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Dear Friends,

**TT – Travelling Together' (22)**

March 2011

Our TT newsletter is a bit later going out this time... Recent days and weeks have been so busy and exciting – and there have been so many answers to prayer! We do know that you've been praying for us and we can't **THANK YOU** enough!

### Back in one piece...

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March Hans-Georg and Manuel landed safe and sound at Vienna Schwechat Airport having had many new experiences, but very tired, as they had done a lot of night-time travelling – even their return journey was a night flight. They were greeted by temperatures of minus 3°C (as opposed to plus 35°C in Accra) and there were hundreds of e-mails waiting to be answered, urgent telephone calls to be made and there was also a meeting 3 days later in preparation for a funeral. The next day Hans-Georg was invited to preach at the **new Christian Ar\*b\*c Church in Linz (established only two months ago)**. Also Manuel had to go straight back into working life – with no rest in between. Neither had any real chance to re-acclimatise! However: in the midst of all the challenges in the coming weeks, **it is still very nice to be back home again!**

### Vienna – London – Accra – Ouagadougou and back...

On the day after their arrival in Accra, Ghana, Hans-Georg and Manuel got on to the coach to take them overnight to Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, about 1000 km (625 m) away. In Ouaga we had a very warm welcome from our DMG-colleagues, the Joyce family. They were already busy with their short-term Bible College – a very interesting work among the Fulani people. The Fulanis are a m\*s'l\*m people spread across the whole of West Africa. Also in Burkina we met **Joseph, an infectiously cheerful indigenous missionary** that our Austrian short-termer Conny had worked together with. Joseph has a really big heart for children. The few days that we were in BF were **jam-packed with interesting encounters and impressions!** We'll never forget the **Fulani church service** and the visit to the **SIM construction project in a former disaster area** (flooding in Sept. 2009). Shortly before our journey back to Ghana, Joseph told us with great enthusiasm about his out-reach every Sunday; on one occasion 40 people had **spontaneously made a decision to follow Jesus**. Because of the distance and the irregular bus service we arrived a day later than planned at the international leaders' conference in Ghana: **“Living as disciples of Jesus and making disciples” (1 Thess. 2:8)**. This was a very valuable time of listening and learning, intensively exchanging reports from each country and times of fervent prayer together. Among other things the Nigerian ECWA church told us about the 1040 missionaries that had been sent out... In my report about Austria I also mentioned the large number of Nigerian asylum seekers, many of which through sheer despair end up as drug dealers. I closed my report with an appeal to my African brethren, **“Come over and help us! Let the Gospel change this negative image!”** At the end of our time in Africa we visited our **friends in Odumase**, where the Gerlingen missionary Johannes Zimmermann lived 150 years ago, brought the Gospel, translated the Bible and is still remembered today. We took part in two very lively and cheerful church services in which the believers were singing and dancing as they threw their offerings into the collection baskets (literally: **“God loves a cheerful giver!”** 2 Cor 9:7). I brought greetings from my home town Gerlingen and gave a short spiritual message. We were then invited to the church minister's house for a celebration meal – there was also a whole bowl of fresh mangoes just for us – they were delicious! We also had the opportunity to pay an **official visit to King Nene Sakite II of Kroboland**. It was a joyful reunion! At the Akrofi-Christaller Institute where we spent the night in Akropong, we had an unexpected meeting with Prof. Dr. Andrew Walls, the world renowned church historian, before we returned to Accra and said farewell to Africa shortly before midnight on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### What is coming up this month?

9<sup>th</sup> March: **Funeral in Vienna Inzersdorf** (the widow, son and daughter-in-law are practicing Christians)

10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> March: Visit from the **Personnel Manager of SEND International**, Don Parsons with two fellow workers. Getting to know them and discussing the possibility of working together.

14<sup>th</sup> March: **Funeral of a dear friend** that we'd known for twelve years and who'd been a **great support to our church planting work here in Eisenstadt** (Update: We've never experienced so many disruptions during a funeral – we soon realised we were in the midst of a serious spiritual battle.)

18<sup>th</sup> March: **Visit of Dr. Veronika to prepare for her short-term ministry in Niger**

20<sup>th</sup> March: **H.-G. is preaching at the Eisenstadt Forum**

28<sup>th</sup> March–1<sup>st</sup> April: **H.-G. is taking part in a missionary consultation** “Joining Hands for Mission in Europe” in Germany  
Hans-Georg's visit to England had to be postponed because of the funeral on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. He had planned to attend meetings with PIONEERS, visit SIM colleague Alistair, fellow students from All Nations ('82-'84) and a former DMG-colleague.

Our **Annika** has now applied for the 'Federal Institute for Nursery Teacher Training' in S. Burgenland and has passed the aptitude test. There are 160 applicants for 100 places! She is still waiting to hear whether she has been successful.

Thank you for thinking of **our sick friend Bianca**; in addition to breast cancer she has also got secondary skin cancer.

**THANK YOU** for your keen interest in us as a family, in our work and for all your prayers for us and for sharing our joys and our concerns. What a privilege to belong to such a big family, to be blessed by your friendship and especially for your perseverance in bringing our prayer requests to the LORD.

May the LORD bless you richly for doing this.



Hans-Georg & Margret Hoprich with Annika & Manuel

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