even if we have the impression that there is nothing which needs to be put right, the promise still applies: **The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

If only we would care for all 'living souls' and their wellbeing, it would bring new life into our churches and win many people for God's kingdom."

**We think this is brilliant!**

**Perhaps in the coming days you will have the chance to pass on this life-affirming message...**

**With many greetings from the Burgenland in all its autumn glory,**



*Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika*

DMG interpersonal e.V., Buchenauerhof 2, D-74889 Sinsheim, [www.dmgint.de/about-us.html](http://www.dmgint.de/about-us.html)

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