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TT – 'Travelling Together' (96)

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

Dear Friends,

August 2017

During these holiday weeks we are receiving encouragement from a powerful testimony from Paul, from his faith and his experience with the Lord Jesus: **"But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike."** Acts 26:22. – It takes courage to stand up for yourself and not to allow someone to make you change your mind. When there is something in your own situation that doesn't comply with the opinion of the majority, it can attract unwelcome attention or lead to opposition, perhaps even an aggressive reaction – but does that make it wrong? Paul remains unmoved, but shows an open attitude. He radiates confidence, he knows who carries him. He displays a remarkable calmness. He places his trust in God's help, he's experienced it so often. We do not need to justify God. Neither should we have to be right about everything in the world or even try to prove God (which wouldn't be possible anyway). To be a **witness means to live out what I have been filled with**, what I'm convinced of and what I am excited about! There are many different ways this can happen. The first step is to realise: everything I have and am, I owe to God. And so Paul's testimony is a moving expression of his gratitude to God. **Gratitude and being a witness go hand in hand!**

While on the subject of testimonies...

It was a great joy to be at our **Forum baptism** at the beginning of July and to hear the exciting testimonies of the candidates – seven in the end, mostly young people. God had led each one in very different ways to conversion and to make the decision to declare publically their new life in Jesus by getting baptised. It was raining and surprisingly cold, but there was a real **warmth of fellowship** and it was a **time of great blessing**. Back in everyday life we have heard on several occasions that **our brothers and sisters in the fellowship** have been going through difficulties and **their faith has been really tested**, particularly for those who have newly been baptised.

A special sort of witness...

In our voluntary **emergency counselling work** we are frequently confronted with tragic events and family circumstances. When, for example, following a divorce a father of two small children took his own life and whole families were devastated. There are memories which linger and we are confronted with sheer despair – we have to come to terms with these things... **Farewells by an open coffin**, the questions asked by children to which there is no real answer... And in the end we have to let go of those affected in their situation of grief. We hope that our presence in their desperate situation is an indication that there is still some help and some hope. In prayer we bring the **indescribable need of our fellow men and women** before the God of all comfort and trust that He will meet them in His own way. In the past few weeks there has been an unusually large number of call-outs, on one occasion we were called very early in the morning by the leadership team and sent into an emergency situation. It's always sudden and unexpected... **We would be very grateful for your prayers!**

Could we be witnesses somewhere else??

To avoid speculation... – We still love our fulfilling role here in Burgenland, and frequently in many other places! – There is no hint of boredom. And yet for some time we have been seeking and asking, **"Has God perhaps got another task for us in our final period of our service for Him?"** – This is one of the reasons why we will be away in mid-August. We have been invited to the **Alliance Mission (AM)** (which is one of the BEG's **more than 20 partner missions worldwide**) We wish to extend this partnership, at the same time we would also like to discuss opportunities for work placements for ourselves. NO, we are not leaving the DMG, as the **DMG and the AM have a good working relationship. YES, we have an exciting time ahead of us! Please would you pray with us for God's guidance.**

During our time in Germany...

...we will also meet the leaders of the **MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship, partner organisation of the BEG)**. – For the weekend of **12th–13th August** we have been invited to the FEG Church in Usingen in the Taunus region (about 20 miles north of Frankfurt am Main). On the Saturday Hans-Georg will give a **teaching session on baptism** to a group of candidates and others who are interested – there will also be individual discussions – and **on the Sunday he will be preaching.**

Family news

Our **'Grandma Ludwig'**, who is in relatively good health, celebrated **her 89th birthday** on 29th July. Hans-Georg's twin sister Heidi and brother-in-law Heinrich are coming to Burgenland at the end of August. For the **twins' 62nd birthday** there will be a family party with our children and grandchildren.

How are you?

We hope that you can use the summer time to be thoroughly refreshed and to 'fill up' spiritually!

Thank you for your faithfulness and for your support! It means so much to us to be able to share our lives with you!

Yours in His service,



Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

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