

TT – Travelling Together (121)

„Seek peace and pursue it!“ (Psalm 34:14)

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | October 2019

“They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on.” Mk 12:44

The Lord Jesus stood by the offering boxes and observed the pious as they gave. There were rich people who gave out of their wealth – with probably a great jingling of coins. Then there was the poor widow who put in two ‘lepta’, probably worth about 1 Euro. Everyone would have looked away in embarrassment, thinking, “That’s not enough to keep the temple running!” And: One can’t cover the personnel cost. Jesus had been quiet up until that point. HE then stirred into action and called HIS disciples together: **“See that woman? She hasn’t just given a tithe, she’s given 100%...!”** You could say it was foolish, but you could also call it ‘acting in faith’. This widow is free of the fear of losing out in life. Not long afterwards, Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice and gave Himself totally into the hands of His heavenly Father. **How do we succeed in giving in the right way, as God wishes?** The best thing is to see what the Bible says: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” – “God loves a cheerful giver.” ... – How can I give (besides money): helping, sharing? **To follow Jesus means** opening your hands, to give freely (also our time?) and to share with others. And there is God’s promise: **“I will bless you and you will be a blessing.”**

First of all...

We would like to **THANK you so much** for reading our TT-Newsletters and bringing our prayer requests before the LORD. May HE reward your faithful ministry. We have a renewed awareness that we are on the front line in a spiritual battle and we really do need **your prayers alongside us, carrying us. THANK YOU so much for this!**

Ministry in the Balkans...

For over ten years, **Croatian missionaries M & I, together with their three sons**, have been involved in a very challenging church planting work in **Nova Gradiska**, a town in east Croatia not far from the border with Bosnia. The town has about 15,000 inhabitants. At the start, they were part of a very promising team, but soon they were left on their own. Sunday after Sunday they meet in a small meeting room with just a **handful of Christians**. We are **amazed at their persistence** in spite of isolation and adversity. For a whole year, they have been praying for guidance and now they know that in 2020 their next place of work will be a larger church in the capital, Zagreb. The time we spent with them was intensive, taken up with deep discussions, covering their ministry to date, their future and their time of transition, looking back together in gratitude. On the Sunday we went with them to the **Baptist Church in Slavonski Brod** (also in Croatia). Hans-Georg was asked to preach. In the evening, we had the opportunity to tell the small group of Christians in Nova Gradiska the exciting story of God’s grace and work in our lives. The next day we travelled on to **Bosnia**, going up into the mountains. Some of the route was on untarmacked single-track roads with passing places – quite an adventure! In a place not far from Sarajevo, we met the **Bosnian couple M & D**. They are serving in two different places. Their open hearts and their dedicated humanitarian work have opened doors for them to serve their fellow Bosnians, some of whom are M.us.lim. In spite of past difficulties and failures, this couple are **pursuing** their ministry with **joy and dedication**. Here as well we talk about what has happened, about forgiveness following disappointments and misunderstandings, and discuss crucial decisions regarding their future. We gave thanks to the Lord for their many contacts and for all the positive developments.

Back in Eisenstadt: we needed a couple of days to go over all that had happened and to process everything. Besides some **minor damage to our car** (‘hit-and-run’) while parked in Slavonski Brod, there weren’t any other mishaps, for which we are very grateful!

... and in the Austrian Tirol

The last weekend in September we went to a two-day international conference in Innsbruck on ‘Ethics’ in connection with our **emergency counselling work** (sponsored by the Red Cross). Hans-Georg had an invitation to preach on the Sunday in the **FEG church in Innsbruck**. The Pastor and church leader, Dr Bright Ngetia comes from Ghana and the congregation is a colourful mix. This church has been through an eventful time. Amazingly the story of **‘The Road to Emmaus’** (Lk 24) was a recurring theme throughout the weekend. It was the subject of a lecture during the conference and also the basis for Hans-Georg’s sermon: **“The most important Bible study ever”** (Lk 24:27).

Off again...

5th–9th Oct.: our deputation work took us to the **FEG church in D-Usingen** (north of Frankfurt). Preaching at their Thanksgiving Service and giving a report on our ‘Cup of Joy’ Project at the Eisenstadt Forum Church.

13th Oct.: Hans-Georg is preaching again at the **Grace Church in Vienna:** ‘Cultural Discomfort’

25th–27th Oct.: **Church in Nuremberg** (Bavaria). Bible study, preaching on the Sunday, visiting friends and supporters. We hope to **catch up with a good number of our friends in that area!**

Your prayers would be much valued as we prepare for these events, and **for safekeeping** on the long car journeys, and for **HIS blessing and spiritual fruit** in our life and in the lives of those we serve!

The days in between our times away are taken up with **conversations with colleagues around the globe** via Skype, having many **visitors**, holding **counselling sessions** and **looking after our grandchildren**.

A closing thought from George W. Peters (1907–1988): **“May my Good Shepherd always find me with a plan, but may I always be willing to allow God to change my plans!”**

Yours in His service,

Hans-Georg & Margret

‘Prayercorner’

Praise God for...

- Jesus: God’s perfect Gift to us
- M’s brother Christoph is improving!
- Valued colleagues in the Balkans
- You – our faithful ‘team members’

Please pray for...

- Wisdom in priorities: ministry, family
- Manuel’s recovery and future
- New co-workers for the Balkans
- Strength, safekeeping for our travels

What are you occupied with?

What would you like us to pray for?

Contact



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Thank you for receiving our prayer letter

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