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# UKRAINE NEWS

Newsletter № 69

Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

March 2013

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## Dear friends

Once again the latest news from us.

### Family camp

Our family camp was simply super! The four days together with our friends from Switzerland were really great. We got together without a fixed programme (except for the meal times). We deliberately wanted to be led by God. This led us into great times of worship and fellowship. Often, the Ukrainians asked some questions, to which the Swiss answered mostly with testimonies. Instead of teaching theory they shared from their own practical experiences. One young lady took care of the children for part of the time, so that the adults enjoyed some more freedom. We also had times for games and fun.



The highlight of the camp was without any doubt the time, when we together took time to listen to God. During this special prayer time, we took always a short time of quietness and asked the Lord, whether he wanted to say something concerning one of the members of the group. After the quiet time, each one shared, what he had “heard” on behalf of that person. That could be thoughts, impressions, or a picture that had come to mind. Then the next round followed on behalf of the next person. In the beginning, some of the people felt somewhat unsure or were sceptical. But then it turned into a very special time. God used these moments, to bring us much closer together. The shared thoughts often went very deep, were very personal and touching. Jesus touched the hearts through the mutual words of encouragement. That went also emotionally very deep. One could almost watch, how the mutual trust grew, so that it was possible to tell each other things, which people would have earlier been afraid or ashamed to say out loud. It was a time, when the souls entered a very close and tender relationship. Obviously, it wasn’t exactly easy, to get back to the normal routine after the camp. At least we had our Sunday meeting, where we were able to continue in the same spirit.



More pictures from the camp on [www.salzanzeiger.ch](http://www.salzanzeiger.ch)

### House church

On the first Sunday of March we met in the apartment of Pasha and Olga. That way Tetyana gets a bit of a break and does not have to play host every Sunday.

Very spontaneously, Pasha and Oleg asked, whether I would not be willing, to translate a sermon from Greg Boyd, since they felt the desire for “a good piece of meat”. I wasn’t exactly sure, how well that would turn out without any preparation, but was nevertheless happy to give it a try. It worked out reasonably well, and the meaning got across well understandable. I for myself had always been able to listen to some of these sermons in English and hadn’t felt starved in any way. Because we had been considerate and wanted to express love to those people in the group, who were more into the prosperity gospel, we had refrained from listening to sermons by Greg Boyd, even though they had benefited us so much. I for myself had already since a while the impression, that we were way overdoing it, but the people in the group had to go through these inner processes themselves. Now I am glad, that we were able to continue, where we had left off. After the sermon we had a lively discussion about prayer.

Tanya, a colleague of Olga, was for the second time in our group, and seems to feel very much comfortable. She had also been for two days in our family camp. Her situation is extremely difficult, because her ex-husband won’t leave her alone, is harassing and persecuting and even mistreating her. He is a former policeman, previously convicted and somehow not exactly normal. Olga, who had met him, had the impression, that there was even a demonic presence around him. Recently he had gone to the Christian kindergarten, where Olga and Tanya worked, and threatened the leader, saying, that if he wouldn’t fire Tanya, then he and his family would suffer. The threats were meant seriously. The pressure was too big and so Tanya lost her job. It is not our task

to judge, whether that was right or wrong. Fact is though, that once again Tanya had the impression, that nobody in this world needs her or stands up for her. We have prayed together about the situation and decided to invite her into our group. Now she was already for the second time in our house church. Pray for Tanya, for her ex-husband and also for God's protection for us.

### Youth ministry

Recently the students from the music school haven't turned up at our house very frequently. Often they are busy with their studies or then they do something else. We very deliberately leave it up to them to decide. We are glad if they come, and love to invest our time for them.

From the University in Ostroh I haven't heard in quite a while. Not sure, whether something will continue there.

However, we had already several times our own youth club. Already since a while I felt that God was pointing me towards the teenagers in our families. Since we meet as a house church and don't attend another church, they lack an event, where they can meet. Because of that we offered them, to meet at our house on Saturday evenings. Now we had already several such meetings. A few times we played games and twice I showed them my old slides from the USA-Canada-Trip I had made in 1993. Because the youngsters want to improve their language skills, I commented the slides in English. Most of the evenings, a good chance comes up to give a short input. Very deliberately I have refrained to start immediately with heavy bible studies. Rather, I aim at building relationships and then discuss issues that are really relevant for the young people.

### Studio recordings

We have been struggling with some technical issues. Oleg's computer is a bit old, and struggles with the video programs. At least it seems, that the problems with the sound recordings have been resolved. Thank you, if you keep also these kinds of things in your prayers.

We are now about to record the last few sermons of the "Scandalous Love" series, and the question arises: What is next?

### Video Bible



On the picture you can see the translator and the video engineer at work. Meanwhile Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter and James are recorded and available on YouTube for deaf people. Already over 1000 times people have accessed them, with the number steadily going up. At the

moment the recordings of the letters of John and Jude are in the making. In the Russian bibles all these letters come before the letters of the apostle Paul. A church choir in Switzerland had held a concert and donated the offering towards the recording of Luke and Acts. James and Peter were possible thanks to contributions from within Ukraine. Whenever funds are available, the next part is being recorded.

### Family news

Our backs are doing much better. Tetyana is doing exercises and goes for swimming. I have started seeing that Christian therapist again, whom I had seen already a few years ago. He had a real go at my very tight muscles. I also have to do exercises. His opinion is, that I should be able to recover fully and even do lumber jacking again. So, now we need self-discipline, to ensure we do our daily exercises.

For this summer's stay in Switzerland we have received a



few offers for apartments, but somehow it doesn't really fit all together for the whole time of July and August. Please pray that we find a good solu-

tion, so that we then also can line up the meetings in the churches that support us.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. We really appreciate each and every one of you.

Greetings from a still deeply snow-covered Ukraine

### *Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan*

#### Prayer requests

##### Give thanks for

- the super family camp
- the spiritual hunger in the house church
- the progress with the video bible in sign language
- the youth club at our house
- the improvements with our backs

##### Pray for

- the Tanya and her ex-husband
- the resolving of the computer problems
- the recordings of the sermons and the video bible
- our spines
- suitable accommodation for our stay in Switzerland this coming summer

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