

Travelling Together (101)

„To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life.“ (Rev 21:6)

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | January 2018

“The seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals nor the alien within your gates.” (Deuteronomy 5:14).

God commands us to rest one day a week, to spend time with our Creator. A day of reflection in which we do not have to prove that we have done something. A day for playing, reading, thinking, listening, making music, relaxing and spending quality time with our loved ones. It doesn't mean, “It is forbidden to work on the day of rest”, rather, “You should not...” It is not an outright ban, but rather a guide to help us keep on track – we still have choices. As with so much in the Bible, there is no compulsion that God lays on us, **no additional law**. We are allowed to rest! Isn't that a wonderful gift that God is giving us? God doesn't expect us to go all out 24/7 in order to do things to please Him. This is really **unique among the religions**, because it's not about what we do, but about what Jesus has done for us! God knows what is good for us, even when we sometimes avoid having this day of rest because everything else seems so important. He reminds us that in it we don't have to achieve anything, but we are simply allowed to have a break. May we gratefully accept this gift from His hand!

Ooh... it's all going so quickly!

Already we are at the beginning of a new year – an exciting one! **Thank you for all your support**, for your all-important intercession for us, for your faithfulness and your interest in our work! It is simply an immeasurable privilege to have this kind of backing! We're also grateful for our extended family with whom we have had a wonderful time over Christmas. Right up to New Year's Eve, we had **visitors from Chile, England and Germany!** These international contacts did us a lot of good! We love spending time with other people..!

Looking back...

Indeed we really have experienced God's intervention in 2017 in a personal way, especially during Margret's illness! The following words from the well-known (German) hymn: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation” come back to us when we reflect on the past year: **“What need or grief / Ever hath failed of relief / Wings of His mercy did shade thee.”** We are filled with much gratitude, as we have been able to continue our work joyfully. We don't take this for granted and we accept it as a gift from God's hand.

Nine days in Asia Minor

In mid-December we visited our fellow workers in the eastern Mediterranean area, at their request. It was an unforgettable experience meeting the few people from the majority religion who had found the Lord Jesus! They endure a lot of pressure from their relations and their circumstances, but through it their trust in the Lord has become greater. We were particularly struck by **a local man, Resit, an 89-year old vet** who is much respected although he is the only Christian for miles around... or perhaps even because of it? His wife to whom he's been married for 64 years, and his children look after him, but they certainly do not share his faith. One evening we met up with a **group of young VW car fans** and friends of our co-worker (nominal Mu.sl.ims). They very much wanted hear about our time in Papua New Guinea. Of course we were glad to do that and we showed them our photos. But how could we bring home to them who Jesus is and what He has done for us? We used the hair-raising picture of a bridge made out of vines, high above a raging mountain torrent – God has made a bridge to reach us hopeless, lost people... **More to come soon in a “TT-EXTRA”!**

Street children in Ghana

Straight after we had got back we had a visit from **Sophie, a young psychologist from Carinthia**. On her own initiative she had set up an orphanage in Ghana. For a while now she has been looking for the opportunity to belong to a sending missionary organisation. We spent some busy and encouraging days with her, getting to know each other better and making plans to work together in the future. Sophie still needs more people to back her in prayer and give regularly to support her fantastic project.

Our future...

We are still in the process of finding out where our **ministry will be focused next, from the second half of the year onwards**. In the meantime further opportunities have arisen in the area of caring for workers on the mission field ('Member Care'). Thank you for being interested in our future – you keep on asking about it! We're encouraged by that, **and we will keep you up to date** – is that OK?

The New Year...

Initiated by our family practitioner we're being allowed to start off with **three weeks together at a health clinic** in the spa town of Aflenz in Styria. This will include thorough medical check-ups, various forms of exercise, lectures about healthy living and a very strict diet. We're really looking forward to this! **Immediately afterwards some missionary candidates** are coming to us for a time of preparation, and some **returners** for debriefing.

From the bottom of our hearts we wish you all an exciting future in your life with the Lord Jesus in 2018 – may HIS good blessings be with you! Greetings from Burgenland!

Yours in His service,

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

Prayercorner'

Praise God for...

- The gift to stay at the Health Clinic
- God's presence with us in 2017
- Our international friends
- The blessing in Asia Minor

Please pray for...

- Missionaries and candidates
- Co-workers for Asia Minor
- Clear guidance
- Future of Foreign Missions Dept. (TAM)

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Thank you for receiving our prayer letter

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