
UKRAINE NEWS

Newsletter № 67

Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

September 2012

Dear friends

During the last months we have experienced God in a new kind of way. It often happens unexpectedly and spontaneously. Many times we don't know at the beginning of the week what will be happening, but again and again we are fascinated by this new adventure. Here a few examples:

Cow-trading

A new kind of contact developed this past spring. Through relatives we got to know a man who had a special desire. About 10 years ago he had invested parts of his money into Ukrainian government bonds. This turned out to be a big risk as one day he found out, that his investment was worth almost nothing anymore. Shocked, he made a promise: If I ever get to see my money again, I will donate something for a poor family in Ukraine. Against all odds, the stock market price recovered and after a number of years he had received back all his money including interest. Now his idea was, to give a cow to a family in need. Through relatives he got in touch with us. I in turn asked Ivan, who quickly found a suitable recipient family as well as someone who wanted to sell a cow. When I arrived there together with the Swiss donor, Ivan told us, that the recipients still found it hard to believe their luck. He had already told them to start gathering hay, so they would have enough fodder for the winter. The recipient family consists of a mother who is already since 13 years bedridden, two daughters, a son-in-law and three grandkids.

Sadly, one of the daughters is divorced, because her alcoholic husband always beat her. Together with her two small kids she returned to her mother. The other daughter started already as a kid to look after her mother. Because of mother's sickness she got an education as a nurse. Her husband is a welder, but his salary is actually too small, to feed the whole family. Understandably, we caused a lot of joy in this



situation. On the picture are the donor, Ivan, the mother and the daughter who returned home, together with her two baby-daughters and a neighbouring child.

Together with the son-in-law we went to see the seller, where the deal was successfully made. Then the proud new owner could bring his cow home.



Now the family is getting used to a new routine. Every day, the cow goes together with the cows of all the neighbours in the area to the pasture. The owners take daily turns in watching over them.



Now we are observing, how this story develops. If it turns out to be effective, then we will recommend it for imitation. There are still many families that would appreciate such kind of support.

A somewhat unusual group

Some of you might still remember that I wrote a year ago about a group in Switzerland, where one of their members had a dream about us. This past July, that group visited us. Prior to their arrival I had absolutely no idea what kind of a programme I should line up for them. They did not expect the usual schedule with all kinds of outreaches.

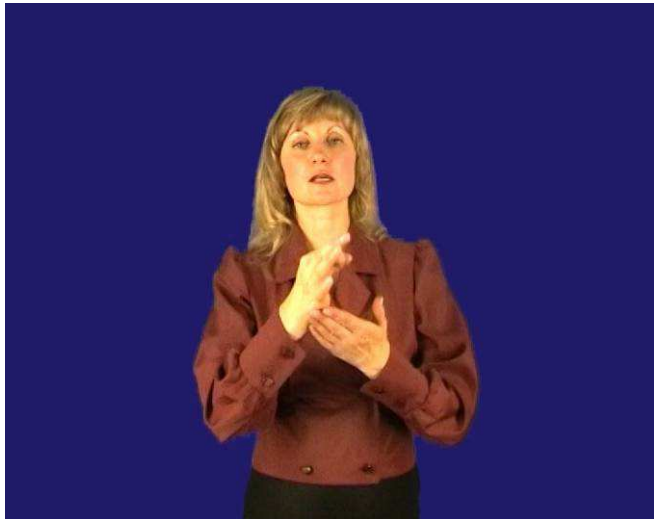
What we experienced together by far exceeded our expectations. Instead of a lot of activities we had a uniquely wonderful time of fellowship. On the first day we were not able to have a barbeque due to rainfall. We went to a Pizza place

instead. Tetyana translated for the women, I did for the men. It was absolutely amazing to watch the openness between Ukrainians and Swiss right from the first minute. Very obviously Gods Spirit was at work. The hearts immediately found each other. Our Ukrainian friends from our house church were challenged this week to become more open and no longer be afraid. Only when we are really open and trust each other can a deep honest fellowship develop. The Swiss house church had visited us just at the right time.

Bible for deaf people

As I wrote in a previous newsletter, Volodya was already since quite a while mulling over the idea to produce a Video-Bible for deaf people. Apart from financial issues there were a number of practical things which had led to postponing the project again and again. Among other things he had to rethink his priorities concerning the many projects/orders he had on his list. We had a really good talk together, which led him to give this Bible-recording a higher priority. Following this, he managed to overcome the practical obstacles. I was able to help him to fix a frame with blue curtain to his wall as a background for the recordings. Since then two months have gone by and with that also our summer holidays. Now Volodya proudly presented the Gospel of Mark to me, which is the first bible part recorded in Russian sign language for deaf people.

The studio recordings are very tiring. One whole chapter at a time is being recorded. After that, the translator needs a break to rest some, before the next chapter can be recorded. If a mistake happens in the middle of the chapter, then the whole chapter has to be re-recorded, since cuts in the midst of the video would be highly unprofessional and distracting.



Olga Petrovna is the only person in our region, who has mastered the sign language on a professional level. Among other things she was also translating for the deaf Ukrainian athletes participating in the Paralympics. She will now over time help to translate and record the whole Bible. That means that she will get to know Gods Word very well. Pray that God would touch her heart and that she can get to know Him personally.

If you would like to have a look at the video for yourself, or recommend it to someone involved in ministry to deaf people who understand Russian sign language, then you can go to the following link: www.youtube.com/user/surdobiblia

Feedback on the sermon translations

Already over 110 times has somebody accessed our sermon translations on Youtube. Amongst them are not only people from Ukraine, but also from Russia, USA, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Canada, Israel and Switzerland. Who exactly has watched how much we of course don't know. But just recently, a friend of ours dropped in. She shared, that she had just a few days ago once again watched the sermon "Prodigal God". She said, that she had been deeply touched by these sermons and feels like her faith is totally refreshed.

For us it is very encouraging to hear, that God can use our labour.

Holidays in Switzerland

We were able to spend a few weeks in a holiday apartment in Homberg above the city of Thun. For us it was mainly a time of rest. Our kids were able to attend a three-day camp at one of our supporting churches.

Visits with relatives and friends, excursions, bathing in the lake Thun and a few other things were part of our programme.

Among other things we also visited the House church, which just recently had visited us in Ukraine. We also had an opportunity to visit an event of the network of house churches they belong to. That allowed us to gain some deeper understanding for their community.

Even though some health issues occasionally bother us, we are very thankful, that this summer was not dominated by sickness and visits to doctors.

Many thanks to all those who have invited us, or supported us with clothes, all kinds of other material and with finances. Many of the things we took to Ukraine have brought joy to the recipients.

Many greetings from

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- the successful cow-trading
- the wonderful time with the Swiss group
- the Gospel of Mark in Russian sign language for deaf
- the first feedback for our studio recordings
- the refreshing time in Switzerland

Pray for

- the family who received the cow
- continued good success with the studio recordings and that still many more people will be blessed by these sermons
- success with the recording of the Bible in sign language
- that the new openness in the house church would grow

Address:

Vul. Traktoristiv 13
33004 Rivne
Ukraine
Phone: 00380 362628848

Mobile Erich: 00380 961025168

Mobile Tanya: 00380 989554933

Email: erich@salzanzeiger.ch
tetyana@salzanzeiger.ch

Skype: erich_salzmann
tetyana_salzmann

Family Website:

www.salzanzeiger.ch