
SWISS NEWS

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Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

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Dear friends

Time keeps on passing by at always the same rate, but to us it seems, depending on the situation, that it just flies by or that it goes very slowly. This is how it feels to us right now. Some events make you wonder, where all the time has gone, other things make you long for a change, but it seems out of reach.

Summer in Ukraine

After our arrival in Rivne, it became immediately clear, that a fair amount of work was awaiting us. The whole surroundings of our house needed some attention: Cutting grass, weeding, picking a lot of berries and sour cherries. From these we made a lot of jam. Apart from that, there were a number of minor repairs to make. In spite of a number of interested people, we still didn't find a buyer for our house, even though we had further lowered our price quite a bit. At the moment, our niece Natasha keeps on taking care of the house.

On Sundays we met like before as a house church and enjoyed the fellowship. And we also visited a number of relatives and friends.

Ministry also continued. I was able to finish the next sermon translation and do a recording at the studio of Oleg.

Once again we were able to bring a batch of Daktarin oral gel for the kids sick with cancer. Also this time the pharmacist granted a generous discount.

After a summer break the work on the video Bible continues. Meanwhile they have come as far as the book of Esther. The YouTube channel, where the recordings can be viewed, has already over 180 subscribers. The videos were accessed already more than 18'000 times.

Fears about the future

During the visit of one of our friends, we unexpectedly got to talk about a special topic. Our friend all of a sudden warned us about the new biometric passports. As it was, all kinds of conspiracy theories had installed fear in her mind. Unfortunately there are quite a lot of Christians who fall for this kind of stuff. Often it is a combination of conspiracy theories and questionable interpretations of the book of Revelation. Since we only recently had gone through a sermon series about Revelation in our house church, which had contained a really freeing message, we had a good talk with our friend and were able to show her, that her fears were without ground. It was almost visible, how the worries made room for a renewed hope.

We have found that there are a lot more conspiracy theories floating around in the Russian speaking world, than here, amongst Christians as well as non-Christians. Because of that we decided, that the next one to be translated and published will be the above mentioned sermon series. It is our hope that many more people will recognise that the

Jesus of Revelation is exactly the same as the one in the Gospels – the God of love, who has offered himself up on our behalf. And it is our desire that the Christians would concentrate once again on the spreading of this good news, instead of some “Christian forms of divination”.

The next book in Russian

The book “Is God to blame?” in Russian language about the topic of suffering and the question “Why does God allow this to happen?” is almost finished. One of the editors is lecturing at an university. After editing the book she wrote:

“A Superb book! I am thrilled! The author is describing what we intuitively feel, but often are unable to express. Now I know exactly, which book I will use with my students for their master thesis.”

Please pray, that the final edit and the work of the publisher will go forward smoothly and that the book can soon go into print. Pray also, that in spite of the financial crisis the book will get into the hands of many people, who are asking the kind of questions it tries to give an answer to.

Flat on my back

During the last one and a half year, my back was reasonably ok. Because of that it was rather unexpected, when one morning shortly after returning home from Ukraine I



started to feel a pinching. Within a few minutes, probably because of a clumsy movement, I was flat on my back. First I tried to help myself with already known methods and tricks. But after three days it was so bad that I was hardly able to move. There was nothing else left for me to do, but to go to the hospital. They kept me for five days and I went through a pain therapy, followed by physiotherapy. They did an MRI and this, interestingly enough, showed, that my spine and the intervertebral discs are all ok. It apparently is a muscular problem, caused mainly from a lot of sitting. The goal is now, to exercise my back and abdominal muscles, so that they will support the spine much better. It should be possible, that I can do once again any kind of work.

But progress was initially very slow. For almost a month I was not able to work at all or only part-time. After some serious setback, I got different medications. Thanks to them, the inflammation finally went away and I was able to go on with the physiotherapy. By now, I already feel a lot better and am even able to do some short mountain hikes.

Job hunt

I had meant to start in earnest looking around for a part-time job, but with that kind of a sick back you don't really look good when going for a job interview. For that reason I mainly worked on optimising my application forms and my resume, and was looking around a little bit. Please pray that I could find something suitable, that doesn't strain my back and can easily be combined with the translation ministry. I would prefer, if it was a job somewhere nearby.

By the way: Victor has already started to work as translator and editor. That way, even if I work part-time, the volume of translated material should not become any less.

Siberia

Since some time I am in touch with the chief editor of a Christian newspaper in Siberia. She has asked me for the third time already to contribute an article for their newspaper. She tells me the topic of the edition and then I try to write something along those lines. Apparently they like what I write, since they keep coming back and ask for another contribution. Together with my name they also print a link to our Russian website. Thanks to this we have seen a notable increase of people from various Russian cities accessing our sermon translations.

An obituary

In the night from the 11th to the 12th of September my dear grandma, Olga Blum, died after a short sickness at the age of 92. Her wish was granted and she peacefully fell asleep.



My grandmother leaves behind a big gap. In my heart she always had a special place. Already as a toddler I was cared for by her, when my mother was sick. Later I spent almost all my school vacations on their farm. Her warm love and goodness was always felt by us grandchildren. She always found something to pamper us with. We fondly

remember especially her honey gingerbread. The biggest gap grandma leaves behind, is a gap in our prayer wall. As far as I can remember, the first thing in the morning she did was to get on her knees and pray. On the farm she got up already at 5 AM to help with the animals. But always before work her prayers rose up to God. Our grandma was like a corner tower in a fortification wall. Now it seems to me, that there is a huge gap. Who is going to stand in it and fight with and for us in her place? If one is in full-time ministry, one especially needs prayer, because the enemy specifically tries, to destroy ones work. Maybe one of you will hear the calling, to stand into this gap and put us onto your daily prayer list. If so, we would love to hear from you.

Mixed news

We made some new contacts with Russian speaking people in Switzerland. During the following weeks we hope, to deepen and expand them.

Wanted: One of our friends is working as a church planter near Kherson in southern Ukraine. He asked me, whether I couldn't find somewhere a violin for a very talented young

man. Should anyone have such an instrument he no longer uses, please let us know.

Our new family website is fully working now. On www.salzanzeiger.ch you can select German, English or Russian language. Many posts are in all three languages. Sorry, my own sermons are only in German or Swiss German. ☺ But at least you can find some new pictures and even a few songs with Tetyana as one of the lead singers.



As a family we are doing quite well. Tetyana still struggles at times with her back.

If you ever plan a vacation in the Swiss mountains, just let us know. We can help you

find some reasonably priced accommodation in our area. And of course we would love to have you over for a meal.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Greetings

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- the good time in Ukraine in spring
- the good fellowship with friends
- the progress in translating the next book into Russian
- the Christian Newspaper from Siberia

Pray for

- our backs, that keep on hampering us
- the people, who listen to sermon translations
- the ongoing work for the video bible for deaf people
- a suitable part-time job
- the sale of our house
- the new contacts among Russian speakers

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