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Dear Friends,

TT – Travelling Together' (34)

March 2012

On Shrove Tuesday we spent a very special evening with the **Croatian women's group in Trausdorf** near Eisenstadt. There were many old and new Christian songs, a message and discussions on spiritual matters on the programme. There was so much enjoyment and mutual encouragement that no one wanted to go home... **We're meeting again on 20th March!**

Our time in Gerlingen...

A big encouragement that we had there (the first of many) was the **family service** in St Peter's Church (our own sending church) which was full to bursting for the occasion. There was much enjoyment of the children's participation including their songs, the Bible story and the sermon on the Ethiopian Official (Acts 8:26–40). We had **many, many good meetings** with 'old' and new friends. On our schedule was also an afternoon with over 60 confirmation candidates and the vicars of their churches from the wider Gerlingen district. It was a really 'cool' time. We were able to tell them about our lives and they took it all in, especially when we told them how we met (our own 'love story')... These teenagers then took our story back home and it went round their parents, grandpas and grandmas. It was shared with others at a house group and a prayer breakfast to which we were unexpectedly invited.

The heartache of saying goodbye...

Clearing up – and clearing out – at Hans'–Georg's parents' house was not easy. Time and again we had to pull ourselves together as we threw so many familiar things into the skips... Heidi, Hans–Georg's twin sister, photographed the skips with the caption: "**Herein lie 60 years of our parents' lives!**" **Part of the grieving process...**

Greetings from our Annika

Annika is celebrating her 15th birthday. **She thanks you for all your prayers!** At the end of the first semester at the nursery teacher training college she had a really good report. She is enjoying her time at college at the moment, she has got used to being away during the week and thanks to the free minutes on the mobile she can spend longer talking to her Mum in the evenings. She also finds time to read the Bible regularly.

"Let me not be ashamed..."

When H. came across **Psalm 25 v2b** in the Bible reading he couldn't understand this. We had actually planned a particular study at our most recent FORUM house–group meeting, but things turned out very differently, so we had a very interesting discussion with our Bibles open. This led to '**shame and guilt**' in God's Word and how it works out in our culture. E., originally from Upper Austria and married into a Burgenland family felt that scales had suddenly fallen from her eyes and she understood at once the difference between the communication in her home area and the behaviour of her in–laws which had been inexplicable till now. She grasped the concept of 'the language of love in the Burgenland dialect'. We talked about the God of the Bible having an answer to shame and guilt in the Lord Jesus Christ: HIS death on the cross for our forgiveness. God's Word in Psalm 25:1–2 spoke to us particularly: "**Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed...**" **Please pray that the vital answers of the Christian faith will always be placed 'centre stage', but at the same time we don't want to lose sight of the personal concerns and questions of those taking part.**

In the next few days...

We have some **important discussions with applicants for short–term placements** on our schedule. Recently a young lady travelled out to Thailand for the first time. Please pray for L. from Vorarlberg (eastern end of Austria) as she is feeling very homesick! Recently we had a visit from M. from the Salzburg region. She is currently training to be a nurse and would like to do some missionary work with three colleagues as practical experience. She simply wanted to find out more... A young couple is ready to travel out to Central Asia... It takes a **considerable amount of wisdom and sensitivity** as we go into all the details and, with God's help, find a suitable place for every person.

Further prayer requests for the month of March...

- **04th Mar.:** Hans–Georg is **preaching at the FORUM service**. Please continue to pray for the church planting work
- **10th Mar.:** **Margret is speaking** on the subject of 'Joy' **at a ladies' breakfast meeting in Graz.**
- **15th Mar.:** **Christian lecture meeting in Eisenstadt** on 'The Bible – God's Word or the work of men?'
- **22nd Mar.:** Training for the Emergency Response Team with the Red Cross. We will be **on duty for 12 hours**
- **29th Mar.:** **Important discussion in St. Poelten** (partnership with another missionary organisation).

PLEASE PRAY especially for **our brother–in–law Heinrich** who has had to undergo three major operations in the space of a few months (bowel cancer). The very slow healing process and his physical weakness are making things very difficult for him and his family!

Please don't forget to e–mail us with your own prayer requests! THANK YOU for your confidence in us!

Your support reminds us of the 'threefold cord which is not quickly broken'; our '**going**' is inseparably bound together with your '**praying**' and '**giving**'! **We are so grateful to you!**



With our warmest greetings,

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika Hoprich

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