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Dear Friends,

TT - Travelling Together' (38)

July 2012

We are fast approaching the Wedding Day of our son Sebastian and Annie (7th July).

In Peruvian law our future daughter-In-law will have the following name: Annie Munoz Avila de Hoprich.

After a Bulgarian-Austrian daughter-In-law (Maria, Benjamin's wife) and a dyed-In-the-wool Burgenlander (Claudia, David's wife), our extended family now includes South America!

Whoever knows us will appreciate how much we love and treasure this international variety!

On the subject of international variety...

During the past week this came to the fore in quite a remarkable way! Our friend from **Kyrgyzstan** contacts us regularly to give us her prayer requests... Through one of our partner missions we came in contact with Tigist from **Ethiopia**. As she had an important appointment at the Vienna University she was looking for accommodation at short notice and we arranged for her to stay with an Austrian student. What a joy it was when both of them visited us here in Eisenstadt – it was as if we had always known each other... We have also met Maria's grandparents from **Bulgaria** and Annie's Aunt Dana from **Peru**. Sylvia, a former fellow student from **Switzerland** who we hadn't seen since we were studying together at All Nations nearly 30 years ago stayed the night with us, as well as our dear colleague Scott from the **USA** who worked with us for many years on the Foreign Missions Team (TAM).

Not to mention the Pingist family, our new BEG missionaries, Roland from Carinthia, **Austria** and Brittany from **Canada** who visited us as part of their preparations for travelling out to the mission field. In the meantime they have arrived safely in **Brazil** and are in the process of settling in. At their valedictory service in Carinthia we met **Nadine** who is at the moment preparing for a one-year placement in **Tanzania** as part of our TAM short-term programme.

Meanwhile back in Austria...!

Various meetings and services have taken us on many long journeys through this wonderful country! Our **33rd wedding anniversary** fell on the Saturday before the valedictory service in Villach. After a drive of more than three hours our hosts Sigi and Gabi gave us a warm welcome and spoilt us with a special anniversary dinner, complete with candles and red roses! A big THANK YOU to these dear friends – it really did us good! At the beginning of June during our outreach in Upper Austria we discovered Hinterstoder and its beautiful valley setting. It was even possible to go for a walk on the Dolomite Mountain Way' and we really enjoyed the majestic scenery and the enchanting Flora and Fauna – completely at our leisure!

The next morning at the service we had a brief, quite surprising meeting with Sacha, a very interesting person who grew up in Austria, came to faith, has a doctorate in law and is a pilot and now a pastor in the USA. He pressed two very full bags into Hans-Georg's hands – it was the complete **commentary on the Old Testament by Keil-Delitzsch**. What a valuable and completely unexpected gift! **We were speechless!**

We spent the afternoon with our host family in the countryside and we witnessed the delightful natural drama of a doe with her newborn twin fawns – right in front of our noses!

Our neighbours...

We are **building up good relationships** and it has now reached the stage where they feel they can approach us directly for help. Recently **M.** who lives alone wanted to talk to us about an acute problem.

E. who lives two blocks away has invited us round on several occasions to sit out on the terrace – **friendship evangelism...** The **family who live opposite** had a pressing need when one of their little children had a high temperature and had to be rushed into hospital. Margret then looked after the older child...

Trust is growing, which makes us glad. There is **much to be thankful for!**

Having lost all their worldly goods...

This bitter experience has affected two dear families among our acquaintance! A family with three children who are good friends of ours who live near Cologne lost their home in a fire due to an electrical fault. It was a miracle that they woke up in time and were able to get out of the house. The family are still in shock and urgently need our prayers!

You have probably heard about the severe bush fires in Colorado, USA. Nearly 400 houses were destroyed, among them was the home of our former fellow missionaries Doug & LeAnne Custer who until recently worked here in Austria.

They would be so grateful for your prayers!

To all our dear friends around the globe...

We would like to **thank you** so much: you have supported us in prayer and in giving and we have been able to share our concerns with you.

Your help and you yourself has been a gift from God.

Many, many THANKS!

We send our warmest greetings and wish you sincerely God's peace, health, a lovely happy summer and rest for body, soul and spirit!