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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together’ (33)

February 2012

Hardly anyone believes us... but here at our end of Austria we are still waiting for the first proper snow of the winter, whereas the western end of this alpine republic is snowed in...! However we are sending greetings from the Siberian cold which has suddenly closed in on us and we would be so glad of any messages of support to warm our hearts. We look forward to hearing from you again, especially as we love to have your news. Perhaps we will see some of you in the course of this year and have a chance to share in person! **We are happy to accept invitations and you are welcome to come to us...** ☺

Set in motion through mission-net...

In January we had a **completely unprecedented number** of enquiries about short-term missionary work throughout the whole world! It was almost too much for our small team to manage! What we found particularly good – and something that has never happened before – was that **four couples** (some of them with children) are among those waiting in the wings. Some of them are still waiting for a definite offer of a place and others are already preparing for their initial deputation visits and making travel arrangements. In addition we are in close contact with three missionary organisations which we would like to start working with in the future and this is why we wish to establish an official partnership agreement with them soon. There has also been a large relief in respect of the support of our missionary candidates! Through ‘**HILFE, DIE ANKOMMT**’ (‘Help Which Arrives’, www.hilfedieankommt.at) there is for the first time the possibility of sending long and short-term missionaries abroad to serve in welfare and relief work. What is more, in the future income tax can be claimed back on all donations to missions and welfare projects! This includes our annual Christmas parcel scheme ‘Hope and Joy’!

Set in motion through a conversation on Skype...

In the course of a conversation on Skype, a former missionary colleague in New Zealand let us have the mobile number of Kore, a New Guinea friend in Bialla, our former place of work in New Britain. As you can imagine, we couldn’t resist sending him a short text message! It got through! At 2 a.m. we were rudely awoken by the sound of the telephone. All three of us were wide awake, wondering what was going on... At the other end of the line there was great excitement and someone kept saying, “**Mi harim nek bilong em!!**” (“I can hear their voices!”) Kore and his wife Mary had simply forgotten there is a **time difference of nine hours** between Papua New Guinea and Austria! Sadly we lost the connection after only a few sentences, but it was lovely to hear from them all the same! **We will certainly try again!**

Set in motion through a play...

In the church newsletter of St Peter’s church in Gerlingen (the church which has sent us out) there was an announcement which caught our eye: “**Mission is POSSIBLE!**”!

A pupils’ drama group at the grammar school is staging a portrayal of the life and work of the Gerlingen missionary to Ghana Johannes Zimmermann (http://www.gymnasium.de/AGs/Theater/body_theater.html#Mission).

The memory of him is still very much alive in the indigenous population, which Hans-Georg was amazed to see for himself during both his visits to Ghana! We are planning to be in **Gerlingen from 11th to 18th February**, together with Annika and have been invited to the dress rehearsal and to meet the cast and their director. We also had an unexpected invitation to meet the **Gerlingen confirmation candidates** to tell them about our life and work. On the same day (15th Feb.) at 18.30 there is a **meeting of the finance and administration committee at the Gerlingen town hall** to discuss the support for welfare projects in Kroboland, Ghana, the region of King Nene Sakite II.

Hans-Georg has been asked to attend and give them a **brief report about his visits** to this region. We are looking forward to meeting many new people and it is **our earnest wish** that this will deepen and enrich our links with our home town. During the rest of the time there we will, together with Hans-Georg’s sisters, try to **clear the family home** and also **spend some time with Mother Ludwig** in Herrenberg.

Set in motion through our experience with taking funerals...

We will be at the Evangelical Academy (www.evak.at) in Vienna, teaching some basic principles on conducting Christian funerals, and also giving some practical advice, as part of the course on services for special occasions (e.g. baptisms, weddings, dedication of children, anointing of the sick: 11th/18th May 2012).

We are already putting together material for these teaching sessions and would be glad of any suggestions from you!

Finally our sincerest THANKS...

...for every prayer for us this year. We can make every effort to invite the people around us to follow Jesus, but in the end it is only God who can really touch people’s hearts! This is why we are so grateful for all your ongoing prayer support!

In particular we are praying for:

- **RITA**, who has to undergo further Chemotherapy
- **EVA**, who has been plagued for many years with severe migraines and is in such despair that it is affecting her family
- **INGRID**, who has been in hospital for several weeks following an accident and has a badly broken pelvis

What a miracle: The Lord Jesus Christ takes our vulnerable lives in His strong hands and never lets go of us!



With love

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich

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