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## TT – 'Travelling Together' (93)

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

*Dear Friends,*

May 2017

Our Bible verse for May gives us quite a challenge: **"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt."** Col. 4 v 6 – This is about our everyday communication, our conversations within our family, with our neighbours, at work – "always"! Recently in a difficult situation we wished so much that the words spoken hadn't been 'about one another' but graciously 'with one another'. Yes, it is a challenge to talk kindly with one another and about one another. I accept the person opposite me and their different qualities, and I am open to them. So, no 'peppered speech', about which we sometimes feel so good afterwards: "...now **that's** put him straight!" **But what does it mean to be "seasoned with salt"?** What we say should be meaningful, truthful and relevant, and it should build up others. Not just to say with superficial friendliness what someone wants to hear, but to put God's perspective in a positive way. We know people here who can do this really well. We really admire them and we try to do likewise... We can manage this together – to grow together, to forgive mistakes, to improve our communication and to strengthen each other's faith.

**We are delighted to have the opportunity again to share with you what is going on here...**

**Yes, and we are very happy to have your support in prayer and we thank you for your help in practical ways!**

### Looking back

We can indeed look back with thanks on the many guests, meetings and events over the past weeks! **To mention a few:** in particular we were delighted to welcome **Jakob from Styria** who has completed his **period of work as a carpenter** (officially recognised as an **alternative to military service**) with our Swiss partner mission in **Papua New Guinea**. We had the privilege of preparing him for his time overseas, supporting him throughout his time away and now he was back for his debriefing. We were eager to hear his report and amazed at his huge collection of up-to-date photos and we have to admit to a bit of nostalgia – Papua New Guinea was, after all, our home for ten years! Our fellow **DMG missionaries Tihomir and Ulrike Vekic** and their two children were travelling from Croatia to Vienna on holiday, and they broke their journey to call on us in Eisenstadt. We had a lovely time with them over lunch and caught up with each other's news. Out of the blue we were contacted by **'Pioneers', our partner mission**, to invite us for two days to their week-long **missionaries' retreat** (held every two years) at **Lake Balaton in Hungary**. The serious conversations with the mission leaders, the fellowship with the workers, the gripping reports from various areas of work, the singing, and meeting again various colleagues that we've known for many years – it all did us a lot of good and gave us new motivation for our current work and for the future! Also we had surprise visits from dear **friends** of many years from **Vorarlberg and Styria**, which was a great delight for us...

### Easter at the Forum...

The FORUM guest services before and during Easter were all well attended and on many occasions there were 'new faces' at our events. **Do you know the film "Risen"?** In our last TT newsletter we mentioned it.

In reaction there were a whole lot of messages from churches: "What a good idea – we'll show it as well!" A 'copy-cat' idea to reach those who don't go to church – we were delighted!

In particular there were many young people who came to the 'Movie Nights' which our youth group put on.

### Thank God!

At the first check-up after Margret's operation she expressed her gratitude to the consultant and said how thankful she was that no further treatment was required. **Three times the consultant uttered the words, "Thank God!"** Margret took the opportunity to explain to him that we were all counting on God's intervention and that many Christians around the world were praying for her and for him as he operated, pleading with God on her behalf. With Margret things are going well, but after all the stresses of the past months we are longing for some peace and quiet. We are very grateful to have **a few days away in May**. Some dear friends in Spain that we met during our time in South America have made their holiday flat in Gibraltar available to us. **What a lovely offer!**

### Please remember in your prayers...

- **Kathy, Matthias, Stefanie & Elli** are at various points in their application process for missionary service
- Shortly before our holiday a **very committed young couple** is coming to see us with a particular request
- **7<sup>th</sup> May:** As part of our Forum church service **Hans-Georg will perform the marriage service for André and Emanuela**. Both are widowed. André was married to Rita who we supported during her long illness and early death.
- **12<sup>th</sup> May:** **important discussion** about **the continuation and future of the long-standing Christmas parcel scheme**.

**It is always a great joy to have your personal news and to hear about what you are involved in!**

**Till next time, God willing!**

**Yours in the Lord Jesus,**



*Hans-Georg, Margret & Annika*

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