
UKRAINE NEWS

Newsletter № 70

Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

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Dear friends

After a seemingly endless winter the spring rushed by and it is almost summer. Sometimes it is similar in life. Certain things go by much faster than we think.

Studio recordings

Work has progressed well and the recording of the sermon series on Gods "scandalous love" in Russian is finished. Now we are working on an additional presentation on the topic "Wrath and Love", who lays out the issue in the first part and then the second part is a Q & A time. A really interesting thought process on the topic, how Gods love, revealed in Christ, and especially on Calgary, can be reconciled with those at times very violent pictures about God in the Old Testament.

We are also thinking about what to do next. On one hand we still have a huge choice of material from the same author, which we are allowed to use with only one condition: The translations too must be free of charge. On the other hand we are considering the possibility of translating the video series "Directing Vision Daily" from Danny Silk on raising children. Thank you for praying, that we can make the right choice.

House church

During one of our get-togethers as a house church we had an unusually open conversation. Pretty soon we ended up talking about the very difficult life situation of Tanya. She shared with great openness and her trust was really amazing. I was very encouraged by Grisha, who had himself a difficult childhood, who answered her questions with much intuition and wisdom. Tanya is really very close to inviting Jesus into her heart. Now that summer has come, we can once again get together either at Grisha's or our house. We enjoy the time together usually in the yard, except if the weather doesn't play ball.

Video-Bible

Also the video bible for deaf people is progressing well. In these days the last few books of the New Testament are being tackled: Hebrews, Revelation and the Gospel of John. An offering from a joint service of two churches in Switzerland on Ascension Day made this possible.

After the summer break, God willing, work will continue with the Old Testament. For that, more donations will be needed. Until now, Volodya has himself contributed half of the needed amount. Recently I have found out, that he had saved that money for a possible eye operation. On one eye he cannot see at all and on the other eye he sees so poorly, that he literally touches the computer screen with his nose, in order to read anything. Unfortunately it is uncertain, whether and how much an operation would improve things. Because of that, he decided that it was more important, to

provide those millions of people with the possibility to read/view the Bible, than to keep the money for an operation. For me as a "rich Swiss" this kind of attitude is very impressive but also a bit shaming.

Please pray, that God would move hearts, so that also for the Old Testament enough funds can be found. And pray that Volodya's eye would still serve him for a long time.

Lumber jacking



Every so often I have an opportunity to get active with my chainsaw and my manual wire rope hoist. Here I have been



cutting down large poplars on a camp site, where a lot of children's camps are being conducted through-out the year. Apart from that I have also been able to help making firewood for the drug rehab centre, where they also conduct camps for handicapped people during the summer months.

The school and our future

Already since a while we are thinking about the school and also the professional education of our children. The longer the more we see, that the Ukrainian school is unfortunately quite insufficient. In order to learn a practical profession in Switzerland, it might still suffice, but for a potential academic path, it would become extremely difficult. We start to feel forced to look for a good solution. The obvious option would be to return to Switzerland. That would have to happen no later than in a year from now. Darja could then repeat 6th grade, and after that enter the one for her suitable level of what in Switzerland is called secondary school (7th to 9th grade).

In our hearts we don't yet feel ready for such a radical step. Before deciding to go in that direction, we want to check out alternatives.

One possibility would be home schooling, with the parents teaching the children. At the moment I am in touch with people in Switzerland who do home school their children, among them also Christians. Sounds quite interesting. The challenge with this option would be that I would have to do the majority of the teaching, because the material comes from Switzerland and Tetyana could not really teach that. It might be possible, that Tetyana could get some more into ministry, for example among young women, kind of like as a compensation for my time. Now we are trying to figure out, how realistic this would be. Maybe some folks from Switzerland could occasionally visit us for a few weeks and assist us. As a family we could go to Switzerland any time of the year, and there again, maybe some other people could do some teaching. At least we would like to have a professional teacher from Switzerland, who would monitor the process a little bit. The advantage of the homeschooling it the low price. The disadvantage is the amount of time needed. It needs some serious work to keep the quality high.

The second option would be a private school, which is being run by the network of house churches, from where our friends are, that have visited us now twice. This school is organised in such a way, that parents and their kids can be part of the year abroad. During that time, it would also work like home schooling, at times adding contact with the teachers via skype. The advantage is, that the kids are still part of a class and that qualified teachers lead the school. The disadvantage would mainly be on the financial side. Apart from the costs for the school we would also need accommodation in Switzerland (for up to six months), plus a Swiss health insurance and, have much higher living costs.

Both options, should we consider them feasible, would enable us, to continue in our ministry here in Ukraine for at least another few years. And that is the motivation, why we check out these options in the first place. Somehow we are under the impression, that we are not yet finished here.

Or course we could continue with some of the work, e.g. translations, should we decide to return to Switzerland. But it is rather uncertain, whether we would be able to raise the support needed for the much higher living costs. To find a suitable part-time job is also not all that simple.

We therefore ask you, to continuously pray about this during the next weeks and months. Should we decide to go for homeschooling, then we would have to start in September. Should we decide to return to Switzerland, then our move would most likely be in a year's time, and I would have to

start looking for a job and then prepare the whole move. Apart from prayer, we would also appreciate your feedback on this issue. We would love to hear from as many as possible this time. Write what you think. Write, if you see a possibility to assist us in one or the other option (as a teacher, with financial support, with accommodation in Switzerland, etc.) Ultimately, we have to make the decision by ourselves, but your thoughts could be a big help in this.

Home assignment

At last we have found a suitable flat for our time in summer. We will live in Heimenschwand, above Steffisburg. If everything works out, we hope to arrive in Switzerland on the 7th of July. From the 8th to the 12th of July our kids will attend a summer camp in Muensingen. From the 12th to the 19th of July, we will be in the family camp of the house church network in Winterthur.

And below are the dates when we will share at various churches:

14.07., 09:30 FEG Muensingen

21.07., 13:30 EFG Linden

28.07., 10:00 Chrischona Ziefen

11.08., 10:00 FEG Wallisellen

15.08., 20:15 EFG Tschingel, prayer evening

We look forward to seeing as many friends as possible. If you are not living in Switzerland, then we simply appreciate your prayers for each of these meetings. May God touch many hearts and lives through what we will share.

We very much appreciate, that you are partnering with us. Your prayers have made a difference more often, than most of us can appreciate. Maybe one day in heaven, we will find out, how much was happening or not happening, simply because of the amount of – or the lack of – prayer.

Greetings from Ukraine

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- the finished sermon series
- the openness of Tanya
- the progress with the video bible
- the protection when cutting down trees
- the improvements with our backs

Pray for

- the Tanya and her ex-husband
- the recordings of the video bible
- Volodya's eye sight
- guidance concerning the schooling of our kids and also our future, be it in Ukraine or Switzerland

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