

TT – Travelling Together (139)

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

The Family Hoprich Newsletter | April 2021

“Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” Colossians 1:15 –



“A picture says more than 1000 words!” Naturally, we try to put across the best possible image of ourselves. What about God? – What image do we have of HIM? Being invisible is part of God’s being: God is not part of this world, but its creator! HE is not ‘matter’ but ‘spirit’! HE does not belong in our material world; HE exists outside of time and space! But if God were exclusively ‘outside’, then we wouldn’t know anything about HIM and we could not honor HIM as God. **This is why HE has given us an image** – it is the image of Jesus. We know a lot about HIM. The whole of the New Testament bears witness to HIM! If you want to know who God is, and what HE is like, you should look at the Lord Jesus. The Greek word used for image is ‘**ikon**’. We know about icons from our mobile phones! Each

little picture represents a whole world. **Jesus is the ‘icon’ of God!** Whoever makes a connection with HIM, will find the whole world of God will open up! I look at HIS image, I open myself up to it, I look into the stories of Jesus, I listen to them, I reflect on them. What I look at has an effect on me. And as I do this, something amazing starts to happen – I am being changed as I look on this image – into HIS image!



Mentoring and counselling...

...were mentioned in the ‘Prayer Corner’ in our previous newsletter (TT–138). A church nearby is providing Biblical **training courses through TEE** (Theological Education by Extension) including ‘Mentoring’. This led to a couple that we did

not know getting in touch and asking for help. We invited them to come to us and we have got on well. From now on, we would like to meet up with them twice a month for a time of **sharing, advice and prayer**. Almost at the same time, we had an **urgent call** from a lady in the south of Burgenland: “**I’m struggling!** I need someone that I can talk to regularly!” We exchanged WhatsApp messages and soon Margret was in conversation with her! Several **families**, an elderly **widower**, and some **singles** from our **Eisenstadt Forum Church** were among our guests in recent weeks. It frequently happens that, out of the blue, someone will turn up on our doorstep with a particular concern... The trust that people place in us is overwhelming. **But we’re so glad** to be able to make time for every individual request for help – even the unexpected ones!

“Easter Rest”

The restrictions that were reinstated in Germany were even stricter here in Austria. The Easter holiday period was extended. The more severe lockdown here in the east of the country will last provisionally **until the 2nd May**. We are glad that in spite of all the restrictions we could continue to invite visitors – one at a time – and nurture the contacts that we have with our precious co-workers around the world. **R.** is a single man from Holland serving in the Middle East. A **serious health crisis** has left him with limited mobility. He was found just in time, unconscious, following a blood clot on the lungs. God granted that exactly at that time a foreign specialist was on the spot and was able to get the right treatment for R. We are now praying for his complete healing. There is still the risk of another blood clot.



L. & N. and their two school-age children have held out for a long time in a **Middle Eastern country where there is a civil war**. The tensions there have meant that for over a year they have been barely able to cope. They have tried on many occasions to get a flight to home to Australia – but in vain! (Over 40,000 fellow Australians had been stranded throughout the world). The good news is: on 6th April they landed safely back on the south coast of Australia, but they then had to go straight into a strictly supervised quarantine in a hotel, for a fortnight. The windows could not be opened and no one was allowed to leave the room. Please pray that this dear family will get through this. Also please pray that after **14 years of almost contin-**

uous service in a difficult situation they will find rest and peace, and that they will have time to reflect and go on to find a new perspective. We have already asked you to pray for **L. in Spain** following the tragic death of her young niece. L. is now ready to return to **S. Asia where she is serving**, to her beloved schoolchildren in the children’s home and to continue her language studies. She still has some important documents and inoculations to arrange. The wheels of bureaucracy are turning even more slowly during the pandemic... At the moment L. is occupied in establishing links with a Spanish missionary organisation which will take care of her social security arrangements. From the Pioneers side, our task will then be to set up a partnership agreement. **S.** has got in touch from **East Africa**: after 10 years teaching at a theological college, and also working in the finance department, she has been able to hand over her work **to African nationals**. How wonderful! Her sending church has invited her to be actively involved with them. At the same time she is also ready to take on an important role in our Pioneers Europe Team (PIEU). We are trusting God for clear guidance for S.!

What happens when people pray... Dams break, people speak out, they are heard and seen and they find security and hope... Let’s make contact with those around us and open our doors to them... With this in mind we give you a heartfelt THANK YOU for continuing to be ‘TT – Travelling Together’ with us!

Yours, Hans-Georg & Margret

‘Prayercorner’

Praise God for...

- Jesus Christ – the image of God
- Many relationships of trust
- No restrictions in our service
- YOU: Our Mission Team

Please pray for...

- Wisdom: counselling & support
- L & N & family: Australia (quarantine)
- Travel preparations for L.
- Our children & families: lockdown

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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