

TT – Travelling Together (127)

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

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | April 2020

“What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.” 1 Cor 15:42 – “Perishable” – not a nice word! It’s one that can even make us feel queasy. At the moment we think of the rows of white refrigerated trailers lined up outside a hospital in New York. Near them, there is the smell of perishing of the hundreds who have died from the Coronavirus! If, in the course of a conversation, someone says something about us being ‘perishable’, we would be embarrassed and we would back away. We are **masters at backing away** when it comes to the one thing that links us to all life on earth – and which none of us can avoid – our own mortality. The Apostle Paul doesn’t beat about the bush: the **heart of the Christian message** is about our own mortality and about us being perishable. Since the Lord Jesus Christ is risen, death has lost its dread for all who follow HIM! It’s no longer a full stop, but a **colon**, indicating there’s more to come! It is still sown as perishable – but through the resurrection of Jesus, our resurrection in a new imperishable body is guaranteed – for eternal fellowship with HIM. This chapter ends in triumph: **“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where, is your victory? O death, where, is your sting?” (V 55)**

With this hope of resurrection in our hearts...

...let us all be a bright light for those who have a lot of anxiety at the moment. God will give us the strength and the love to do this. Recently a **Pastor** died in Italy; he’d passed his **ventilator** on to a younger patient. His church had got the ventilator especially for him, as the hospital didn’t have enough. But **he gave it away!** This selfless act presumably showed his church more about Jesus than all his sermons. And not just to his church, but in the midst of the hopelessness, fear and despair around him he bore witness: **JESUS IS ALIVE! How will people see Jesus at this time?** We are grateful that God is giving us creative ideas and opportunities to witness for HIM in our neighbourhood. For instance a **large colourful bunch of tulips** can be made into three bunches, one to keep and two to place on the doorstep of people on their own, with a personal greeting card and a little message explaining about the resurrection of Jesus and inviting them to have faith in Him. **We’re excited to hear YOUR ideas!**

“What kind of restrictions are you experiencing in your ministry at the moment?”

We keep getting asked questions like this... Actually, our day-to-day work hasn’t changed too much due to the restrictions! Many of our activities (worldwide member care, team meetings, counselling and planning) take place **over the internet**. A big **prayer request** would be for the interviews with four new co-workers and co-worker families. Two of them are from ‘completely closed’ countries in central Asia, a family from Croatia and another from Russia and the USA. Once again – and as **Pioneers Europe-Team** – we need so much wisdom and really sensitive understanding in these inter-cultural meetings with our future co-workers. We wish to help them through the **application process** and prepare them for their future ministry. At present most of our missionaries have stayed in the countries where they are serving so they can support the people around them. Often the medical and hygiene conditions are far from ideal. We are praying for **safekeeping** and **encouragement** for them. At present we have the example of **Linda(*)**, a young colleague who is currently on home assignment. Her sending church feels no longer able to support her financially due to the Coronavirus crisis. Because of this, she was compelled to sign on as unemployed in her home country... How will things work out for her? Linda is just one among many of our people throughout the world who are facing similar challenges at the moment. – We are **full of gratitude** that we have you as our friends supporting us during the current time of uncertainty! (*not her real name)

“Thirty Days of Prayer for the Muslim World”

Can we draw your attention to this initiative? Christians across the world will be praying for Muslims during the month of **Ramadan (24th Apr–23rd May)**. During this time, Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. Every Muslim makes the effort to avoid anything unlawful or impure, in deed, word or thought. In normal times throughout Ramadan, families and friends meet after sunset to eat and to enjoy their time together. This is very important for them and helps them to get through the extreme effort of **self-discipline** and **abstinence**. If the **restrictions on contact** due to the Coronavirus aren’t eased by the start of Ramadan, it may have a **negative effect** on the emotional wellbeing of Muslims. During Ramadan Muslims are called to examine their lives, to be reconciled to one another and in general to be a better person. We can ask God that He will meet them as a **loving Father** and that they will know that in **Jesus they can have access** to God, their Creator, without having to go to such lengths. For further information and for prayer requests (Adult & Kid’s Edition): <https://www.30daysprayer.com/booklets/>

For the challenges of this special time...

...we wish you God’s protection, safekeeping and HIS deep peace: **SHALOM!**
HE is still in control and will direct everything according to HIS good purpose.
We have every reason for hope!
JESUS has defeated death! HE is risen – HE is alive!

Yours in HIS service,

Hans-Georg & Margret

„Prayercorner”

Praise God for...

- Jesus’s victory over hell, death, devil
- Many opportunities to witness
- Improving: Manuel’s skin condition
- You – our faithful ‘team members’

Please pray for...

- Interviews with future co-workers
- More workers for God’s harvest
- Provision, safekeeping for workers
- Ramadan: For many to pray...

What are you occupied with?

What would you like us to pray for?

Contact

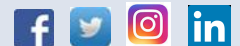


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Thank you for receiving our prayer letter

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