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Dear Friends,

**TT – Travelling Together' (23)**

April 2011

We've had a very busy month and many things have not turned out quite as planned...

### **This is how it all happened...**

On March 7<sup>th</sup> we had a shock when we heard that **our dear friend Irene had died suddenly**, only a day after the death of her mother! Since our first days here in Eisenstadt, Irene had followed our progress and prayed for us. Humanly speaking she wasn't strong; she'd been in a wheelchair for a number of years due to a muscle-wasting illness. But spiritually she was a 'rock' and a 'beacon' here in our region. Irene's door was always open; she was a woman of prayer, a dedicated Bible reader and a sympathetic counsellor. When the idea of the 'Eisenstadt FORUM' was born, Irene was one of the first people to get really excited about it and she supported it wholeheartedly.

Since September 2010 we had held our fortnightly house group at her house. **We are now looking for a new meeting place! PLEASE PRAY!** Now Irene has 'gone home' and she sees face to face that which she had believed. We all miss her very much! It was her express wish that, if she should go before us, Hans-Georg should take her funeral.

The date of the funeral was set for March 14<sup>th</sup> and could not be rearranged, so at short notice Hans-Georg had to cancel his **planned visit to England and all the meetings that had been arranged.**

Together with many friends from Burgenland we accompanied Irene to the grave.

On the evening of the funeral Hans-Georg went down with a high temperature – which reminded us of various malarial attacks in Papua New Guinea. In spite of taking medicine, the fever lasted several days, so he decided to go to the tropical diseases outpatients department at the General Hospital in Vienna. A blood test showed a very high level of lactate. The doctors were concerned and wanted to keep him in. After many different tests they found a disruption of the metabolism caused by a severe infection, which could only be put right with medication. On April 4<sup>th</sup> we had the final results which **indicated Dengue Fever. In the meantime Hans-Georg has got better!** We would like to **THANK YOU sincerely** for your overwhelming concern, your faithful prayers and for each kind enquiry! **It's SO GOOD that we have each other!**

### **Hardly back...**

...from "Joining Hands in Mission" (March 28<sup>th</sup>–April 1<sup>st</sup>) – conference in Rehe, Westerwald (E. of Bonn, Germany) there was another funeral in Eisenstadt, followed by yet another two days later...

But in the meantime we had something happy to celebrate at the FORUM, namely the **dedication of our little grand-daughter Lina Marie, and also of Joel-Jeremy, who is the same age**, the son of our colleagues John and Liesi Doss. Hans-Georg gave the sermon (Mark 10:13–17) and Margret sang a song with the children. It was a very special service with many visitors, including some new people with no church connection... **PLEASE pray especially for Magda and her two children** who had never been to anything like this before, but who were very interested.

In conversation with her it transpired that Magda had been to one of our funerals and she remembered it very clearly...

### **Family news**

**ANNIKA** has now had a firm offer of a place at the Nursery Teachers' College (BAKIP) in Oberwart. We are delighted! We would be very **GRATEFUL** if you could continue to think of her; at the moment she is finding her studies quite difficult!

Three of our grown-up lads are moving house this summer:

**MANUEL** has found his own fully furnished flat here in Eisenstadt...

**DAVID, CLAUDIA, TIMO & LINA** are moving from their little flat into a terraced house nearby.

David has now been working for a month with the Burgenland water company as a technician...

**BENJAMIN, MARIA & LENNY** are moving from her parents' home into a flat

**MARGRET'S MOTHER** has also moved from her own house into a lovely flat in a residential home in Herrenberg.

### **What else is on the planner for April...**

Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>: D-Herrenberg, missionary evening

Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>: D-Freudental, PNG missionary evening

Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>: D-Remshalden-Rohrbronn, missionary evening

Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>: D-Rudersberg, St. John's Lutheran Church, evangelistic guest service (starting at 11am for those who want to sleep in!). Hans-Georg preaching. Margret has been asked to do the Sunday School

Evening: D-Grafenberg, Bible study group

Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>: D-Stuttgart-Buesnau, Bible study group (afternoon meeting), D-Rudersberg, St. John's, missionary evening

Apr. 24<sup>th</sup>: Moedling/Vienna, Evangelical Church, Hans-Georg preaching

Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>: Foreign Missions Team meeting, Linz, Austria

We stand again in awe and wonder at the events of Easter: Jesus lives! That is pure hope!

"Our hope must always be bigger than our worries, our expectations must always be bigger than our memories!" (J. Rau)

With this quotation we send our greetings and our thanks,

From



Hans-Georg & Margret Hoprich with Annika & Manuel