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Dear Friends, **TT – Travelling Together' (16 & 17)** Sept. / Oct. 2010

Sometimes we still think we can smell the strong North Sea air and we look back gratefully to the 12 days we spent in North Friesland where we felt that our God had pushed the clouds aside, overturning the gloomy weather forecast and giving us the most beautiful sun-drenched holiday!

HE was so good to us!

When we broke our journey, both on the way there and on the way back, we met a whole crowd of wonderful people with a heart for world mission!

On the last Sunday in August we were invited to help with the local **missionary celebration in Vollstedt** (near Husum, N. Germany).

It was a real joy to report on **our work in AUSTRIA** again after quite a long break.

Because of recent events, Hans-Georg's talks on Afg were more often in demand.

This country is still much on our hearts.

Many of you have heard about the **murder** of the 10-person medical outreach team on **5th August 2010** in the north of Afg, including a very gifted **35 year old German lady**.

When Hans-Georg was over there (Autumn 2008), he **met this lady and thought very highly of her**.

We're still trying to come to terms with this.

The 10 workers who were shot are an incredible loss to the work there!

Please don't forget the grieving families and please pray for God's comfort and support for them, and for particular protection for those who courageously continue to work there!

Out of the blue we had the chance to spend an evening with the **teenagers** from a church in Norderstedt (near Hamburg) and to meet the couple who lead the youth work, having written to us faithfully for many years.

And then there was the **enjoyable evening** we spent at a **youth Bible Week** in Stubaital (Tyrol) with a wonderful bunch of Austrians and Germans!

Since our arrival back in Eisenstadt on 3rd September a number of people from the Bible Week have e-mailed us.

Really encouraging!

Burgenland Crisis Response Team (KI-B)

Meeting grieving relatives to arrange a funeral can be a kind of 'crisis response'; the Red Cross KI-B team, however, goes out to help the really acute cases.

Since Margret did the training to be an emergency counsellor last year, we have thought about doing this work together. Because of our involvement in counselling, both of us have now been invited by the Burgenland Red Cross to complete an intensive training course to become workers for the Crisis Response Team. We are now officially part of this team:

<http://www.rotekreuz.at/nocache/bgl/berichten/fotos/dekretverleihung-krisenintervention/> (pic. 13,14)

For six whole days we were back in the classroom to train to be Crisis Response Team members here in Burgenland. During the training we got to know a range of people from the Red Cross as well as participants from the whole of Burgenland.

For further training we will also spend 24 hours with the ambulance service, as well as brushing up on our first aid skills and have ongoing training throughout the year.

From now on we can be called on at any time to help!

During the course we learnt a lot about talking to people in extreme situations.

Prayer request from friends...

Good friends here in Austria have asked us to pray for them.

Through tragic circumstances their daughter has been in a long-term coma for some months and is now being transferred from the specialist ward to a hospice.

The family will have to make some difficult decisions and they need strength, wisdom and God's far-reaching peace to get through this time.

PLEASE would you pray for them as well?

October

This month began with a funeral near Lake Neusiedl.

We have also been to Rust am See (also by the Lake) to meet another bereaved family and arrange a funeral to be held the following week.

With every funeral service it is our heartfelt prayer that the Lord Jesus's offer of forgiveness, a new beginning, hope through faith and eternal life will touch the hearts of the numerous mourners.

Your support in prayer is a great help and encouragement!

NEW: FORUM house group

We've already had our second house group meeting with Hans–Georg leading it both times.

The first was on **15th Sept.**

We've noticed how trust is starting to grow.

Studying the letter to the Philippians gives us all the opportunity to share things from our own lives and to benefit from the experiences of others.

To date we have had 10 people attending and we would like more to join so that we can eventually start a second house group in a place just outside Eisenstadt.

PLEASE PRAY for a deepening of the spiritual fellowship and that we will grow together as leaders and visitors.

In **mid–October (12th, 13th & 17th)** we will have Rupert Palme from Vienna as a guest speaker at the FORUM.

He is a university professor of veterinary medicine and biochemistry.

He will talk on 'Faith and Science – a Contradiction or Not?', 'On Soup and Pizzas – Questions on the Origins of Life' and 'Did God create through Evolution?'

We are now busy giving out invitations and would be delighted to have many Eisenstadt people taking an interest and coming along to hear the talks.

Many THANKS for all your prayers!

We're still very excited and enthusiastic about how the FORUM will develop!

Annika

Our Annika is coming to a **crossroads** in her life: after this school year (she's now 13), should she stay on at the grammar school and move up to the next stage **or** leave and possibly go a nursery school training college??

Her friend Conny, also a believer, has similar plans.

It would be a real answer to prayer if they could continue their studies together.

She has till the end of the year to decide and then apply to the relevant colleges.

The last weekend in October Annika and Conny are going to a **teen event in Salzburg** – they can't wait!

Miscellaneous...

Sun. 10th Oct. we have been invited to **Bratislava**, just over the border in **Slovakia**.

A missionary colleague is getting married and we have been asked to represent the DMG/GMF at the wedding.

At the same time we hope to meet the leaders of the Slovakian 'Berean Christian Centre' (www.berea.sk/e_miss.htm) to discuss our involvement in their **10th missionary conference (5th–7th Nov.)**. They invited us about a year ago!

Recently we have been able to send a donation of about €27,000 from Austria for **reconstruction work in Haiti**.

In total donations have now amounted to **€136,000!**

Many THANKS!

30th–31st Oct.: We expect **Christian and Claudia as our guests for 'debriefing'**.

Their year in Japan has finished and they are flying back to Austria with many new experiences under their belt!

Previously **Waltraud** came to us for preparation for working abroad (interview, assessment, training, etc.).

In the meantime she has arrived in Kenya to help with a new work started by the Kenyans to assist babies and AIDS–orphans: www.sabachtrust.org/sabach.html.

Latest family news...

Margret has had to go back to Herrenberg in S. Germany to see her mother who is now very frail.

Her condition has got worse and she can't manage on her own any more.

Some drastic changes will need to be made very soon: either finding a place for her in a residential home or arranging for carers to look after her in her own home.

Understandably she is reluctant to accept this situation.

Margret's sister called us on 9th October to ask for Margret's help.

PLEASE pray for wisdom, help and open doors! Thank you!

Dear Friends around the globe...

We are not in total ignorance of worldwide disasters and a rebellious world to God.

We do not cease to be amazed at HIS incredible patience and long–suffering with us people.

It is a joy and a comfort to know HE is still in control when everything around us seems so out of control.

As Habakkuk says: "**Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation!**" (Hab. 3:17–19)

Once again, we are deeply GRATEFUL for your friendship and for supporting us, praying for us and following our progress as a family and as God's servants.

We gain so much from your encouragement!

'Servus!' (Austrian: 'goodbye for now!') from Eisenstadt in all its Autumn glory,



From

Hans–Georg & Margret Hoprich with Annika & Manuel

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