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TT - 'Travelling Together' (83)

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you." (Isaiah 66:13)

# Dear Friends,

June 2016

We would like to send you our greetings today with the words from a song that is our special verse for the month of June: "The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." (Exodus 15:2). What a song... It sounds like a good experience and very personal one: My strength – my song – my salvation It is a special song, not an everyday one. Moses sang it with the Israelites. Whole families were singing it: children, old people, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, grandparents and grandchildren. They were victims who had found freedom – a choir of former slaves. Suffering, oppression, fear, pain, hard labour, injustice – there are echoes of that in the song. But now they were free. It was a new beginning. My strength: the release which they had experienced gives a security even for today. My song: the experience of salvation gives confidence and strength. My salvation: helps against the fear of an uncertain future. Whenever it is sung today, there also resounds the song from God who gave Himself as a sacrifice to give freedom to all people. Yes, it is still a special song, but now it is a song for us too and for every day: – For the fearful closed–In days it reminds us of wide open spaces – For the easy relaxed days it reminds us that they are a gift – For days of weakness it reminds us that strength does not come from us – For the good days it reminds us of the One to whom we owe our thanks My strength – my song – my salvation!

### Back safely from our visit to Germany!

Leading the Bible studies at the church holiday at the end of May in the Siegerland area (east of Bonn) was a challenge for Hans–Georg and at the same time an encouragement. Getting to know the other people there, the sharing of experiences in regard to building up a church, the warm fellowship with the participants and the leaders of this large Swabian church were all a fresh inspiration for him. Not far from the holiday venue were the centres of some well–known missionary organisations which we visited before and after the holiday: "Mission to South–East Europe" (MSOE) "Wycliffe" – "Alliance Mission". The valuable discussions with the staff gave us a helpful insight into the working methods of these organisations which we know well. With MSOE and Alliance we already have BEG TAM (Foreign Missions Department) partnership agreements.

At the moment there are discussions taking place in preparation for partnerships with OMF and INF.

## Isa Al-Masih... "I want to get to know HIM!"

Through our FORUM workers who are working with our new friends (refugees) we have come in contact with 'Hassan' (not his real name) from Syria. He had already met some Christians in his home country but their faith didn't mean anything to him. But he was still curious. His little business that he had painstakingly built up was bombed and he had no alternative but to flee! Here in Eisenstadt he met a young man also from Syria who had to be looked after in hospital for several weeks following a serious accident. Hassan acted as his interpreter. Since Hassan speaks relatively good English, he soon made friends and came along to our FORUM's early morning worship on Easter Day. Then – a few weeks later – he sat with us in our lounge and as we got to know him better we learned of his great hunger for the truth of the Gospel.

At the end of the afternoon we found ourselves once again on our knees – Hassan asked the Lord Jesus to come into his life! We rejoice so much with him and we are excited to see how Hassan will get to know 'Isa Al-Masih' better and become HIS faithful disciple.

### Final 'Matura' exams...

Our Annika has nearly finished her exams, up to now with top marks. There are still 2 oral exams to go (Maths and Theory of Education) on 15<sup>th</sup> June. She is very grateful to all those who have supported her in prayer.

#### **Fixed dates for June**

2<sup>nd</sup> June: Discussion with a young couple (from S. Africa and Austria) they would like to go into full—time missionary work.
3<sup>rd</sup> June: Burial of ashes in a village by Lake Neusiedl.

8<sup>th</sup> June: Visit from a Pastor from the Philippines who has felt called to leave Austria and go back to his homeland.

17<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> June: Our dear colleagues John & Claire from Belgium from our 'All Nations' days (1982–84 are coming to see us. 19<sup>th</sup> June: Hans–Georg is preaching again at our FORUM church.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**: Our African couple Alex and Blessing are visiting us to discuss possible future plans.

25<sup>th</sup> June: Valedictory service: Johannes, a young care—worker from Liezen in Styria, is being sent out to Thailand with TAM.

#### We are GRATEFUL...

...that we have you in our lives and we know that you are willing to make our work here possible and to come before God in prayer on our behalf.

Now we wish you HIS blessing for the coming month – and especially we wish you those special moments when HE surprises you!

Yours in HIS service,



# Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

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