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TT – 'Travelling Together' (95)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." (Ezekiel 36:26)

Dear Friends,

July 2017

"This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight." Phil. 1 v 9

This short verse from the Missionary Paul to the Christian Church in Philippi (eastern Greece) may sound rather excessive to us. With the concept of 'love' nowadays we think of feelings of sympathy, longing, closeness or attachment within a family. What this text really means, however, would match today's concept of '**social competence**'. If this grows, as it says in this verse, then abilities such as the following can grow: true perception of other people, empathy, the ability to hold back one's own judgements and opinions for the moment, the ability to understand one's own feelings and to show them consciously without causing hurt, to accept other people as they are, willingness to help, the ability to remain silent at the right time, being able to weigh things up, awareness of one's own fallibility, the ability to talk to one another and to plan and work together well... Admittedly this is **very challenging!** This is what was expected of the early Christian churches. Perhaps it was one of the reasons why so many people were attracted to them, why they drew large crowds which would be unimaginable today and why they spread in such a short time throughout the vast Roman Empire (in spite of the most horrific persecution of the Christians). Why shouldn't we in our churches reconnect with this original tradition? Difficult? Yes, it would be!! A pre-condition of this is the **willingness to change** – a risk that may cause us anxiety. Actually it is HIS project. This is why Paul doesn't say, "I wish that you would develop in this way", but "I'm praying for it!"

Yes, thank you for your prayers!

As we look back over the events of the past month, we realise just how busy it was! We've covered many hundreds of miles! At the Innsbruck church's **Whitsun holiday** in Mittersill there were people from **14 different countries**, e.g. Iran, Iraq, Afghani, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, France, Switzerland and many more... The translation of the **Bible studies** was an adventure in itself: from German to English, then from English to Farsi. The campfire was really memorable, under a clear starry sky against the amazing backdrop of the mountains with international music and many serious conversations going on. At the closing service we were **very encouraged** by the moving testimonies of some of the participants.

Having preached at the international Grace Church in Vienna on 18th June, Hans-Georg had the privilege of **baptising two dear friends** from the church that afternoon. The facilities of the **oldest Free Church in Austria** were made available to us (the Baptist Church in 'Mollardgasse', street name, Vienna, founded in 1869).

Still in June there was an important meeting of the **Foreign Missions Team (TAM)** in St Veit (Carinthia). Finally we were able to summarise our aims and objectives, "From Austria into all the world" – and our future path as a team, in order to present it to the BEG leadership in the coming days. We really enjoyed our exchange of thoughts and working through this together and we are looking to the future with great expectations.

The **wedding of our Austrian missionary Manuela** and Josias from Peru was a real highlight and a great privilege for us. It was held at the wonderful location of the 'Styrian Lake Constance'. We also met **Sophia**, the bride's colleague, who had travelled back from Peru especially for the occasion. It was lovely to see these two together again, having visited them out there last year. Among the guests there was also a **young family** that we've known for a long time and who have made concrete steps towards long-term missionary service. We were delighted to be able to talk through some questions which they had about their future plans.

Our 38th wedding anniversary was on the day before the wedding and it made the weekend a very special time for us!

Dates in July

2nd Jul.: We had our **4th Forum baptism service**. This time there were **six candidates, mostly young people**.

3rd-4th Jul.: Our short-termer **Johannes** from Styria has just come back from his placement in Thailand. Johannes is already **getting ready for his next placement**, namely a sports project connected to church-painting work in Prague (Czech Republic). He came to us for **debriefing**. There are still some **matters to be settled**. Your prayers would be a great help!

7th-10th Jul.: Visit from the **Swiss Mission Director** of our partner mission SIM, together with his wife.

11th-14th Jul.: **The newly-weds Manuela and Josias** are coming to Eisenstadt for **debriefing**. They are both seeking guidance for their future plans regarding their careers and missionary work.

18th Jul.: We are expecting our future **missionaries to Japan, Gerhard and Junko**, for their preparatory personality assessment. We would be grateful for your support in prayer!

16th, 23rd & 30th Jul.: **Preaching engagements** at the Eisenstadt Forum and the Grace Church.

Many thanks for your interest and your participation in all that is happening here!

Again we wish you the renewed certainty that in your everyday lives God is leading you on your path!

May you have a refreshing and blessed time over the holiday period, Yours in His service



Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

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Having the Unreached in Focus – Together

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From Tues 27th to Thurs 29th June we had a delegation from our important international partners Pioneers as guests at the DMG HQ in Buchenauerhof, Germany. Consultations were held to discuss how our strategic partnership could be expanded so that unreached people and ethnic groups can hear the Good News of Jesus.

Pioneers is one of our largest partner organisations with 3,000 workers in 100 countries. We have been working with them for many years, for example with a wheelchair project in Thailand.

The central aim of Pioneers is to establish church movements in regions where the Gospel is not yet known.

They are now considering how missionaries from other countries can be sent to Germany to work with refugees.

In the photo above (from left to right): Andrew Howes (DMG Personnel Manager, Africa), Steve Currey (Pioneers Regional Leader, Europe), Johannes Janzen (DMG and Pioneers Worker in Thailand), Dr. Detlef Bloecher, Director of DMG), Margret Hoprich (DMG Worker in Austria), Doug Stoner (Area Leader Central Europe, Pioneers), Hans-Georg Hoprich (Co-founder of Pioneers Europe and DMG Worker) and Michael Wagner (Pioneers Europe Director).