
SWISS NEWS

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Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

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Dear friends

We are now living since over two months in Frutigen, and are trying to get once again used to life in Switzerland. Here is, how we are doing.

Moving

At the end of November, we travelled with our belongings to Switzerland. Pasha came along with his van, loaded with banana boxes. Once again, we got a demonstration of the differences in bureaucracy. At the Polish EU-border, we needed seven hours until the transit papers for our stuff were finally ready. Due to that, we only arrived at 4am in the morning at our friends' house in Czech Republic. When we arrived at the Swiss border the next evening, and needed only about seven minutes at customs, it was obvious even to the most tired of us that we had landed in "a different world".

The next day, we drove from our parents place in foggy Thun to our new home. A few kilometres before Frutigen, the fog cleared up and we found ourselves in the midst of the Bernese Alps – a very special experience for Pasha.



Starting anew

We are living in the centre of Frutigen, in an old row house. In the beginning, we almost literally had only banana boxes to live out of and decorate with. Meanwhile, we have got most of what we need. We thank all our friends who helped us with furniture or good advice.

However, a new beginning requires more than furniture. It is not exactly easy to put down roots again after so many years abroad and to build a new network of relationships.

We are visiting various churches hoping to find one that shares our vision.

At the same time, we are trying to get to know people in our town, which has a bit over 6000 inhabitants, and build relationships with them. That requires time and is especially difficult for Tetyana. She likes the place but often struggles with homesickness.

New relationships

During the first few weeks, we already got to know several Russian speaking ladies. The wife of an Italian (who makes the best Pizzas we have ever tasted!) comes from Ukraine. About once a month, three or four ladies meet at their Take-away place. Tetyana got invited too. These ladies are non-believers.

We also got to know a young Christian Ukrainian lady who is just about to get married to a Swiss. She already speaks German quite well. She visited us together with her fiancé and we had a good time of fellowship.

We will see how these contacts will develop. Please pray for these ladies. Maybe over time a house group or something like that could develop.

In addition to them, we also got to know several local people who speak some Russian, because they have previously been involved with an organisation ministering in Ukraine.

New activities

One of these organisations is [KievKids](#). We heard of them when we attended a church here in town for the first time. They have a children's home outside of Kiev. It was founded by Marek and Natalie Wnuk. He is Polish, she is Swiss, and they both speak Russian. Natalie has since then met with Tetyana a number of times already and it really helps her emotionally. Once she was able to help them with the mailing of their newsletter, and Marek once asked me to help with translating some letters from Russian into German.

Just opposite our house is a missions agency called [MSD](#) (Medien-Schriften-Dienste). In the past, they had a lot of audio productions, but now they mainly offer calendars and tracts in many languages, and have a lot of Bible correspondence courses, which are used in many countries. They had just started to translate the first tract into Russian, and I was able to help them refine the text. The first use of

this tract will be in prisons in Germany. There is a man ministering to inmates, among whom are quite a few Russian speaking folks.

Established work goes on...

As I wrote before, we want to continue with our translations. Since there is a large basement in our house, kind of like a hobby-room, I was able to separate a corner of it and set it up as a recording studio. Meanwhile we have already finished three



sermons in Russian. I do the recordings; Oleg then does the cutting and engineering in Ukraine. Thanks to the Internet we can continue to work together despite the distance. It is interesting to analyse the visits to our website (www.zanovo.info). I am especially happy about visits from Donetsk, right from the area of conflict in Ukraine, but also more and more from various cities in Russia. Only the message of God's love can bring real change. Humans, left to themselves, will never be able to bring about real peace.

...and new work starts

So far we have made only a few test recordings in German but now we would really like to make more material available. Two topics are especially important to us. One of them is God's incredible love, the other concerns the topic of suffering. How can we align these two topics? Often people ask: "How can a God of love allow so much suffering?" and other similar questions. The sermon series we translate, give interesting and profound answers to these questions. So far, we have translated two sermons on each topic. Now we will begin to translate the whole sermon series "Scandalous Love" in proper order. You can download the German translations as video, audio or text from our new website "Überdenken" (www.ueberdenken.org). The sermons can be useful also for evangelistic purposes. Especially if you have friends who ask exactly such difficult questions, you might find something helpful to recommend to them.

Family news

Since two months our children are attending the school here in Frutigen. They are coping quite well with the school programme. In maths they are on the same level but in French class they have some catching up to do. Especially Darja needs to make some good progress if she wants to pass the exams for the higher level (secondary) education. It is more difficult for them in social terms. It takes time to make new friends. Some of their classmates are not always exactly fair towards them. Darja has made some connections in the teenage club of one of the local churches. We hope that Dan too will find some friends soon. Every year the local kids receive a special and pricewise very fair offer to take ski lessons. Of course our kids were excited to attend. After only a few weeks we can already see good progress, and the kids enjoy their time outside on Wednesday afternoons. After living for 10 years in the lowlands, of course I too had to try. Apart from being slightly rusty, everything works still just fine. ☺ In addition to struggling with emotional ups and downs, Tetyana is also not doing so well physically. During the next weeks she will see some doctors. We appreciate, if you remember her in your prayers.

Projects in Ukraine

The work on the video Bible in Russian sign language continues. Soon I will have to get some more finances to the workers in Ukraine. With the current situation in the country, it is not so easy to make transfers. If we can't find someone who can provide courier service, then we will travel to Rivne during spring vacation in April. The translation of the book "Is God to blame?" goes on and the first three chapters are done already.

I am trying to connect with a company that produces the medication "Daktarin". We hope that they would provide some of this medication free of charge or at least at a reduced price for the children in Rivne, who suffer from cancer.

We have not yet found a buyer for our house in Rivne, Ukraine. At the moment our niece is living there and looks after the house. Due to the current situation in the Ukraine, it is almost impossible to find a buyer who would be able to pay a reasonable amount.

Thank you

Thank you to all of you who support us in one way or another. A special thanks to those, who through their finances enable us, to continue in full-time ministry while based in Switzerland. Right now it is looking quite okay. For the first few months we should have enough. In the long run, we will probably need some more support or I will have to look for a part-time job.

If you are interested, you can now send your support also via PayPal.

More pictures from Frutigen here: www.salzanzeiger.ch

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. May God bless you richly!

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- the good journey and the success with the bureaucracy
- the good development of our support
- the new contacts, MSD and KievKids
- the new contacts with Russian speaking people

Pray for

- Peace in Ukraine
- a good settling here in Frutigen
- new friends for our kids
- Tetyanas health
- a buyer for our house
- good progress with the translations

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