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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (21)

February 2011

Already the first month of the year is behind us and we are amazed at the number of meetings we have had with various people – some well planned and prepared for... and others out of the blue! Every day has been completely different and in the evening when we look back at what has gone on, we are sometimes overwhelmed at everything that has been crammed into just a few hours...

James 5:14...

Eva is a dear Christian friend that we had not seen for some years, but never 'lost' from our hearts. In the days before her surprise visit we'd often thought about her and her difficult health situation... At the start of the week we had a phone call from our mutual friend Sonja to say that Eva would **very much like to have an 'anointing of the sick'**! Shortly afterwards they both turned up on our doorstep, Eva visibly affected by her illness. It was lovely to see her again, but at the same time our hearts sank... We drew new strength from God's Word. We then prayed with Eva and anointed her with oil, standing on God's promise: **"HE will raise him (her) up."** From the outside there appeared to be no immediate change, but we are trusting that God will act in His own time! This is what we have learnt to do many times in the past!

One becomes ten!

God's Word has to get out among people! For this reason a missionary friend made a hundred pocket-size New Testaments available to us. We soon found out that these small **Bibles are very well received**, e.g. when we meet grieving relatives to help them plan a funeral. Last year we gave Hermine a copy which she always carries round with her in her handbag and shows to everyone. Whenever she has to wait anywhere she gets it out and reads it. Recently she asked us, rather shyly, for **ten more pocket Bibles**: her friends were curious and wanted one themselves! Yes, of course! That's what they are there for! **PLEASE PRAY for their new owners, that God's Word will become very special to them!**

Ghana – this time with Manuel!

It has long been Manuel's wish to go with his father on his trips abroad.

Two years after his fascinating first visit to Ghana Hans-Georg was very surprised to be invited again to a SIM workers conference in Abokobi, not far from the capital Accra. The conference is about **inter-cultural leadership in the context of world mission**. Preparation for the conference involved reading the excellent book 'Leading Across Cultures' by J. E. Plueddemann. The author is going to be one of the main speakers at the conference which is expected to bring together over a hundred local leaders and missionaries from West Africa and Europe. The various workshops will certainly be an enriching experience, because everyone will profit from the wealth of experience of the other participants. It has been agreed with our partner mission that Manuel can attend at his own expense. He has been asked to make a video recording of the conference. A trip is also planned to **neighbouring Burkina Faso** to learn about various missionary projects of SIM there. Both are busy getting ready. When they went to the Ghanaian Embassy in Vienna with their visa application, they had a bitter disappointment: there has been no notice, not even on the internet, to indicate that this embassy had been closed since May 2010. The applications then had to go via Switzerland. By mistake the visas nearly got sent to **AUSTRALIA (!)** and were eventually delivered to us by courier – to **AUSTRIA (!)** –, with little time to spare before **the planned departure date: 15th February**. The **return flight** is planned for **2nd March** via London. **PLEASE PRAY for protection from illness and possible dangers.**

Annika's school holidays...

...coincide with the time when Hans-Georg and Manuel will be in Africa. Margret would like to use the time to go with Annika to visit her mother in Herrenberg (S. Germany). This year will mean so many changes for 'Grandma Ludwig', with possibly a move into a residential home, but a lot of things will have to be arranged before then.

We would be very glad to have your ongoing prayers for this situation.

Miscellaneous in February

– Our fortnightly house group seems to be taking shape with a regular 'nucleus'.

We would very much like Maria, who lost her husband two years ago at a young age, to join us and to come to know the Lord. **PLEASE PRAY for these Wednesday evening meetings (2nd and 16th February).**

On 2nd February Hans-Georg has led the house-group and was preaching at the FORUM on 6th.

– **Annika (14)** is looking for a suitable school/college. She is interested in the five-year training course leading to a specialized 'Abitur' (equivalent of A Levels) in nursery teaching and child care. The entrance exams took place at the college in Oberwart in central Burgenland on 4th February and Annika passed them. **PLEASE PRAY that God will guide our Annika concerning her college/professional path and that the right doors will open for her (160 applicants for 100 places).**

– **25th–27th February** the annual women's weekend for the eastern region of Austria is being held in Pielachtal, to which Margret has been invited by her friends in Burgenland, just to be there as a participant and enjoy the teaching etc.

Thank you for praying, as there are many occasions when we are involved in counselling and need a lot of wisdom.

We are still glad to have your prayer requests! It is lovely to be involved with you and what you are doing.

Thank you for your friendship, your prayers and your support.



DMG
Deutsche Missionsgemeinschaft

Regards,

Hans-Georg & Margret Hoprich with Annika & Manuel

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