

# TT – Travelling Together (136)

„Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6,36

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | January 2021

“There are many who say, “O that we might see some good! Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.”” Psalm 4,6 – This anxious question is very close to home! **What good**



can we expect in 2021? **Who** will help us through the pandemic? **Who** can we trust? Here we need to think about what is being asked for: “God, look at me. Take notice of me!” I can bring this desire to God. To be noticed is a deep human need. Especially now when face-to-face meetings are so rare and all the more precious to us. **In Jesus, the Light of the World, I have someone who is there for me.** HE tells me I am wanted and accepted.

I can live in the Light of HIS countenance, under HIS attention. Light is connected to warmth, hope and recognition. Light brings security and helps you know where you are. This is what we need so urgently at the moment! HE grants us so many kinds of blessings, in conversations and in the times when we meet, socially distanced. As one who has been blessed I can move forward into the coming days. When it seems so dark and difficult situations keep recurring: **God will show me good things!** When I look back over what I've experienced, when I look ahead, I can recognise these blessings and pass them on to others: **“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make HIS face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up HIS countenance upon you and give you peace.”**

## Impressions of the past few weeks...

13<sup>th</sup> Dec. – What a joy it was **to be at a Forum service in the meeting area of our ‘Cup of Joy’ premises** at the



end of the long, strict lockdown. There was not any congregational singing, we were wearing face masks and the numbers attending both the morning and the afternoon services were limited to twenty. But we were together, that was the main thing! The title of Hans-Georg's sermon was, “Sarah laughs – hope and a fulfilled promise!” We can't recall a single Christmas without a proper church service. This time there wasn't one! Instead we met in David and Annika's flat for a time of **family worship on Christmas Eve**. It was so good over the season to be together with all our children and grandchildren. The days leading up to Christmas were very difficult for our son David, our daughter-in-law Claudia and our grandchildren Timo (13) and Lina (11). First, they lost Claudia's Grandma on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. and then her step-Grandpa Willi (97) not even twenty-four

hours later. On 21<sup>st</sup> Dec Hans-Georg led the **burial service** for Grandpa Willi at the little Burgenland cemetery – it was in the open air and bitterly cold. There was a small congregation of mourners. **On 27<sup>th</sup> Dec.** it was back to strict lockdown conditions with the service at the **‘Grace Church’** in Vienna taking place only via live-streaming. Hans-Georg preached on, “The consequences of serving Jesus.”

## The highlight of each week...

We are still meeting our **Iranian friends M & A** every Friday evening – currently virtually. It is an enthusiastic time, which often goes on till way after midnight! We spend the time sharing, studying the Bible and praying together. We let our friends choose the topic and it is fascinating when we talk about things, which touch on their Mu.sl.im background, e.g. **‘The Trinity’**, **‘Jesus – the Son of God’** or **‘What Jesus taught’**. It is a lovely challenge having to put wonderful Biblical matters into simple language. We have gained so much from delving into the treasure to be found in the depths of the Bible! For one of the evenings A said he was willing to prepare the study himself! This led to a really special time of sharing on **‘Faith, Love and Hope’**. Also: M & A have at last been able to move out of the overcrowded asylum-seekers' accommodation. Their new home is at the little flat at the **‘Cup of Joy’ premises**. They are overjoyed! They have voluntarily taken on the role of being the caretakers.

## ‘Looking back with gratitude’ – our questionnaire...

For New Year we sent off a few questions for those of you brave enough to reflect on the past year. Since then we've had some fantastic responses and we would like to give you another chance to take part. As we said previously, we would like to sum up all the replies anonymously and send them back to you. **Here again are the questions:**

\***Can you recall** experiences during this year of crisis that you would not have wished to miss?

\***Were there things**, which brought about changes or progress in your private or professional life – in spite of the Coronavirus, or even because of it?

\***Was it possible for you** to see the problems caused by the crisis as a challenge and find other solutions, perhaps better ones?

\***What has helped** you to cope with alarming situations? **\*In what areas** has your creativity been stirred?

\***In what other ways** have you grown during this year of crisis? **\*What would you like** to take with you into 2021?

## Yes, we ourselves have so much to GIVE THANKS for!

There's more we could tell you: dear individual guests who are able to come to us, advisory discussions which lasted for hours, long interviews and Team Meetings. It's only through your faithful prayers and practical support that any of this can happen.

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!!

*Yours, Hans-Georg & Margret*

## ‘Prayercorner’

### Praise God for...

- Jesus – our Light in dark times
- Christmas with our childr. & families
- Health & joy in our work
- YOU: Our Mission Team

### Please pray for...

- M & A to be granted asylum
- Protection & safekeeping: Lockdown
- Our PIEU Team: New leader
- Our PIEU co-workers worldwide

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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