

Dear Friends,

Finished at last!

We are so glad to be able to share our lives and experiences with you again. Through the 'BURGENLAND NEWS' we would like to express our deepest GRATITUDE to you, especially for continuing to follow our progress and for supporting us, particularly during the past few months.

May our news encourage you particularly to pray for us again.

Here are the main points:

- **“I have finished the race...”**
- **The test of the Tropics**
- **We will have to move house!**
- **‘ProChrist’ in our living room...!**
- **Also we have been involved in...**
- **An answer to prayer...**
- **Future events**

We would WILLINGLY pray for you – please share you prayer requests with us –
THANK YOU!

Below you will find our newsletter – to be printed out and passed on. PLEASE share it with your prayer partners.

THANK YOU for your interest and we hope you enjoy reading it.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes

The Hoprichs

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BURGENLAND NEWS
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End of May 2009

Dear Friends

We've already written this newsletter so many times in our thoughts and so often we wanted to sit down and put down on paper all the things which have kept us busy over the past weeks, but we've been interrupted so many times by people calling, pressing needs and church services.

THANK YOU to all who have still kept us in your thoughts and continued to support us financially and have prayed for us tirelessly.

"I have finished the race..."

We can only guess at what prayer can do when it is in earnest and only in eternity will we see the true extent of it. **The experience of one of our most faithful prayer supporters should be a great encouragement to you.** When we last went to see her at her home near Cologne, she was quite weak – she was almost into her nineties. She lay in bed quite listlessly, not wishing to get up and everything was a real effort for her. But when she heard our voices at the front door – we came unannounced – she was suddenly wide awake and was quickly helped into her wheelchair. "I have something wonderful to tell you," she said with a beaming smile and was bursting to continue, "The Lord Jesus came to meet me and took me by the hand and led me into a huge bright building and the walls were made of gold! I had to keep running my hand over it very carefully – was it real? Then HE showed me a larger more beautiful room, everything was so bright and with gold everywhere and I wanted to stay there with HIM, but HE said, "But you will have to wait!" At first I was so disappointed, but now that I've seen it, I'm looking forward to it so much!" God let her have some more time here to continue her task of praying for people. Together with her dear sister she continued to do this in spite of her great weakness. But now our beloved Charlotte is there and can see for herself that which she had believed. She has "finished the race" (2 Tim. 4 v.7) so differently from most of those we have accompanied to the grave in recent weeks here in Burgenland, whose lives ended in misery without any hope...

We would like to conclude this story by putting out the call: we urgently need intercessors to have behind us who will take up this greatly valued task of bringing our work before the throne of God in prayer. Who will fill the gap left now that Charlotte has been called home?

The test of the Tropics

Hans-Georg passed the test when he went to Ghana in February and we would like to thank all those who prayed for him. It was a fascinating trip (the cost was met by one of our partner missions) involving meeting people from many countries and making new African friends at the Work Conference in Abokobi outside the capital Accra. Those involved in mission in some of the **poorest countries in Africa, such as Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Togo**, reported how their churches were involved in building up missionary structures and were sending out missionaries at great sacrifice and were trying to support them. About 6000 missionaries have been sent out from Nigeria alone! Missionary work often has seemingly insurmountable problems, so it is all the more important to talk through the experiences of the individual countries taking part, to learn from them, to rethink things, to draw conclusions and especially to bring it all to God in prayer together.

A special high-light was the meeting with a real-life African king, King Nene Sakite II of Kroboland! There is a century-old link of friendship between the King and Hans-Georg's home town Gerlingen (nr Stuttgart, S. Germany). This goes back to the Gerlingen missionary Johannes Zimmermann who in Kroboland 150 years ago translated the Bible into the local language and this is still having an effect today. We stood by the graves of the early missionaries who while still quite young died of then unknown tropical diseases, together with their children. Right at the end, and quite unexpected, we discovered hidden in the undergrowth the grave of Catherine Zimmermann, the wife of the Gerlingen pioneer missionary...

There is still so much to tell! We'd love to come and share more with you. Every invitation is a joy to us! PLEASE get in touch!

We will have to move house!

While Hans-Georg was still in Ghana, our landlord claimed our flat back for his own use, which means that after 11 years here we will have to look for somewhere else to live. In the meantime we've found that it's not that easy... Our efforts to find somewhere have proved fruitless to date as the supply of affordable accommodation here is very limited.

Please pray with us for a good outcome – one which is within our means!

'ProChrist' in our living room...!

'ProChrist' is a very big European evangelistic event held every 3 years. The speaker is Pastor Ulrich Parzany. Ever since we have been here we have tried again and again to bring 'ProChrist' to Eisenstadt. Every time the obstacles seemed too big, also we did not have enough people to help run it. At the start of the year we found out that you could hold this event in your own living room, at little cost! Our young friends, John and Liesi Doss, came on board and started organising and planning. They put together a 'ProChrist' team and in the end we discovered what a wonderful opportunity this could be. We invited people to watch the live broadcasts via a satellite link projected on to the white wall in our living room using the video projector...

and they came! Every evening during the 'ProChrist' week **20–30 people of all ages and church denominations** found somewhere to sit and watched with interest. We made our spare bedroom into a quiet room for counselling or personal prayer and it was often in use. Straight after the event we started a **ProChrist foundation course for new believers**. Since then the team has continued to meet 6 interested people every Wednesday to work through further steps in faith and to discuss personal questions. **B., H., M., S., G. and T. are very open and need a lot of prayer**. The course will continue weekly till 3rd June and is then linked with the 'Vertical' course (www.vertikalkurs.de/ – a Bible study course with 10 different topics about life and faith presented on video to be followed by a discussion) to which we would like to invite the 'ProChrist' guests and other friends from our area.

THANK YOU for your support in prayer for these events.

Also we have been involved in...

...A men's weekend for the church in Baden (near Vienna) in mid-March, the Salzkammergut (region nr Salzburg) Women's Day in Bad Goisern and **3 funerals** in quick succession, which put a very tight squeeze on our timetable. And yet we sensed that people were praying for us and that we were being carried through all these challenges and services.

The weekend at the 'Volksmission' church in Nuremberg at the end of March was just before the start of 'ProChrist' and straight afterwards Hans-Georg was off to the big missionary congress '**mission-net**' in Oldenburg (www.mission-net.org/, in **N. Germany, west of Bremen**) over Easter. Our partner mission PIONEERS had an information stand there which Hans-Georg was responsible for – talking to people, making contacts and giving advice. Margret had the opportunity together with Annika, to visit Mother and Grandmother Ludwig and to have time to talk, to celebrate Easter together and to visit numerous other relations. Benjamin and Maria went to stay with Grandma Hoprich.

We were given a very warm welcome in **Ortenburg (near Passau, S. Germany by the Austrian border)** and a week later in Amstetten (Lower Austria) at the end of April. Both of these busy weekends included a ladies' breakfast, a youth night and preaching at a service. In Ortenburg there was an unexpected invitation to go to the SMD (Students' Mission Germany) in Passau during the first weekend in May. Hans-Georg gladly accepted.

We love having visitors from other countries. In the middle of 'ProChrist' our Austrian missionary from the eastern Mediterranean region stopped over with us. Later we had a visit from **Nazgul** from Khirgistan who is currently studying at All Nations Christian College (UK) which is where we did our theological training. Nazgul wishes to work full-time in the eastern Mediterranean region. Soon afterwards **Maria-Elisa** from Ecuador came to stay. We got to know her through her uncle Obed, a mission leader from Guatemala who Hans-Georg met at the mission workshop in Ghana. You see how these links are spreading world-wide...!

Please don't forget our young short-termers who are in the eastern Mediterranean region, central Asia, Africa and South America: **Esther-Eva, Sara, Wolfgang, Sylvia, Hanna and Clemens**. At the moment we are in frequent contact **with about 20 new applicants** and we need much wisdom in advising them.

An answer to prayer...

We have experienced God's provision in so many little things that we've lost count of them! We will never forget these experiences and we want to honour God with our trust. There are plenty of opportunities to carry on trusting God for the future. **Even the DMG (Germany Missionary Fellowship) is not immune from the effects of the current economic crisis**. Sadly 2008 ended with a shortfall in provision. From a human perspective there is no improvement in sight.

At the same time there is a reason to rejoice: this year the DMG has never had so many missionaries in preparation. That is a real answer to prayer. But it will need many more answers to prayer to provide for them – and for us.

Future events

21st–24th May: services in Brixen, South Tyrol (just over the border into Italy), ladies' breakfast, etc. On the Sunday we go to Innsbruck for the **valedictory service for Priscille, a new long-term missionary**. Soon afterwards she is going out to the eastern Mediterranean region.

29th May – 1st Jun.: children's meetings at the church holiday of the BEG church at Moedling (Poellau in Styria). We are studying the life of Hudson Taylor the missionary to China and learning from his experiences.

4th Jun.: 'Afghanistan – Pictures of an Extraordinary Journey' – Christian open meeting in a Eisenstadt restaurant (evangelistic), Hans-Georg speaking.

6th–7th Jun.: preaching in Kapfenberg before the departure of our long-standing American colleagues, Devere and Lee Curtiss

19th–21st Jun.: we celebrate our **30th wedding anniversary at a holiday home belonging to friends in Irdring (Styria)**

25th Jun.: Filderstadt-Sielmingen (S. Germany, near Stuttgart): Ladies' breakfast 'Keeping in good health, that's the main thing...'

25th Jun.: Filderstadt-Sielmingen: men's supper meeting. Hans-Georg is speaking on '**If things turn out differently – what then? Chanc(es) to live**'

26th Jun.: Gerlingen (nr Stuttgart) Johannes Rebmann Foundation: public talk on the visit to Ghana

27th Jun.: Remseck-Aldingen (nr Stuttgart) – talk on Afghanistan

28th Jun.: taking part in the service at our sending church, St. Peter's, Gerlingen

28th Jun.: Gerlingen 'Open Bible Evening' (open to anyone interested in the Bible)

1st–3rd Jul.: missionary consultation SIM England (Hans-Georg)

19th Jul.: BEG church in Baden (nr Vienna) – talk on Afghanistan

21st–31st Aug.: counselling and leading the times of fellowship, Hotel Hari, Adelboden, Switzerland

We are looking forward with great excitement to the arrival of our second grandchild. Benjamin and Maria are expecting their first child at the end of July. We are very thankful that the pregnancy has gone smoothly to date.

We are fully aware of the limitations of communicating by e-mail/fax. We are so sorry that we often can't manage to keep in touch with you personally – we are all the more moved and encouraged when we hear that you have read our 'BURGENLAND NEWS' and have brought our prayer requests before God, for Whom nothing is impossible.



With gratitude from

DMG

Hans-Georg, Margret and family

Deutsche Missionsgemeinschaft