

H.-G. & M. Hoprich & Family
Jacob Rauschenfels-Gasse 8/10
A-7000 Eisenstadt
AUSTRIA

Mobile: **WhatsApp / Telegram**: +43-664-5544021
Tel.: +43-2682-76021

e-mail: Hans-Georg@Hoprich.at
SKYPE ID: [HansMaggiHoprich](https://www.skype.com/user/HansMaggiHoprich)
Internet: www.DMGint.de/index-EN.html
<www.BEG.or.at>

<www.FaceBook.com/HansGeorgMargret.Hoprich>
<www.Johannes-Rebmann-Stiftung.de/EN/missionaries/HOPRICH.html>

TT - 'Travelling Together' (92)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." (Ezekiel 36:26)

Dear Friends,

April 2017

We are fast approaching Easter, the Festival of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Our verse for the month focuses our thoughts on it: **"Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen."** (Luke 24:4-6) Who of you haven't in desperation gone looking for something important or even for loved ones? Sometimes we are actually looking in the wrong place with false expectations and do not find what we are looking for. This is what happened to the women who went to Jesus' tomb. They wanted to give one last act of service to the One who had always served them. But now, contrary to their expectation, it appeared that even the body had been taken. Their despair was huge! They saw the end but not the new beginning. The disciples understood correctly what had happened, but only after Jesus had shown Himself to them. Faith in the Risen One, in the living Jesus, **drove the disciples from their houses into the world**, to spread the Good News. HE alone is the resurrection and the life. What a wonderful hope! The grave is empty. Because Jesus is alive – and He's still alive today. **HE is risen, HE is risen indeed!**

Good Friday and Easter at the Forum

Ever since the 'Eisenstadt Forum' has been in existence we have used this special time to give invitations to our friends, neighbours and acquaintances. This time we had the idea of sending an attractively designed invitation by **post to every household in our city**. We hope and pray that we will see many new people at our special **guest services**. The titles are: The Easter Holidays: "...because He lives" (**Sunday 9th April, Palm Sunday**) – "...because He died" (**14th April, Good Friday**) and "...because He is risen" (**16th April, Easter Sunday**) As an 'introductory offer' there will also be two evangelistic **"Movie Nights"** (Sat. 8th and Sat. 15th Apr.) when we will be showing the film **"Risen"**. – At the start of March our co-worker **David set up a youth group**. The kids (aged roughly 8-13) will be meeting up **once a fortnight**, for the time being, until the summer holidays. **Annika** who also helps with our Sunday school is supporting this youth work, together with **Sabrina**. **We would be very grateful for your support in prayer for these events, especially for our three youth club leaders, who also have busy lives with school, studying and work.**

A Christian youth group on television...

The Austrian TV company "ATV" is recording a series about "The Future Generation – Exceptional Teenagers". As part of it they have approached David, our young fellow worker from Styria, and a film crew has followed his daily activities and conducted interviews. This documentary will be shown on **Monday 11th April** at 9.20pm. We are very excited to see how this will turn out, and we are interested to get the **reactions of people here in Austria**.

EVAK – 21st March 2017

David is studying at the **Evangelical Academy** in Vienna (www.evak.at) and out of the blue we were invited to go there by one of the lecturers. We talked about our experiences and gave our thoughts on the following questions: **"What is world mission?** How would you define this concept in contrast to welfare work? What is a **'missional lifestyle'**? Why do you think that it is important for Austrian churches to be involved in world mission? There is certainly enough to do in this country! How would you answer someone who says, "I don't believe that God has called me into missionary service!"? – What steps can I, or can we as a church, take to grow in the area of world mission?"

The time with the students was really refreshing and encouraging for us – mission motivation is a delight for us!

Planned events...

- 03rd Apr.:** Important meeting in Vienna with a missionary that we've got to know in which we will get more guidance about the future means of operation, possibilities and limitations of our Foreign Missions Team (TAM)
- 05th Apr.:** Our **young couple from different national backgrounds** with whom we have been conducting a marriage preparation course are **coming to us to arrange their wedding** and discuss their plans for it. The bridegroom is a former mus.lim and is now a follower of Jesus. He has told us about the **many inner struggles** troubling him...
- 09th Apr.:** **Hans-Georg is preaching** at the international Church in Vienna
- 21st Apr.:** Ongoing training for our emergency counselling work **"Reasons for living, as opposed to suicide"**
- 26th Apr.:** Regarding our Austrian-Japanese couple: meeting in Vienna with two international representatives of our **partner mission OMF** the leaders of their sending church and the couple themselves to discuss their future work in Japan.

Margret

Your **joy and gratitude**, and ours, for the "merciful outcome" of the cancer operation is still beyond words. Thanks once again to all of you for your faithful prayers and to our Lord for the **wonderful answer to prayer!**

No one is so alive as Jesus, that's why nothing is as certain as life! So Easter gives us the courage to live, to believe and to act with Jesus! In this respect and from our hearts we wish you a meaningful Passion-tide and an Easter that's full of joy: "The Lord is risen!" Yours in His service,

Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika



DMG interpersonal e.V., Buchenauerhof 2, D-74889 Sinsheim, www.dmgint.de/about-us.html
ENGLAND: SIM-DMG, acc no 60829838, Barclays Bank West Norwood, London SE27 9DW, Bank code 20-94-67 IBAN: GB14 BARC 2094 6760 8298 38, BIC: BARCGB22, or send cheques to: SIM-UK, The Treasurer, Wetheringsett Manor, Wetheringsett, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5QX, Please state purpose: „DMG P10260 Hoprich“
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