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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (19)

December 2010

We are so glad and so grateful to have every single one of you supporting and helping us in the work here! We can't see or begin to measure – yet – the full effect of your prayers, but we do know that we need them! Every day we realise that although we can put a lot of effort into planning, organising and arranging things, we never seem to get a grip on everything. It is for this reason that we depend so much on God's wisdom and leading in new and unexpected situations!

Missionary conference in Slovakia

A real **highlight** of the past year was the time we spent at the missionary conference of the Carpathian Brethren (their 10th!) at Modra near Bratislava (Slovakia) on 6th November. This conference was held in a huge building in which communists used to have their anti-Christian training. On this occasion over 200 participants of every age from babies to 90 year old great-grandmothers, including many, many young people met together! **This is the sort of thing you can only dream of!** We each led 2 workshops and in the evening Hans-Georg gave a talk at the plenary session on his trip to Afg. The audience were struck by the fact that we both ended our respective workshops with the same Bible verse (**Rev 21: 4**), although we hadn't agreed to do this beforehand and we were speaking on different topics. Following a day filled with overwhelming impressions, warm fellowship and encouraging individual conversations we finally got to bed at 3 in the morning, exhausted but at the same time really encouraged. Only a few hours later Margret was taking the Sunday School at the FORUM here in Eisenstadt. Continuing on the subject of world mission, the organiser of this conference, Peter Kozar, and his family are coming to visit us here in Austria in January. **We really felt the effect of your accompanying prayers there! THANK YOU!**

Many, many miles on the road...

We experienced God's safekeeping as we travelled to various places in south Germany! Hans-Georg came back from Nuremberg on Monday 29th November, having had a really busy weekend of deputation work. At the Sunday service in Nuremberg there was a French exchange student who on being asked, said he had never heard of Jesus in his life. Someone translated Hans-Georg's sermon for him in which as always he gave an invitation to personal faith in Jesus Christ. This touched the young Frenchman so deeply that he was moved to tears...

On this occasion Margret had decided to stay **at home with ANNIKA** who was and IS still struggling through a **lot of homework and preparation for tests**. The week before we had been away from home for six days in all.

We have special memories of the **little Protestant church in Freudental near Tripsdrill** with its history going back to the 13th century. The local vicar shared with us his great treasure of historical knowledge (including a sermon in pictures along the gallery). Even an Austrian who ended up in this area in the course of the Counter-Reformation has his last resting place in this little church – there was a large epitaph to him. The first citizen of Freudental that we met was a Frau B, née Hoprich (!!) who came from Grossau, the birthplace of Hans-Georg's parents in Siebenbuergen, Romania. We found we weren't related – but what a lovely surprise! Later, at the missionary evening held in the church hall we met a crowd of attentive listeners. **We went to a total of nine meetings in Swabia** and we met many people who were seeking and needing comfort and who showed a lot of interest. It was a joy to share God's Word in this way.

And here in Eisenstadt?

4th Dec. we were having our first FORUM Advent celebration here in Eisenstadt with a very appealing programme.

Beforehand we've been busy giving out invitations and making preparations. Hans-Georg preached at the FORUM the next day (the second Sunday in Advent). **Please pray that the Good News will go on working in the hearts of our guests.**

7th Dec. Margret had been invited to a ladies' group in **Baden near Vienna** which was also attended by several ladies without a church connection.

The gravely ill father of Sabine, a dear friend of many years, died on the 28th November (first Sunday in Advent) and we have been asked to take the funeral on **10th December in Graz**. **Please pray for comfort, strength, and peace for Sabine.**

God willing, Hans-Georg would like to join Erich, the co-ordinator of our Austrian **BEG Christmas Parcel Appeal "Hope and Joy"** for the journey to **West Ukraine (16th–22nd December)** to prepare for the distribution of the parcels and to talk to the leaders of the 'Ukrainian Ministry' about world mission. **Please pray for protection for the long journey in these wintry conditions, and also for wisdom and for God's guidance as they meet various people.**

Also our SEBASTIAN needs your prayers! He makes early morning deliveries of bread etc. to the wider area. Back in the summer he had an accident in the delivery van on the motorway. It came as a surprise for him to find that without any apparent reason the insurance company is refusing to pay for the damage to the other vehicle.

In the days coming up to Christmas...

In our family time we have been reading Isaiah: **"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And he shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace!" (Is 9:6)**. At the time when the Prophet foretold the Child, the land of Israel was in ruins. About 700 years later, at the time of Caesar Augustus, what was spoken by the Prophet Isaiah as a promise was fulfilled in a deeper sense. **Luke wrote: "For unto you a saviour is born" (Lk 2:11). What a Gospel! "Let earth receive her King..."**

We wish you a joyful Christmas time and God's blessing for 2011, which will soon be here!

Shalom! From

Hans-Georg & Margret Hoprich with Annika & Manuel

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