

# Travelling Together (100)

„I will give you a new heart and a new spirit.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | December 2017

“...because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” (Luke 1:8–79).

We have an old man to thank for these words: Zechariah. He had experienced the greatest miracle in his life: His elderly wife Elisabeth had become pregnant and had given birth to a child: John. When this event was announced to him months earlier, it left him speechless. God met Zechariah's doubt with a time for reflection: up to the time of his child's birth Zechariah was no longer able to speak! Then God releases Zechariah's tongue and he sings about the Saviour who is to come: Jesus! It's more than fatherly joy which Zechariah expresses. God's path into life with Jesus leads us out of darkness and the shadow of death. Since His coming into our world we have been celebrating Christmas. He is the 'Rising Sun' that came to us from heaven to "guide our feet into the path of peace." We wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas season with many such rays of hope!

## “TT-100” – This is really something to give thanks for!

Many of you have been following our progress for much longer than 100 months! When we think that you have been travelling with us for so long, it really warms our hearts. **We are using this 'Anniversary' as an opportunity to thank all of you** for being involved so faithfully in all that we are doing! **We love to think about you** and we rejoice over every greeting of encouragement – whether it is a couple of lines (via WhatsApp), or a photo, a "real letter" or a postcard, a prayer request – and we rejoice over your participation in prayer and giving! Here is our last news update (for the moment) for this year.

The weeks of November were **filled with all kinds of occasions when we met other people**, including the annual meeting of delegates from the Association of Evangelical Churches (BEG) in Austria which was held in A-Bad Aussee on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November. The number of BEG churches has now reached 56, spread across all the states of Austria. There is a great spiritual break-through in our country! Many churches are actively involved in serving among refugees.

## What is happening now and what is yet to come...

Recently we have had several very **long and serious conversations** on Skype with various mission leaders from three different countries and we now know something more about possible places of service in connection with our future work. In the meantime, however, we are still **focussed on what we are doing at the moment** and we are very much occupied with the responsibility for our Austrian missionaries and their support after we leave (this is planned for the middle of next year). Together with some young committed fellow workers we are looking for good solutions. We are delighted that in the meantime **four more Austrian families** – with good professional qualifications – have come forward for full-time missionary service in various countries and areas of ministry. They are at different stages of their preparation: building up a circle of supporters, theological training and further professional qualifications. They need a lot of prayer and practical support and advice! We are coming up to a long-planned visit (7<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> Dec.) to see an Austrian-German family who have been doing good work in **the eastern Mediterranean area** in difficult circumstances for many years. There are also international colleagues in this area with whom we have planned to start consulting. We are hoping this will be an encouraging time of fellowship. The family is longing for their team to be strengthened by having new fellow workers to serve alongside them.

## Advent and Christmas at the Eisenstadt Forum

For the coming four Sundays our church has planned some unusual church services on **“Christmas in Four Words”**: “Stress” (3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.), “Decorations” (10<sup>th</sup> Dec.), “Presents” (17<sup>th</sup> Dec.) and “Father Christmas” (24<sup>th</sup> Dec.). For many people this will be what these next few weeks will be about... On 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. the Forum will once again be present at the **club stall at the Christmas market** in Eisenstadt with their own original ideas. We are pleased to be able to reach for Jesus those in our area who are far from faith. Immediately after Christmas we are expecting **a visit from our dear friends from Chile... Matti and Maren** – both of them were very actively involved in organising the ETNIAS Missionary Conference last year in Santiago.

## Papua New Guinea Project

At the moment we are busy finding out the **best deal for our flights to PNG** where we will take part in the Anniversary Conference in April 2018. We have heard back from various friends in PNG and there is a lot of excitement over there! But it is **still a long way...** If anyone wishes to help us with the cost of our flights, **please see below for information on how to send donations.**

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas, the reminder that GOD has given us the best thing: JESUS! May we receive from Him, so that we can give to others from this abundance – also in the year ahead!

Yours in His Service

*Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich*

## ‘Prayercorner’

We give thanks for:

- You, our dear friends
- The break-throughs in Austria
- Our Austrian fellow workers
- The four missionary candidates

Pray for:

- Clear guidance
- The people we will meet on our visit (7<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> Dec.)
- Blessing on all the activities at the Eisenstadt Forum
- future of the The Foreign Missions Department (TAM)

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