

TT - Travelling Together (No)

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

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | November 2018

“And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” Rev 21:2
What an unbelievable vision!

The first of thing John sees is a new heaven and a new earth. The new heaven and the new earth are crowned with the new heavenly Jerusalem. This is the place of everlasting joy, this is the moment when we will see the Lord Jesus face to face – for ever!

This is the time of celebration, the time of joy, like at a wonderful wedding.

In ancient times in the East the image of a ‘beautifully dressed bride’ stands for indescribable beauty and splendour. This combines the ideas of dignity, purity, and clarity.

The inhabitants of this city come from every part of the world and from all ages.

This prophetic vision, the foretaste of heaven, the wonderful bride, the bringing together of heaven and earth and the presence of God with us people: may the anticipation of this brighten our hearts and minds, may it give us fresh encouragement to take many with us along the path to it – not just at this time of year when the nights are drawing in!

We hadn't even unpacked our travel bags...

...when we were off again – this time to South Germany to the wedding of Margret's nephew. It was wonderful to meet up again with dear friends and relations.

Benjamin also attended the wedding and took the opportunity to show his family the Swabian region.

Sebastian spent a few days with the DMG at the Buchenauerhof – for him it was a little piece of home ...

In the meantime we have arrived safely back in Burgenland and we're enjoying being in our familiar surroundings once again, our own bed, with the wonderful autumn colours around us... and now we're trying to digest all our experiences...

Three weeks in South Africa – where it's springtime!

Week One:

Our 'taster visit' to this fascinating country began with an uneventful night flight from Vienna to Johannesburg via Cairo.

In the early morning we were met by Daniel the SIM regional office manager of our partner mission and right away Hans-Georg found himself driving on the left in the heavy traffic of this city of millions as we made our way to the guesthouse. What an unexpected adjustment to have to make and a good test of our flexibility!

A full schedule awaited us as we sought to make full use of our time there.

Whenever possible we spent a few hours with the staff in the SIM mission office (<https://sim.org.za>) getting to know each other.

At the weekend some Canadian co-workers took us to see the sights of this huge city with its turbulent history, its gold mines and its memorials to the end of Apartheid. Along the busy streets the wonderful Jacaranda trees were in flower with their stunning mauve blossom.

Johannesburg is at an altitude of 1,700m and in the spring the climate is cool to mild.

We were taken to the Edenvale Baptist Church (<http://www.ebcusa.org.za>) – where, interestingly enough, there was a mission week. We felt very welcome at the prayer breakfast and at the Sunday service.

Week Two:

There was the special opportunity to get to know the SIM field leaders and their co-workers at the “eMseni Conference Centre” (<http://emsenichristiancentre.co.za>) – the co-workers came from countries such as Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi and, of course, South Africa.

There were interesting reports from the various countries, training sessions in overcoming conflict and trauma, evening group discussions about important matters such as how to deal with injustice, which gave us a deep insight into the cultures of these areas.

Prayercorner'

Praise God for...

- Joyful anticipation of things to come
- Safekeeping, valuable meetings
- Being sent out by the BEG
- You, our faithful 'team members'

Please pray for...

- clear guidance
- Visits to Klaus & confirmation cla.
- Margret's sister after cancer op.
- Manuel

What are you occupied with?
What would you like us to pray for?

Contact



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Best of all were the joint prayer times, both at the conference and with our colleagues in the SIM office and when we met the missionaries from the Gauteng Province (north-east S. Africa) – they were from India, Malaysia, Brazil, Canada, Switzerland, Germany and South Africa – **what a wonderful mix!**

In the SIM office we then had the opportunity to give a detailed presentation of our work up till now.

Over the weekend our former **"All Nations" fellow student Jenni** and her two friends took us to a farm 2 hours north of Johannesburg. It was very romantic staying out there in the savannah in round huts with straw roofs; we had some bad weather including a thunderstorm and a power cut. We enjoyed a "Braai" – the traditional South African barbecue, which still worked somehow in spite of the heavy rain. It was lovely **to meet up with Jenni again after 34 years...**

Week Three: Cape Town!

After a two-hour flight south everything looked very different – greener and more fertile! This amazing city is spread out at the foot of the Table Mountain – white beaches that stretch for miles, a surfer's paradise, home of the African penguins found nowhere else.

Fishing harbours, cruise ships, unreal sunsets... On our first day there we were the guests of our **DMG colleagues Winfried & Hildegard Steiner**, who gave us a very interesting insight into life in Cape Town and their area of service.

We were given a warm welcome at the SIM office there. The leaders there took time to talk to us in some detail about the possibility of working in Member Care in southern Africa. Certainly there would be **some hurdles** to overcome, in particular regarding the **visa required for South Africa** and in the area of administration.

It was interesting to have a longer discussion with the leader for the Southern Africa Region, a national who was very interested in the **method of working with local churches and partnerships with our BEG Foreign Missions Team (TAM)**.

Perhaps some of this can be put into practice in South Africa itself.

During the **SIM Day of Prayer** Hans-Georg **gave a brief message** and again he was able to share about Austria and the work that we have now finished with TAM and the Eisenstadt Forum Church.

Hans-Georg had a spontaneous invitation from Freeman, a young Zulu and SIM worker, to give a **short 'pep talk'** to his football team of young lads who come from difficult social backgrounds and to pray with them ahead of their tournament.

On the recommendation of friends we attended a "Mega Church", it was our final church service in South Africa in a "Hillsong Church" (<https://hillsong.com/southafrica/century-city/>) with a 1000-strong congregation... The worship time was remarkably short, but the Bible message was very clear (2 Cor. 5 v 10: "Judgement and Grace")! It was all very unusual, but at the same time we found it encouraging...

At the end of our time in South Africa we met an **Austrian-South African family** to share ideas and long-time **DMG missionaries Ulli and Heide Lehmann in Stellenbosch**. Immediately afterwards another missionary took us to see a really dangerous 'Township' on the outskirts of Cape Town. **Sam & Mo** have been working there for many years and God has been blessing their work among the socially underprivileged and in particular among their **M.us.li.m neighbours**. We sat in fascination as we listened to their stories and experiences of God's intervention, of His safekeeping, of miracles and conversions!

We've now been back in Austria since 31st Oct. and **we're excited to see how things will work out now...**

There will certainly be more in our next "TT"!

One last time...

9th-10th November we're travelling to the **annual delegates' gathering** of our BEG Association of Churches. We were given an **official invitation** as it will be our **final time with them**. We are very moved by this and we are overwhelmed by the willingness of our Austrian brothers and sisters to bless us for our new area of service and to send us out. We don't take this for granted and it's **something we are very grateful for!**

What we've got coming up...

17th-19th Nov.: Visiting **Klaus in Carinthia** – he is seriously ill, he's interested in the faith and has invited us to see him.

25th Nov.: **Preaching engagement** at the Grace Church in Vienna

27th-28th Nov.: Continuation of the **Member Care Course** at the AWM in Korntal, Germany – "Conversation & Good Communication"

28th Nov.: Afternoon visit to **two confirmation candidates' classes** at our **home church St Peter's in Gerlingen, S. Germany**

Many heartfelt thanks!

You have been holding us up in prayer and we have really felt it! We were kept safe on all those long journeys! Thank you for your faithful intercession, for all your support – you have really enriched our lives!

May the Lord Jesus continue to bless you,

Hans-Georg & Margret