



THE HOPPY HERALD

TIM & BIANCA HOPCRAFT

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Dear Friends,

Here is a short update from the summer months!

God surprises us: Jan joins our Team!

During a planing day in February we realised how urgent it was to recruit new staff: At the end of the year our interns, Matthias and Keziah, will finish; John is sadly on long-term sick leave; and Nora is now only working part-time - as an Assistant to Max. This all means that come January only Max – who spends 80% of his time on his national leadership role – and I will be there to work with students in the region.

We made plans to ask many students who would be finishing their studies in the coming year whilst at the same time praying that God would call one (or more) to full-time ministry. During the summer semester we talked to many people but without success: We faced the prospect of having no-one else join our team in the first half of 2017.

Then at the end of June we received an email out of the blue from a guy called **Jan**. I had met him briefly in February but hardly knew him. He wanted to talk to us about joining staff!



Our new colleague, Jan

In the week before our summer holiday Max and I met up with him and the process continued. After many conversations, time spent doing evangelism on campus and the Agapae application process, Jan last week officially decided to join Agape! :-)

His decision may seem to be just a matter of course, but it is anything but: Although we've had interns almost every year, Jan will be only the 2nd person to join our team as **long-term staff** since Bianca and I moved to Leipzig 9 years ago!

Yet again God reminded me that he is ultimately in control and that we are involved in *his* work (not vice versa!)

Please thank God with us for Jan and pray for him. After an introduction week at the end of September he will start looking for mission partners. Please pray for strength, hope and perseverance during this time. [I]

Extracts from the Family-journal

Daniel: My favourite place is outside. There I can ride my bobby car, play with a ball or just watch how the wind gently moves



the trees. What more do you need to be happy?

Miranda: Next week I will be FIVE years old!!! And I'm soooo excited! For WEEKS now I've been asking when my birthday is, thinking about who to invite and about what kind of cake to have. I can't wait! :-)

Matty has been struggling with tummy ache a lot recently. And often because he's worrying about something. We've noticed that it usually goes away on its own, suggesting it's something psychological rather than physical. Nevertheless it's quite a challenge to constantly have to think how we are going to motivate him 'this time' to go to school, to choir or even to a friend's birthday. We need God's help!

Bianca: Besides the situation with Matty I've been thinking a lot about the relationships I have to various women, with whom I've recently talked about spiritual issues. Most of them are mothers who come to our toddler group at church, and most don't have any Christian background. Please pray for more opportunities, sensitivity and above all courage to talk about Jesus in a natural way that fits the situation. [B]

Prayer pointers

Thanks:

- For God calling Jan to work with Agape
- For a restful family holiday

Requests:

- For the student-ministry staff conference next week which Tim is helping to organise.
- For a good start to the Semester in October
- That God would provide Jan with enough mission partners
- For wisdom when dealing with Matty's worries

Wishing you every blessing in Christ,

The Hoppys

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