

TT – Travelling Together (114)

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

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | March 2019

“Direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only.” 1 Sam. 7:3 – **There's a lot about the heart in the Bible!** The word appears 858 times in the Old Testament and in the New. What is my heart fixed on? What goes to my heart? In the Hebrew the heart is generally looked on as the centre of perception and as the organ of feeling and understanding. Whatever you fix your heart on, that is your God! When it's about your heart, it's about everything. Just as much today as it was back then. It raises big questions: what is important in my life? What counts in my life? What is the point of my existence? “Love the LORD your God with **all your heart**, and with **all your soul**, and with **all your strength** and with **all your mind**.” (Lk 10:27). With the word ‘serve’ it's not about being servile, but about being in a relationship with the Lord Jesus, living in a relationship with HIM. Samuel's exhortation is a call to freedom! God calls me out of the way of error and peculiar dependencies. I can have a **new beginning**, go in new directions without losing face. In this heart and hand belong together. When my heart beats for God, I will feel it. I can put my gifts and abilities **to use in the future which God has planned for me**. That enriches my life. I see a purpose in what I am doing. I can lead a life which is fulfilling. That's why I can **serve HIM** with all my heart, using the gifts that HE has given me and in the place where HE has put me.

So much joy!

After many years we went back to visit our friends in the Palatinate region of Germany. There was much **joy** when we met up! After the church service we looked in on the Sunday school class and we saw there the same incredibly enthusiastic teacher. No. 3 in their song folder is the song “**Mi amamas tumas**”, the **song from PNG about joy** that we taught the children when we served at that church – 22 years ago! And it's still a **big hit** with them! Some things just last... how lovely! The following day before we left we had a **really joyful** hour singing **familiar old choruses** with our friends. Even these time-honoured songs with their deep truths remain unchanged! We named our new **Four-Person Choir**: “The Vienna Song–Ravens.” 😊

Our heartfelt wish: We would love to visit you!

Possibly for a personal visit... or to give a presentation about our work over the past years and our future area of ministry... Possibly for a preaching engagement, or a visit to your church home group, or even a weekend visit...

We would be delighted to have an invitation! Please do get in touch!

We've just got back from Jeruzalem...

No, we haven't been to Israel! It's a little place in Slovenia, roughly three hours' drive south of Eisenstadt. This was the location of a three-day introduction for the new **ECM missionaries to Europe** who will be working in the surrounding countries (Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Austria & Serbia). It was a good opportunity to get to know the co-workers personally and to prepare for working with this particular partner mission. **European Christian Mission (ECM)** is one of the two partner missions that we'll be working with. We were asked to give a Bible study on “**Spiritual challenges in mission work**”, to report on the work we've been doing to date as well as taking part in various discussion groups. In the coming weeks it will be clearer which countries will be covered by our future ‘Member Care’ ministry within the ECM.

“Pioneers” – our other partner mission...

...is an evangelical missionary organisation with over **3,200 international co-workers**. These are in over **350 church planting teams** in over 100 different countries throughout the world. They are working in well over **200 different ethnic groups** with as many languages. **Our involvement** will be in the European region where approx. 300 missionaries are active. From **28th–30th March** we are meeting in **Hilversum in the Netherlands** (Pioneers Europe Head Office) to get to know our team colleagues and to make plans together.

What will our work actually be?

The majority of co-workers on the mission field desire to have support, encouragement, help in times of crisis and someone to visit them and simply listen to them. Many struggle with health problems, including mental health concerns or are risking burnout. Others have children who need special care or who are struggling at school and need advice. Sometimes the co-operation within the team on the ground isn't working well and they need someone to come in to mediate. Others are struggling without the necessary financial support. We belong to a **Member Care Team** that is endeavouring to support the co-workers in each location in such a way that they can eventually develop a fruitful ministry. **World mission always faces opposition**. There is a great spiritual battle! We are **all the more grateful** to know that behind us we have **YOU, our ‘prayer warriors’**, who will intercede for us and the mission work in Europe.

Dates for March...

As well as another **preaching engagement (17th)** at the International Church in Vienna, amongst many other commitments, we have the final module of our **Member Care Training (26th–27th)** in D-Korntal. On the way back from Holland we will stop over in our home town of Gerlingen and visit our sending church, St. Peter's. On **31st March** there will be an event to celebrate the **50th Anniversary of Hans-Georg's and his classmates' confirmation**.

Our heartfelt thanks for your friendship & support! We wish you God's peace!

Yours in His service, *Hans-Georg & Margret*

„Prayercorner“

Praise God for...

- The chance of a new beginning
- The gift of friendship
- Safekeeping on our travels
- You – our faithful ‘team members’

Please pray for...

- Getting used to new circumstances
- Co-ordinating our new tasks
- The end of our training-course
- Our children, marriages, grandchild.

What are you occupied with?

What would you like us to pray for?

Contact



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Thank you for receiving our prayer letter

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