

TT – Travelling Together (126)

„I believe. Help my unbelief!” Mark 9:24

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | March 2020

“What I say to you, I say to everyone, ‘Watch!’” Mk 13:37 – “Watch!” – that sounds familiar – we think of the disciples asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane. In Mark 13 we hear about “the beginnings of birth-pains”, great difficulties, distress and strange disasters heralding the return of the LORD. The command to “Keep watch” comes after the parable of the fig tree. The tree is full of sap. It’s harvest time. No one knows when the master of the house is coming back. That’s why we should **keep watch! Count on it – HE is coming!** Be watchful – in spite of every care and need which drains your energy. In spite of all apocalyptic ‘end of the world’ scenarios, including the Coronavirus, we can as Christians look forward to what is to come. Yes, going through life with watchfulness and expectation can be something lovely – **like joyful anticipation**. We can also think of meerkats – we love them! They take keeping watch very seriously... Watchfulness is also connected with **looking at my own life**: What isn’t right? Where am I going astray? Where have I shut God out? Where have I grown weary of faith? Am I awake for HIS Word, HIS presence? Meerkats change the watch several times a day. What a lovely picture of the church: **watching out for one another**. Passiontide can be a wake-up call and also a **practice run**. This will help us to be wide-awake when the time comes!

Proverbs 16:9: “A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps...”

We sent out our previous TT to you, telling you about the **PIONEERS Leadership Course in Chiang Mai, Thailand**, following on shortly after our visit to Israel. Then everything changed! Report followed report on a daily basis on the dramatic spread of the Coronavirus. Due to the travel restrictions being introduced in Asia, the course had to be called off in the end – It has been postponed to 2021. We were rather relieved – the two trips would have been almost too close together... Most of the others who would have been on the course are scattered throughout the world. In the meantime, we have had the chance to ‘meet’ them via a late-night ‘Zoom’ video conference.

Grateful for the special timing of our visit to Israel

We spent a whole week touring this fascinating country, together with 44 others from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and even Brazil! It was unbelievable what we saw each day: the **Biblical sites** of (Tel Aviv), Jaffa (Jonah), Mount Carmel (Elijah), Lake Galilee, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Cana (the first miracle), Nazareth, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Jerusalem... only to mention a few! Time and again we listened in wonder to the various Bible passages connected to these different places. In the evenings, we gathered to sing and pray together and to prepare for the next day. On the day, before the group was due to fly home we travelled from Jerusalem back to **Tiberius** to see some dear friends and celebrate the start of the Sabbath with them, and to get to know the **large messianic church “Peniel”**. We will never forget how they read out **Isaiah 53 in Hebrew**: “The Suffering Servant of God”!

There is SO MUCH MORE to tell you...! In the coming days we will send you a “TT – EXTRA” with our ‘diary’ and some of our photos. If you wish, **we have more pictures we can send via WhatsApp...**

We left Israel on 5th March on what turned out to be one of the last flights to Austria. The next day flights between Austria and Israel were stopped: **God’s perfect timing!**

E-mail – Skype – WhatsApp – Zoom...

In the coming weeks these will be our main means of keeping in touch. No, we won’t be bored, in spite of the strict, unprecedented restrictions in public life. Our **PIONEERS co-workers** are still in ministry all around the world and we can still keep in touch with them and get to know them better. We can still hold **interviews, advisory consultations, regular meetings** via **Skype and prayer times** with our PIEU Team. There are also many things that are waiting to be dealt with. For instance we received an email from a highly qualified young **couple from Central Asia**: both have the desire and the calling to go into full-time ministry. How can we bring this about in their complicated situation and how can they build up a network of supporters? We are **really grateful for the extra time we’ve been given** and we wish to put it to good use!

Even in the **Eisenstadt Forum Church** we are looking for ways to encourage one other, e.g. ‘live-streaming’ of church services, and exchanging phone calls and text messages. It is perhaps something that we need to get used to, but this is the way we will keep in touch in times such as these...

“Help! I’m supposed to be holding a funeral service...”

“Can you advise me?” We have held **seminars and one-day workshops** on **“Funerals and Helping the Bereaved”** throughout all the federal states of Austria, and since then we have been getting enquiries from church workers seeking help: “Someone has died – **what should I do?**” They need to think about meeting the bereaved relatives to plan the funeral, the questions to ask and the kind of ceremony the family would prefer. So we share our experience. This is gratefully accepted and appears to **fill the gaps**. It’s important to us that the caller comes back to us after the funeral to tell us how it went.

We’re never weary...

...of giving THANKS to the LORD for your love, your encouragement, your prayers and your practical support! With your help we manage to overcome many difficult, often painful situations and we find healing at the foot of the Cross of Jesus. And we rejoice to see HIS intervention and HIS hand at work! Yours in HIS service,

Hans-Georg & Margret

„Prayercorner”

Praise God for...

- Anticipation of what’s to come
- The gift of our visit to Israel
- Our dedicated PIEU Team
- You – our faithful ‘team members’

Please pray for...

- The present crisis: an opportunity?
- Wisdom in our many conversations
- Our wider family at this time
- Manuel: to find healing

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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