

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 | February 2018

“The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so that you may obey it.” Deut 30 v 14

Every morning God could tattoo His will for us on our arms in big letters, but we still would fail to do His word, just as we fail to grasp that we should eat more healthily, do more sport, believe more passionately and treat others with greater love. It is all well and good that we should make an effort and set ourselves goals, but sinlessness sadly does not lie in our being: the silence of God was never the problem, but people's hearts. For this reason the Word of God had to become flesh in Jesus Himself (Jn 1 v 14) and die for our guilt. It was the only chance to break through the human story of eternal failure. Whoever seeks God's will for him/herself, should not think first of their own endless catalogue of questions and answers, but of God's great 'Yes' to us. Whoever believes this Word, it becomes very near to them. Whoever keeps this Word in their mouth and in their heart, will live in a covenant relationship with God.

Four weeks in 'rehab' – it was a real gift to us!

On 30th Jan. the extra week of our time in Aflenz (Styria) came to an end! Right at the start it was explained to us that this kind of 'rehab' was more intensive than a 'cure' ('taking the waters') and it would be conducted along stricter lines. We had to get used to it, but our initial doubts changed into deep **gratitude**. We were grateful for having the privilege of having thorough medical check-ups and being looked after. We were grateful for the various kinds of exercise, training sessions, instructions and our special diet. This is why we're in the best of health and we are able to start our very full February schedule with renewed energy. On the Sundays during our stay at the clinic we had the opportunity to visit our **BEG church in Kapfenberg**. It was a great encouragement to us to have warm fellowship with our friends there and to take communion with them! They had been involved in outreach, giving out the attractive **evangelistic Calendars** and they had quite a number left over, so we snapped them up and gave them out in the 'rehab' clinic, to our doctors, to the staff and especially to our fellow patients, with whom we got into some good conversations. There really were a lot of them! Without exception the calendars were gladly accepted – people were genuinely delighted to have them. Quite a few were given pride of place before our very eyes...

Now we are praying that the Bible verses and the brief 'thought for the day' linked with them will be understood and that they will prepare the way for the Lord Jesus!

Our visit to Papua New Guinea (PNG) is drawing nearer...

Many, many warm thanks to all of you who have been helping make this trip a reality. It will be our first visit to our former place of service, since we came back in 1996. **The dates are roughly 9th Apr.–28th May**. Our trip still needs some planning and preparation – we are right in the middle of it! We have no illusions that everything will go according to plan... It's not for nothing that PNG gets called the **"Land of the Unexpected"** (see e.g. <https://thorstenmehret.exposure.co/papua-new-guinea-land-of-the-unexpected>). People say things like, **"...anything can happen to you over there..!"** It is so important that we have been able to get in touch with the right people on the ground and to organise all our meetings and trips inland without any obstacles thus far. **Please see side-panel for information on how to send donations.**

We are expecting many guests in February!

Our returners **Daniel** (short-term), back from India, and **Sophia** (long-term), back from Peru, are coming to us for debriefing... Likewise **Tobias & Esther** who wish to be based in the IT department of a large missionary organisation in Austria. **Raphael** is preparing to go to Niger on a short-term placement – his valedictory service is on 11th Feb. and his flight is booked for 25th Feb. Prior to this he is coming to us for preparation. A recent addition is **Monika**, a young teacher with a heart for Romanian orphans. **Ines** is interested in working in the medical sector. **Verena & Sara** are aiming to go to the Andes hospital 'Diospi Suyana' in Peru... We had been in discussions with **Andreas** – sadly he has since become seriously ill, so his plans have had to be put on hold. **Felicitas** is looking for short-term work in France... **And there are many others...** Besides all these, there are also our other Austrian short-term and long-term missionaries that we are looking after who are 'out there' at the moment.

With the many different personalities, circumstances and complex questions that arise, we need a lot of wisdom and sufficient time to listen and to give advice.

Important!

Please pray for **Timna**, who is gradually preparing to take over our areas of responsibility within the **Foreign Missions Department (TAM)**. On 21st Feb. she is coming to us for the day to spend a full day going through everything with us. Besides this we are discussing many things with her by telephone, e-mail and WhatsApp...

We would like to thank you in particular and very warmly for all your interest in our progress, for your enquiries, prayers and support! No way do we take this for granted!

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika

'Prayercorner'

Praise God for...

- God's Word being near to us
- The gift of our time in the clinic
- Finance for the PNG trip
- All our long- and short-term missionaries

Please pray for...

- Blessing to come through the calendars
- Our preparations for PNG
- Wisdom for our candidates
- Timna taking over at TAM

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