

TT - Travelling Together (112)

„Seek Peace and pursue it!“ (Psalm 34:14)

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | January 2019

God says, “I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” (Genesis 9:13) A new year – a new beginning. God loves new beginnings! Following a relationship crisis which ended in a devastating flood, a new era starts with Noah. But people haven't got any better – right up to today! We shouldn't kid ourselves! With the new calendar there also comes guilt, mistakes and failure. And yet the very first day after the flood brings in a new age: **The age of grace!** God makes the decision that HIS care and HIS provision will no longer depend on human goodness. He allows HIS sun to shine even on wicked people. **God makes a covenant** – but not down at our eyelevel – **HE commits Himself unilaterally to grace** with the rainbow as a visible reminder! God has renewed this covenant. In the form of a child He came into our world. The sign of the new covenant has now become the cross. The basic law of the new covenant is: **Whoever believes in Jesus Christ is saved!** If you belong to HIM, you are chosen for God's eternity. HIS presence encourages us to go into the New Year, calm and happy – in challenges and uncertainty, the familiar and the unfamiliar, in whatever worries us and whatever brings us joy.

On the subject of rainbows...

On two occasions in the past year we've seen this sign in the sky at very meaningful times. The first was in PNG: we had just bid a very tearful farewell to our friends on the island of New Britain. They were all standing behind the fence at the airport in Hoskins as we climbed with a heavy heart up the steps into the aeroplane to take us back to the main island. Suddenly we saw a brilliant rainbow spread over the airfield and the plane. We were totally amazed! What a **comforting reminder** from our heavenly Father – just at that vital moment – which said to us, “**My covenant and my presence are just as much for those people you are leaving behind as for you whose future is still uncertain!**” The other time was similar: we were returning from ministry engagements in the Tirol: from Innsbruck to Kufstein, the whole length of the Inn Valley, a bright rainbow kept us company – at times it was a double rainbow. We were like the Three Wise Men when they saw the star: “**When we saw it, we rejoiced with exceeding great joy!**”

The decision has been made...

Following many advisory consultations and still more prayer we have come to the decision to concentrate our future ministry on Europe in co-operation with our partner mission: “**PIONEERS Europe**” (PIEU) www.pioneerseurope.org. We are in the very early stages and we, together with the leaders of this large missionary organisation, are in the process of finding our new tasks and working out our areas of responsibility. **But why not South Africa?** Yes, we were given a warm invitation to help in looking after and supporting co-workers in ten states of southern Africa... It became clear to us that the **experience** we had gained in 20 years of missionary work in Europe and the **network** that we have built up during that time could be a **useful tool** for helping other organisations. Since Hans-Georg was one of the fellow-founders of PIEU, we feel a close connection to this mission. However, the wait for visas for South Africa, the uncertainty that we would actually get them and their short duration (3 years) all contributed very much to our decision. We would have hardly got into the work and the culture and then we would have had to leave the country again. The return to Europe would have then been another new beginning and we would have had to start all over again to build up the relationships which grow naturally... This and a few other circumstances persuaded us, **with a heavy heart**, to give up the idea of going to South Africa! But in spite of this it is a relief to know which way things are going now. **It's a question of finding our identity in relation to our work** – not easy at our time of life! **Please would you pray with us!**

“Member Care”

We are finding our **ongoing training** at the Academy for World Mission in Korntal, Germany very enriching. The next module will take place in the second week of January. There will be three more, going up to the end of March. At this time of year we are very grateful each time we safely get to the end of our 460 mile (740km) journey. If you would like to **contribute to the expenses of the course** (seminar fees, accommodation, meals, travelling costs), you can do so via the DMG account – see side panel for details. **Many thanks!**

“Cup of Joy”

Our **Forum Church project** in the three weeks running up to Christmas was warmly received. The empty shop in Eisenstadt's pedestrian zone was, as well as the Christmas market, a popular venue for personal conversations, open air services and musical outreach events! It even came to the attention of the **regional TV channel** and a **weekly Burgenland newspaper**, both of which reported this unique project very positively. We are noticing how a **change in attitude** is slowly coming about in Austria and the hitherto unrecognised free churches **are no longer being looked on as a sect**.

At the start of the New Year we would like to say THANK YOU to you for supporting our journey, for helping us and for being there for us in prayer! You enrich our lives! May you be blessed in 2019 with joy, hope and the peace that Jesus gives.

Yours in His service,

Hans-Georg & Margret

„Prayercorner“

Praise God for...

- God's eternal covenant
- Help in making our decision
- The effect of “Cup of Joy”
- You – our faithful ‘team members’

Please pray for...

- More workers: South Africa
- New start, discussions with PIEU
- Manuel: healing and his future
- Safekeeping on wintery roads

What are you occupied with?

What would you like us to pray for?

Contact



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