

TT – Travelling Together (135)

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

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | December 2020

“Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives.” Isaiah 58:7 (GNB)



“Whoever dives in with God will come up next to the poor!” This saying has a truth in it which is not unlike what Isaiah is saying in God’s Name. To ‘dive in’ wholeheartedly and be with people: The poor, the needy and the suffering. With those who are looking for somewhere to call home and who need protection. Those who are longing for security, warmth, acceptance. Am I to ‘dive in’ here? Devote myself to this? Immerse myself in this? To be totally occupied with this and not shrink

away? **This is exactly what God does:** HE sets off! HE comes into this world! HE ‘dives in’ wholeheartedly! HE comes to a young woman called Mary and a young man by the name of Joseph. Together with them, HE enters the world. HE comes to join us. God becomes a human being. HE takes on our need. HE immerses Himself in our misery. **HE comes to stand alongside us in the deepest valleys and the loftiest heights of our life.** HE wants to save us and to meet our need. And we are to get involved and do what God does: ‘dive in’ with people. Overcome our reluctance. To be there where we are needed. Completely and wholeheartedly. **“Do as God did – become human!”**

SWOT analysis and other activities...

In our Pioneers Europe Team (PIEU), we communicate in English. Recently with the help of SWOT, we have managed to look back over the past year. SWOT stands for **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats. It is a tool for strategic planning. We were all very encouraged to see how our newly formed team has grown together into a strong spiritual unit within a year. We’re multinational – from seven different countries – and we complement each other in a really special way, we are always learning together and we share our concerns and experiences. **Several times a week** we meet on **ZOOM** for prayer, team consultations, getting to know candidates and their sending churches; also to give advice and to negotiate partnerships with missionary organisations on the ground... In the midst of all the Covid restrictions, we can still carefully nurture contact with our co-workers throughout the world. We do this via countless WhatsApp messages and conversations on Skype...

Early in 2000, Hans-Georg was **one of the founder members of PIEU**. At that time, **Jarko & Elena (a Serbian-Slovakian couple)** were living in Vienna. They were in employment and both were important co-workers in what was then the Yugoslavian church. They knew God was calling them to go to their homeland and they were the first missionaries to be sent from Austria to the Balkans by the newly formed PIEU. Jarko was 51 when together with his wife he started to set up **‘Antioch’, a missionary organisation** out there, and to support its co-workers. Jarko is now 70 and after 19 years, they are both going into a well-earned retirement at the end of the year. Together with them, we are preparing their final report and assessment. Give thanks with us for these faithful co-workers!

V. is a young highly motivated teacher from Russia who is currently studying for his Master’s Degree in Finland in preparation for going to serve in a country, which is strictly closed to the Gospel. Through a good relationship with a team already stationed there V. has even received a firm personal invitation from the king of this country. We are in the process of supporting V. as he makes **his preparations**, which is one of our core responsibilities. We are discussing with him some important decisions, which have to be made e.g. regarding a partnership with his sending church in the Crimea, and also the financial support for his future ministry.

It is **a great joy** to us – and exciting – to be able to continue to introduce you to part of our ‘flock’ of PIEU co-workers. **God is using them to write HIS story** and you can be a part of it through prayer.

Comfort is needed...

Our family is in need of comfort at this time! Within the space of 24 hours Claudia, our son David’s wife, lost a grandmother and a granddad. It was a **bitter blow** especially for our grandchildren, Timo and Lina, who are missing them very much! – We are looking forward so much to spending time with our **children and their families during the Christmas period!**

The third Sunday in Advent!

After many long weeks without a church service, we were at last able to meet together in the morning and in the afternoon at the **Eisenstadt Forum**. Hans-Georg preached on both occasions.

His next **preaching engagement will be on 27th Dec.** at the Grace Church in Vienna – God willing!

Many heartfelt THANKS!

During this year, we have sensed your dedication in particular ways. **You have been ‘travelling together’ with us** and been **actively supporting** our ministry – at times like these it means so much, **we do not take it for granted!**

May our Heavenly Father be close to you each day and show you His goodness!

We wish you a happy and blessed Christmastime and may you know HIS blessing and guidance in 2021.

Stay full of hope – we have every reason to be hopeful!

Greetings from Burgenland, Austria!

Yours,

Hans-Georg & Margret

‘Prayercorner’

Praise God for...

- God becoming a man in Jesus
- Jarko’s & Elena’s faithful service
- Our many contacts
- You: Our Mission Partners

Please pray for...

- Lasting unity in the PIEU Team
- V.’s preparation for going out
- Safekeeping, preaching engagement.
- David’s family: grief & loss

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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