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TT - 'Travelling Together' (61)

“AS FOR ME, IT IS GOOD TO BE NEAR GOD.” (Psalm 73 v 28)

Dear Friends,

August 2014

We found the following Chinese proverb on a calendar: **“When the wind of change blows, some people build protective walls, others windmills..!”** That really made us think – especially concerning our personal lives and our interpersonal relationships, our church situation and our ministry in general. Often it seems easier to focus on the existing and the ‘safe’ and to wall ourselves in (spiritually). To what extent are we as professing Christians flexible enough, however, to face the challenges of change in society and to look for solutions without making easy compromises or bowing to the spirit of the times..? We think of the story of Jesus’ very special meeting with the woman at Jacob’s Well (John 4:5–42) **as HE answered her with words full of truth, wisdom, love and mercy.** What an effect that had! Through the woman’s testimony the whole of her Samaritan village were eager to know more of Jesus and the Good News spread like wildfire. Is this what James meant when he wrote: **“Mercy triumphs over judgement” (Jas. 2:13)?** This Sunday (3rd Aug) Hans-Georg will preach at the Eisenstadt FORUM on **“The Prostitute Rahab”** in connection with the **‘Heroes of Faith’ in Hebrews 11.** In HIS sovereignty God has allowed “such a person as that” to appear in HIS Son’s family tree..!

**How do you get on with the ‘wind of change’ in our society? ‘Protective walls’ or ‘windmills’?
Your experiences would be very valuable to us!**

We were really amazed...

There was a moving valedictory service for Manuela in the Cubic fellowship in Salzburg! (In the meantime **Manuela** and **Esther** have arrived safely in Peru.) No fewer than SEVEN of our former and current short- and long-term missionaries ‘just happened’ to be at this special event. What a happy reunion and it was all the more wonderful to hear how **ALL of them are serving in their different ways in responsible positions in their home churches in Austria,** some were even working as full-time missionaries among migrants from central Asia. WOW! One of the church leaders jokingly said to us afterwards: “Heaven will be rather boring for you, as you know everybody already..!”

We have been in contact with **Florian and Kathi** since 2002. Back then they were part of a group of nine Austrians that we were working with in Sarajevo. We have never lost touch with them since. Florian has now finished his training as an aircraft mechanic and pilot and is ready to travel abroad together with his family as a missionary pilot with MAF (**Missionary Aviation Fellowship**).

As we were writing this we received the following news:

The **young Austrian couple T and M** have had to come back early (31st July) from South Asia. T has been struggling for some weeks with severe health problems! They have been in short-term missionary service in a city since September 2013. **We commend them urgently to you for your prayers!**

Also in August...

We have future short-term missionaries coming to us for a few days for preparation: **Emanuel** who is setting off soon for **Kenya** (with us 6th–8th), **Nadine** going to **Guinea Conakry** and **Theresa** going to **Chile** (with us 14th–17th). **PLEASE PRAY** for these young people who are heading off into unfamiliar territory. At the moment the **Ebola virus** is a serious concern for all travellers in West Africa... On two consecutive Sundays (**24th and 31st August**) we will be at **valedictory services in Bad Goisern and Spittal / Drau** (Carinthia) for our short-term missionaries **Martha** and **Hanna** at their respective sending churches. We are grateful for such motivated young workers in worldwide mission.

They need much courage, God’s safekeeping and joy in their service.

“AMAMAS!” – New Melanesian (‘Pidgin’) for ‘joy’

A dear friend from Rhineland Palatinate (Germany) was in touch recently: “I had to write to you as you have been with us at our Sunday School through your song “AMAMAS” (**since 1997!!**). Next Sunday a 3-year old child from our Sunday School is being baptised and has requested the song “AMAMAS LONG JISAS” at this special occasion (as part of the main church service). I thought that was so sweet and I was so delighted that I had to tell you...”

You, our dear friends around the globe...

...are actively involved in what we are doing! THANK YOU for your prayers, especially for the ongoing work here at the Eisenstadt FORUM including preaching, house groups, children’s work, counselling... What is achieved through your prayers is incalculable! Our heartfelt THANKS also for all your practical support!

Yours in His service,



Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

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