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TT - 'Travelling Together' (57)

“AS FOR ME, IT IS GOOD TO BE NEAR GOD.” (Psalm 73 v 28)

Dear Friends,

April 2014

What a message: since the Resurrection of Jesus the catastrophe of our own death is no longer final! What God did once, HE can do a second time. We too shall rise again and we can choose heaven today though believing in the Lord Jesus. He will come again and bring in a world without worry or war, without cares or coffins. Since HIS resurrection our **well-founded hope** has taken hold of us and given us so much strength that it can be shared endlessly until HE comes again! Yes, we wish to be **'bringers of hope'** in an environment where there is so much need and people despair of their own lives...

Crisis counselling

In the past few weeks we were confronted on several occasions by situations in which people could see no sense in living. They were mostly young adults whose tragic past had caught up with them and they had put an end to their own lives as they could see no worthwhile future for themselves. This has shocked us deeply and it seems **as if our region is at times under a dark cloud**. Only the bright message of the Gospel can bring light and healing into this overwhelming need and darkness. **For the first time we attended a crisis counselling session together as a couple**. For both of us this was a good experience because we saw how we could complement each other and offer comfort in a completely hopeless situation.

In a very real way we are encouraged by what you said in your **telephone calls!**

For example: "Tonight we're having our house group meeting and we would like to pray for you – have you any new prayer requests?" Even in 'snail mail' **letters**, which are getting less and less, we read: "We haven't forgotten you and we are standing with you in prayer!" Or in **e-mails**: "How is your family? What are you busy with at the moment?"

The unusual rush – still going on

We are still getting new inquiries from people interested in missionary placements. We are busy finding everyone a place in God's wide harvest field. Often our evenings are taken up with **contacting the applicants** personally and also on many occasions their parents. Recently we had phone call from a well-known missionary leader in Peru, as two young Austrian ladies are travelling out there shortly and we are therefore seeking to put a **partnership agreement** in place.

One of our most important partner missions would very much like to extend their existing agreement. Also we are occupied with the question: "How can we help a very committed missionary family here in Austria to **widen their circle of friends** to ensure their long-term support?" Soon another missionary family is coming back soon **on furlough** from Brazil, which will require a lot of preparation: debriefing, planning for deputation work, arranging appointments...

Another young family had been working short-term as a couple in East Asia. God has now motivated them to travel back out there long-term with their now two small children: "What is the way forward and how can we help them?"

With the quantity and variety of these challenges we need a lot of sensitivity, wisdom and strength!

Marriage counselling...

We are facing many challenges in our role as counsellors. Mostly it is about **marriages which are falling apart**. Recently H. came to see us under the pretext of having difficulty with some passages in the Bible. During the conversation it soon became apparent that his marriage had broken up and he was left helpless with the wreckage of his relationship with his wife and children. **Please pray also for G.** who called us in despair: "**Can you help us? My wife and I are far apart and we need to find a way to get back together.**" In the coming days we will meet him for an initial discussion.

We are praying for miracles of reconciliation!

Our lads Sebastian and Manuel

THANK YOU for your prayers! From the middle of April both of them will have a job – the work contracts have been signed! We are also grateful that Manuel is slowly regaining a sense of purpose in life.

Dates for April

6th and 20th April: Hans-Georg is preaching at the FORUM.

12th April: 'Day of Quiet and Reflection' with our FORUM

18th April: Good Friday worship with Breaking of Bread at the FORUM

25th-27th April: countrywide BEG workers meeting on 'Family and Church' in Salzburg

Together with you we remain together with God's good hands.

We are GRATEFUL for your prayers, your gifts and your greetings!

We wish you a blessed Easter time from Burgenland, now blossoming and turning green.



Warmly, Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

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