



Of interest . .

According to recent studies it is estimated that 50% of Europeans test TB positive. 10% will contract the open form of the illness during their life time.

Prayer

- Our financial support has been solid in the past three months.
- That our medical insurance would cover the hospital costs.
- For Telmo & Angelica (Colombia) as they resettle in Canada.
- For a group of Iranian and Afghani refugees who recently became believers though the Iranian Church we work with in Linz.
- Our access to the camp: Recent political changes are making it more and more difficult for us to minister in the refugee camp.
- For God to meet us as we review as a team our reason for being here and plan for the coming year.

Both still recovering

You may have known that Sue had a second miscarriage in April. It was a really nasty time for us – not only physically but morally. We had advice from one doctor that the child was ‘severely deformed’. He recommended termination (abortion). Of course we couldn’t even entertain the thought of playing an active role in ending a small life. After a few days of shock and mourning, it turned out that God made the decision for us. Sue naturally miscarried. It’s been a slow recovery in every sense of the word. We are still very much mourning, especially when we see the baby clothes that were sent from Australia.

On a different note, I (Simon) am on the back end of TB & Pneumonia. For me anyway it has meant a month ‘off contact’ and a month in hospital. Something tried to eat its way through my right lung. I will be on TB medication until next year.

Lessons from Bronkoskopie

My month in the ‘bronkoskopie’ ward was a good experience for me in many ways. Not only did it give me time to think through some things that you normally don’t give time for. It allowed me to catch up on some great reading and it gave me another insight as to what it must be like for refugees. *How did you get that out of it* – you are probably asking? For the first time in my life I felt what it is like to be despised. Not in an open or even intentional way I’m sure, but through:

Reactions: When people found out I had a disease. People washing their hands after contact with me.

Communication: When staff found out that German wasn’t my first language, many of them avoided me because of the extra work it meant. I felt patronised when they did speak with me, as though my accent and low vocabulary also meant low intelligence.

Loneliness: Apart from Sue and a few others, being a foreigner here meant that my circle of relationships was small. I found it a humiliating experience. I thought of my father, who must

have felt the same way when he immigrated to Australia from Germany over 40 years ago.

For refugees, this is a lifetime experience. When they leave their homeland, they give up much more than we realize. I left the hospital with a greater appreciation for both my good health and for the people we came here to serve. To use the words of Gandalf in Lord of the Rings – “*They truly are remarkable people*”.

New resources available

We have just updated our prayer cards to include both children!

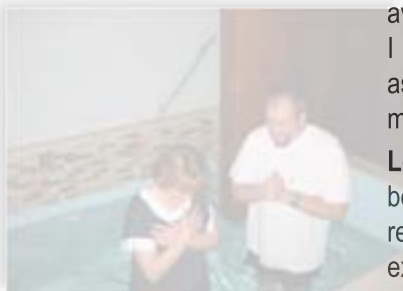
We have also just finished editing a short video/slide show of images from refugee work (PAL & .mpg CD). The images are set to the narration of a short poem by Sam Shoemaker called “*I stand by the door*”. It is about 5 mins in length and would be great for small groups or mission spots to explain why we do what we do. If you would like either one or both, then please email us at the address below.

Baptisms

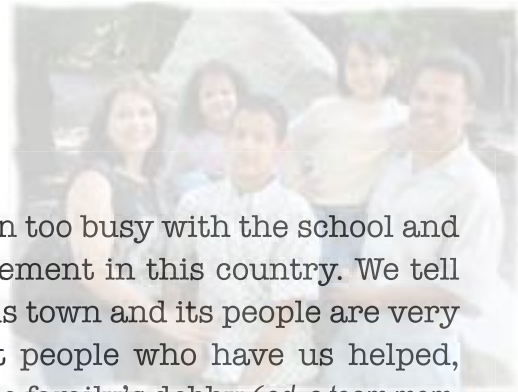
Last Saturday we all drove to the Linz Baptist Church and baptised two women refugees from Georgia. This was our second attempt. Originally planned 3 weeks earlier, a broken pipe meant the baptistry couldn’t be filled. One of the women was too scared to tell her husband and wanted only a select few of us to be there. God was in it however, and she shared her desire to be baptised with her husband. Instead of reacting violently, Georg said that he noticed something was different in her and that he wanted to come as well. We ended up driving as many people from the camp as our cars would hold. It’s always special for us to see how God is using us.

A special letter

In refugee ministry we live with perpetual frustration of ‘blow through’ relationships. Many times we may only have weeks or months with a person before they move on. As a result, much of what we do is seed casting. Every now and then a family may get lost in the bureaucratic network and they may wait in Bad Kreuzen for



years - like Telmo and Angelica from Colombia, and in their case, a three year wait. I have mentioned Telmo previously to you. In August, they boarded a flight for their new home in Canada. I received this email from them last week. To keep the spirit of it as much as possible, I have not corrected it:



Helo dear internatinal Team family,
i haven't written because, i have been too busy with the school and another things which refers to settlement in this country. We tell you that we are very happy here this town and its people are very nice, we have known many exelent people who have us helped, most of this people are christians. The family's debby (*ed. a team member whose family lives in Canada*) also have been always patient of us and have handed us, but any ways we always miss you all, because you all were too specials with us and into our heart forever you will be. i think that we will never forget you all, and we will always ask to God for you all , sometimes at night i think about you all and remember every thing ,every situation that we lived with you all and then we miss you a lot and in that moment we would like to be with you again and share those things which got enjoining, our situation have changed now but our heart will never change , now we always are busy it seems that every day brings more ocupations and many things to do.

The childrens are attending the school they are excited about that and the girls speak a little bit words in english, i think within few time they will be speaking and understanding more, any way the child always learns quickly, greetings from them to you all and from Angelica too. Angelica had wanted to write to you but she is learning and i think in a few time she could write you all too, we love and miss you all a lot, and we look forward of seen again, and can share with you all every thing. GOD BLESS YOU A LOT.

Telmo & Angelica

We don't get this kind of feedback often, and sometimes we need to hear it. Letters like these become very special and precious to us. For me what makes it moving is that it reveals that we journeyed together during a time of great need for them. They realised that we did not see them as spiritual 'scalps' to hang on our belts, but that we truly loved them as precious to God. In this case they believed the message of reconciliation. It bought them peace with God and heaven rejoiced as we did. But I can't help but think that even if that were not the case, our time with them would not have been wasted. Disciple making is so much more than conversion. More involved, more time consuming, more heartbreaking and more biblical.

Thanks for praying for us and the people we work among - we both need it.

Simon, Sue, Karl and Nikolaus