
UKRAINE / SWISS NEWS

Newsletter № 76

Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

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Dear friends

After eight years in Ukraine, it is now time to wrap things up and start a new phase of life. A lot of mixed emotions accompany us in this process.

Leaving

Wrapping things up for us means, going through all our belongings, giving away a lot of things as well as selling some. We are taking only very few belongings with us and will leave almost all of our furniture behind. The transportation costs would exceed the value of most of our things.

To sell our house is a challenge. The economical situation in Ukraine is difficult and the currency was devaluated severely. Most people therefore do not have the means to buy property. If we don't find a buyer at the last moment, then our niece Natasha will live in our house and look after it. To find good and trustworthy renters is very tricky here. The risk is very high, that most of the rent will have to be reinvested into repairing the house afterwards. To estimate, how things will develop in Ukraine over the next months and years is very difficult. But chances are, that starting next summer, the economy will begin to recover, and then it will be also much more realistic to sell.

Letting go

The practical side is one thing, the emotional side and the relationships another. We will have to let go our friends, with whom we have become especially close during the last four years. Of course we will stay in touch, also thanks to modern communication but it won't be the same as being together in person. Especially for Tetyana the move to Switzerland is not easy, having to leave her home country and all that is connected to that.

Last Sunday our house church was quite a large group, because we had several guests who only occasionally visit. That was more or less our Good-bye service. The words, which our friends wrote into a booklet for us are a testimony of the traces we are leaving behind.

Full-time or part-time

The feedback from you guys has been very encouraging. Meanwhile a large part of the needed support has been pledged. It will definitely suffice for the first few months. In the long run we will need another 500 dollars per month in support or then we will have to look for a part-time job.

For the time being, we can continue with the full-time ministry. We will keep you posted on how things develop.

Once more, many, many thanks to all those, who have been standing faithfully with us over so many years, both in prayer and financially. A special thanks to those, who by one-time gifts or regular support enable us, to start the new phase in our ministry.

News from the ministry

We just finished the audio version of Wayne Jacobsen's book "He loves me!" It is a great book, which shows to the readers, respectively to the listeners, how deeply they are loved by God. So many people live, who deep inside are not convinced, that God really loves them unconditionally. The message in this book has the potential to set people free. We recommend to you the English original of The Russian audio book can be downloaded from our website „[Zanovo](#)“.

These days we were able also to finish the latest sermon series in Russian. "Forest behind the trees" is a series of 6 sermons, which give a great overview of how God deals with humanity, beginning with creation, moving on to Israel, then through Jesus as the centrepiece of everything, followed by the church and then finally revelation. It is as though you take a few steps back and then take a look at the overall picture and how everything is connected.

The next sermon series is called "Faith and Doubt". These sermons are being translated by Valentina from Cherkassy. My task has moved from translator to editor. I am checking the whole translation and correct what is necessary. Afterwards we discuss questionable sentences and agree on the best possible option. It is not so much the Russian grammar I correct, since Valentina masters it much better than I do. I am mainly checking, whether the meaning of the original sermon is still the same in Russian. The studio recordings remain my task. The first of these recordings worked out well and the feedback is positive. In linguistic terms, there is obvious progress.

The recordings of the video bible continue to go on. Meanwhile the first and second book of Kings are recorded. More than 13000 times people have accessed the video bible already. How many times the videos were downloaded and are now being watched by deaf people on their computers, or are being shared on DVD, we do not know. Upon request Volodya and Larissa are sending out DVD's. Also other websites are beginning to offer these videos. It will still take more than a year, until the whole video bible is finished.

Testimony

Marina is the daughter of our friend Ivan. He is himself very active as a teacher at short-term bible schools, which usually take place in local churches.

Marina was one of those music students, who visited our home for quite some time. She was the initiator of those meetings. Before that she had attended our home church several times. Since then she kept on listening to our sermon

translations. Now she is studying in Kiev. Here is what she wrote:

Three years ago my life was changed. Everything began with the sermons about God's love by Greg Boyd. I encountered God in a very special way and got to know His unconditional, self-sacrificial love for us humans. Now I know how He really is. I realized how valuable I am in His eyes. Not even my sin is reducing His love for me. Rather, he wants to conquer my heart with His love. Out of love He works with me, cleans me, redeems me, and removes the sin. I got to know an ingeniously wise, creative and passionately loving God. When I got to know this God of love, I cried for joy. I wanted to jump and dance, because with my whole being I felt free. I wanted to shout and ask: "Why did nobody tell me that before? Why did nobody during 20 years of attending church, show me God in this way?!"

Now my life has changed! God's love has made me free, no longer dependent on the love of other people around me. Only God can give me the love my heart longs for. Now I no longer am afraid to meet people, talk to them, love them, just as God has loved me, unconditionally. I am able to rejoice over other people, simply because they exist. I feel the desire, to have friendship with them. That was different in the past. Then I didn't know God's love and wasn't able to love either, even though I longed for God's closeness and tried to be a good Christian. I searched for God, and now He has revealed Himself to me. And I know that there lies still so much ahead of me. He has already given so much joy to me and he keeps on letting me discover new things. He changes me more and more, and as a changed person I am influencing, consciously or unconsciously, the people around me.

Greg Boyd and Erich were the tools God used to do all of this in me. I thank God for their ministry and believe that through their ministry still many more people will get to know the true God of love.

Marina's father, Ivan, told me, what he felt, when she asked him that question "Why did nobody tell me that before?" He had tears in his eyes, he, the bible school teacher. He deeply loves Jesus. At the same time he realized, how often in the churches a distorted picture of God is being shared, the picture of a God we have to be afraid of.



Very practical

Here is a picture of the wheel chair ramp, that was given to us a year ago. Pasha is glad, that he now can push Oleg this way into the car. That helps him to preserve his back. During this past summer, the bus was also in action to serve handicapped people attending various camps.

Moving

So, we hope that crossing the borders with our few belongings will not cause any trouble with customs. Once in Switzerland, the first task will be to find everything we need for our new household.

Of course there are also some things we really look forward to. After 9 years we will for the first time celebrate Christmas in Switzerland again.

Right now we are still busy with bureaucracy. To de-register is much more complicated in Ukraine than in Switzerland.

If everything works out, then we will make the journey sometimes between the 24th and the 27th of November. As always the trip will take two days. Pasha will accompany us with his van to help with the transportation of our things. We appreciate, if you can include us in your prayers these days. Pray that everything will work out with the bureaucracy, that we won't have any problems with customs and that the long journey would go safely, without breakdowns or accidents. Please also pray for the whole adaptation. Especially for Tetyana it will be not exactly be easy in the beginning.

Many greetings from Ukraine

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- all God has done so far, but especially during the last 4 years
- every person who has experienced change
- the new audio book, the new sermon series and the progress with the video bible.

Pray for

- all our friends we leave behind
- success with bureaucracy and customs
- a safe trip
- sufficient support
- a buyer for our house
- peace for Ukraine

New address as per 1st of December 2014:

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For financial support from within Switzerland

Schweizerische Missions-Gemeinschaft SMG

Industriestr. 1, Postfach, 8401 Winterthur

PC.-No: 80-42881-3, Annotation: Erich & Tetyana Salzmann

For financial support from within Germany

DMG interpersonal e.V.

IBAN: DE02 6729 2200 0000 2692 04

Volksbank Kraichgau, Konto-Nr.: 269 204,

BLZ: 67292200, BIC: GENODE61WIE,

in favour of: DMG interpersonal e.V., DE-74889 Sinsheim

Annotation: „SMG, Erich & Tetyana Salzmann“

If you live in another country, please get in touch with us. We will figure out, which way will be the best to transfer funds to us. We will look into Paypal as an option. If we can set this up, we will let you know.