
UKRAINE NEWS

Newsletter № 71

Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

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Dear friends

After a slightly more extended stay in Switzerland than originally planned, we are back in Ukraine and take first steps into well-known and at the same time new territory. But let me tell me things in proper order.

Time in Switzerland

After a journey over 2000km without any problems, our children immediately got to attend a children's camp, whilst we parents tried to recover a little bit from the long journey. In the second week, the whole family attended a family camp of the house group network of our friends.

Starting from the third week, we lived in Heimenschwand and enjoyed a marvellous view of the Bernese Alps.



We were able to fully enjoy this only for 5 days. Then I suffered from a herniated disk. I had to go to the doctor and then for physiotherapy. Because of that, extended hikes were no longer possible. We were able though, to go forward with all the planned presentations. It was motivating for us that we found almost in all churches a positive spirit of optimism. Who was not able to be there, can download my sermon (either in German or Swiss German) from our website (www.salzanzeiger.ch see Audio/Video).

Baptism

The 18th of August was a special day of joy for us. Darja got baptised. We are so happy for her. It was with great conviction that she took this step. We had a wonderful day with many of our relatives being part of the celebration. More pictures on our website.



Stay in the hospital

Because throughout the last years Tetyana had suffered more and more frequently from tonsillitis, which had to be treated with antibiotics, we decided, to consult a specialist in Switzerland. He came to the conclusion, that only the removal of her tonsils would solve the problem. Since it had become difficult, to find suitable antibiotics in Ukraine, and because it is also difficult to find good specialists, we decided to go ahead with the operation in Switzerland. By the end of August Tetyana went to the hospital in Thun. The operation turned out to be somewhat more difficult than average. Also, right after the operation, she suffered from bleeding. Because of that, the surgeon decided, to have Tetyana transported to the University hospital of Berne for the sake of permanent monitoring. In the regional hospital of Thun they were not able to provide the necessary permanent monitoring, and there is not permanently an ENT-surgeon on duty. However, no further problems arose, when in Berne, and already two days later Tetyana was allowed to come home. The healing process went well, and meanwhile she feels really well. Less encouraging was the fact that in this case our international health insurance would not pay. With this insurance company, you have to declare already existing conditions. For a slightly increased premium, most of these issues will be included. What I had missed in the English contract was the fact that every year with the renewal, all conditions have to be declared again. I had previously declared Tetyana's tonsillitis, but forgotten to mention it again in the renewal. Because of that, we are now forced to pay the bill ourselves. Due to the transfer to Berne, this got really expensive. Nevertheless we are glad, that at last the ever recurring throat problems are now over. We thank all those, who have been praying throughout this time.

School

Seldom have I chewed on an issue for so long and have I had such difficulties to come to a decision, as this was the case concerning the schooling of our kids. Already since quite a while I had been observing, how our kids were putting huge efforts into certain school subjects with very little results to show for. Unfortunately, this has foremost to do with outdated methodology, weak teaching materials, and totally underpaid teachers. During our extended stay in Switzerland our children were permitted to attend a nearby school for three days and get a little bit of a feeling for a Swiss school. I attended myself a little bit and have to say, that I really liked the school in that village.

Afterwards, we did three weeks of home schooling, working daily on math and German language. The studies went very well and we moved along rather quickly. Once more we discussed the whole issue intensely. Upon our arrival back in Ukraine, we discussed it also with friends. Then we decided, with some fear and trembling, that we want to give the school at home a chance. We went to see the school director. Instead of criticising us, she totally understood. She even said that she would have been surprised, if we would not have chosen this route, in order to prepare the kids for professional education in Switzerland. She even offered, that our kids could still attend individual lessons (such as Ukrainian language, sports, crafts). There was only one issue: They want to see an official paper, which confirms, that our children actually do attend school according to the Swiss school system. That proved a bit more difficult. The official Swiss school system declares itself not responsible for us, because we are not registered in Switzerland. Private schools are a far too expensive option. Now we have found help with the Swiss association for home schooling. Just today, as I type this, we received their confirmation letter. Now we hope that this will be accepted. Then we can start our home schooling programme next week. This will allow us, to continue our ministry here in Ukraine for another few years, and at the same time prepare our children well for the education in Switzerland.

Recording- and translation ministry

The work on the video bible is progressing. Meanwhile the Psalms and Proverbs are already recorded. Over 4000 times have people from more than 40 countries accessed one of the videos already on YouTube. Even a school for sign language translators in Russia has subscribed to the channel. Now we are in contact with authors and publishers and hope, that we will soon be able to record the first audio book. Volodya received some long outstanding money back, and wants to invest it in Gods Kingdom this way.

Tetyana is thinking about the possibility, to do some studio recordings with her own songs. Volodya has also written many songs, which were never recorded. Now things have to be evaluated to find out, what is possible. In any case this will not be a commercial project, as it is almost impossible to make any money here with Christian songs. The idea is to simply spread the Good News also by means of good music and reach more people.

The first book we have translated is now in the second edit will hopefully soon be ready for print.

Two sermon texts are ready for studio recording. Hopefully this week we will be able to start recording again. Just recently I helped Oleg to reconnect all his cables, after he and Anya had moved house this summer.

“Wooden stuff”

We had hardly arrived back in Ukraine, when I already got the first phone call. Next to a public school two big poplar trees had to be cut down. I felled the trees precisely next to the school building, managing to do so with no damage to buildings or phone cables. The men going through therapy at the drug rehab centre then chopped the trees up for firewood for the winter.

The folding bed needs to be varnished and put together, and then we have a finished exhibition model. Then we have to

find out, whether we can sell it and how many people will be interested in such a bed. If the demand is big enough, then we will try producing a mini-series. Part of the income is supposed to go towards projects.

Our backs

Thanks to some connections we had an opportunity in Switzerland to have our backs checked in the Bethesda hospital in Basel. We indeed have both problems with herniated disks. The situation is such, that physiotherapy (incl. daily exercises) should be sufficient, to achieve a good quality of life. I for myself can already tell that after the physiotherapy I feel much better than I did in a long time. I am doing my daily exercises, and at last I can enjoy the bed again and sleep in on a day off. Due to the operation on her tonsils, it was not possible for Tetyana to also undergo physiotherapy. Thanks to the painkillers given after the operation, she was at least able to relax her back muscles for a while. Now we watch and see how things develop. She has also started doing some exercises. However, it may be that during our next visit to Switzerland she will also have to undergo physiotherapy.

Once again, many thanks to all, who are supporting us in prayer or by any other means. We are very blessed to know all of you and have you as part of the team.

Greetings from Ukraine

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- the successful operation of Tetyana's tonsils
- the opportunity to have our backs checked
- the good progress with the video bible

Pray for

- the recordings of the video bible
- a good start with the home schooling
- good planning of all the various tasks
- guidance concerning studio recording of Tetyana's songs
- audio books, sermon recordings and book translations

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Family Website:

www.salzanzeiger.ch

Video-Bible in Russian sign language:

www.youtube.com/user/surdobiblia

Direct link to sermons in Russian language:

www.salzanzeiger.ch/media