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*Dear Friends,*

**TT – Travelling Together' (50)**

**August 2013**

We are celebrating a special 'anniversary' – our TT for August is also the **50<sup>th</sup> edition of our monthly update.**

We really wanted to keep it 'short and sweet', no more than a SINGLE page... However, sometimes there's so much to tell you and we often find it difficult to keep to just the most important items... **THANK YOU, by the way**, to all the friends who have given us some honest feedback. Nearly all of you said you were happy with the form, content and length of our 'Travelling Together' news update – of course we could be even more creative... Do those of you with a knowledge of graphic design have any ideas we could use? Is there a simple graphics program available? **We are open to suggestions!**

**The highlight of July was definitely the baptismal celebration by Lake Neusiedl...**

Annika made the decision to get baptised only three days before the event; it was quite spontaneous – without any 'input' from us! Her anticipation and excitement was enormous! Annika and Manuel testified about the influential events of their childhood which gave rise to their trust in the Lord Jesus. The regular family worship times, learning Bible verses off by heart together and praying together played a great part in developing their faith.

### **Counselling**

When we look back over our planner for July, it was as we'd guessed: **seldom before** have we had so many counselling sessions with people in deep spiritual need or facing important decisions that they didn't want to make on their own. Time pressures meant that we often had to hold these sessions 'in parallel', which was a **particular challenge!**

Of course it helps to listen actively and to ask the right questions! In spite of that we have often been aware of **our own helplessness**, as we have no answers for some situations, at least not immediately! **To persevere and continue giving support isn't easy!** But we trust that our LORD is right with us in the midst of each situation and that HE will intervene in HIS special way! We have to keep on telling ourselves that! We are still learning!

### **Thirza**

Our **good friend** in Vienna has been a **keen supporter** for a number of years. She travelled together with Margret to various ladies' breakfast meetings. Her personal testimony as part of the presentation: 'The main thing is to be healthy...or is it?' has touched many women profoundly and also the song she wrote herself, 'I will not let you fall' was a great encouragement for the participants. She had cancer eight years ago and was given the 'all clear' following treatment, but now they have found some **secondary growths. Her prognosis isn't good!** She has a physically disabled husband and three grown up daughters who are also Christians. Our friend Thirza would be very grateful if you could include her and her family in your prayers!

### **Charity concert**

For 9<sup>th</sup> October we are planning an **outreach concert** with the Eisenstadt FORUM to raise funds for the 'Burgenland Women's Refuge' project. It will feature the '**Crossover**' **Gospel Choir**, together with the band from the 'Friedenskirche' church in Braunschweig (Germany). We are right in the middle of preparing for it, and we are also looking for sponsors... A well-known regional newspaper has already said it would advertise it without charge! There's a lot to think of and to organise – this is all new for us! A **youth group from Graz** is coming to Eisenstadt for a weekend at the end of September to help distribute invitations to every house and also to take the FORUM Sunday service.

We're so thankful that the **FORUM leadership team** has come together surprisingly well. We feel that we are growing together and the responsibility is being increasingly shared among the different members of the team.

**THANK YOU for praying for us!**

### **Further prayer request for a 'hot' August...**

This month we have a number of visits from a whole lot of '**short-termers**', mainly still at the preparation stage for their placements in Ecuador, India and Tanzania. Please pray that this **very intensive time together** (psychological test and evaluation, interview, training, etc. over 2-3 days in each case) will be a real help for our young fellow workers in the countries where they will be serving. A young couple is coming back from Central Asia and we will have a debriefing meeting with them.

On **18<sup>th</sup> August** there will be **two valedictory services** on the same day, one in Traun in Upper Austria and the other in the afternoon in Villach, Carinthia. We will be travelling many miles that day! May the LORD watch over us on the road and may many blessings come out of these commissioning services.

### **'Grandchildren days'**

We have made a quick decision to go to **East Styria for four days** with Annika to join David, Claudia and our grandchildren, Timo and Lina on their holiday. We will all stay in a youth hostel and do a lot of things together. We are looking forward very much to this time together, even though it will be short!

**THANK YOU for keeping in touch**, which shows us that you not only read our emails but actively pray for us and think of us. It's so good to know that!

**PLEASE let us know what you are involved in at the moment!**

May God bless you and watch over you and your families,

**In the Vine and in the Vineyard,**

*Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich*



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