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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (20)

January 2011

We hope you have been able to look back over the past year with thanks! May JESUS, the Light of the World, and the joy of HIS presence outshine all the inner and outer darkness every day of the New Year!

“Prepared relationships”...

This is what God has given us again and again in various circumstances, areas of service and encounters! Even our **very first FORUM Advent Celebration** at the beginning of December met with great interest. Over 50 people came along, including a whole lot of new faces and they all attentively followed the varied and clearly evangelistic programme. Also Margret experienced this at the **Ladies' Group in Baden** near Vienna. Three of the women were there for the first time. **PLEASE PRAY** especially for Monika, Birgit and Theresa, that they will come again and that they will find new life. The journey to Graz for the **funeral of Sabine's father** was a real nail-biter. We set off early from Eisenstadt as snow was forecast. On the way we picked up Sabine and her Japanese friend and then we got caught in a blizzard on the motorway. There were no snowploughs to be seen and the traffic almost came to a standstill. **Humanly speaking, there was no way** we could get to the funeral service for 10.00h. We prayed fervently for the impossible: that our road would be clear again. Just imagine: suddenly the snow stopped falling and the motorway was almost empty. At five minutes to ten we reached the cemetery and **we were able to start the burial service on time**. Later in the day we heard that not far behind us a whole stretch of the motorway had had to be closed due to a serious accident! **God had really looked after us!**

MANY THANKS for praying for Sebastian's situation! Recently his solicitor, who is friendly and very dedicated, phoned up and told him that the insurance company would **bear the cost of the repairs following the accident after all!** This was such a relief to us all!

The short-term missionary work...

...is continuing! Recently Anna came back from an extended time in Madagascar – with a wealth of cultural and especially spiritual experiences. We had a very full day of debriefing with her! Still out there are: Marlene in South Africa and Waltraud in Kenya. Veronika, a doctor is going out to Niger in May. Still in the process of applying are various young candidates to go e.g. to Brazil, Peru, Spain, the Middle East, Russia, etc. We find it really refreshing to be able to make contacts in many different countries. Our people out there quite often get mistaken for Australians due to the similarity in English between 'Austrian' and 'Australian'! You can get T-shirts here with the slogan: **'NO KANGAROOS IN AUSTRIA!'** But the greatest thing is when short-term service turns into long-term ministry. Livia, for instance, is going to Bible College, following her extended time in Peru. For the forthcoming summer holiday we have found a placement for her so that she can get to know various countries in Latin America to help her find out which country she could consider when she finishes at college. **A lot to be thankful for!**

Lutsk in the Volyn region of West Ukraine...

...is almost exactly 1000km north-east of Eisenstadt. Erich and Hans-Georg set off at about 1.00am on 17th Dec. to prepare for the distribution of over 10,000 Christmas parcels which had been collected by our Austrian association of churches. On the previous eight visits Erich had always been detained at the border with the Ukraine for hours – without any obvious reason. This time **we didn't even need to apply for a visa!** We were over the border in only 20 minutes! While Erich was busy co-ordinating the distribution of the parcels, Hans-Georg had a very interesting meeting with Pastor Chaika, the chair-man of the Baptist Union for the Volyn region and President of the Ukrainian Gospel Mission. During these conversations, which also included other leaders, they discussed missionary interests in the existing churches, opportunities for Ukrainian Christians in world mission and how workers from other countries could get involved in the Ukraine. Together with his English colleague from SIM, Alistair, Hans-Georg would like to put forward further ideas for consideration – God willing. On the Sunday (19th Dec.), Hans-Georg was invited to preach in one of the large churches in Lutsk on God's heart for the spreading of the Gospel world-wide. **We are just amazed at how the LORD is opening doors for us!**

We are expecting a lot of guests in January...

- Peter Kozar and his family from **Slovakia**, along with several couples from **Vienna and Upper Austria**
- Mid January there is a meeting with one of our Austrian colleagues who is planning to go to Asia.
- From 18th–21st we will have a visit from an **international team from SIM** with Josua, regional leader for West Africa and Europe (from Nigeria, lives in the US), Walter, SIM Switzerland and Teo, a missionary to Africa (Niger) who is from Romania.

PLEASE pray also for...

- ...**Maria, a widow with two children**, who recently came along to the FORUM for the first time
- ...**the FORUM leaders' retreat on 29th January**, in which we will review our first year and make plans for the coming mths.
- ...our **very ill friend Evi**. The cancer has spread. The whole family would be VERY GRATEFUL for your prayers
- ...for Rita following her cancer treatment: she is longing to have more physical strength and psychological stability

THANK YOU!

Thank you for every prayer, every thought of us and the many joys, big and small, that you have given us in 2010! You are invaluable to us! Without your support we couldn't carry on here from day to day! **May God reward you richly!**

With our regards,



Hans-Georg & Margret Hoprich with Annika & Manuel
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