
SWISS NEWS

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Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

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Dear friends

Already a year has gone by, since we moved to Switzerland. Time to review and to think about the next year.

Back(-up)

After having ended up in hospital rather unexpectedly last summer, and an initially very slow recovery, I can finally announce good news. My back is totally healthy again. The physiotherapy with a well focussed build-up of the muscles has helped me so much and now I'm feeling better than in a long time. Now to keep up with the physical activities ☺.

Unfortunately Tetyana's back hasn't improved yet. She keeps on going through phases with serious difficulties. However, just a few days ago, she was able to see the same specialist that helped me. His diagnose: "Everything is fine with your discs. But your whole muscular system needs well aimed build-up training. For starters she got some medication, which helps to relax and remove any inflammation, and now she has started physiotherapy with the same therapist I have seen also. It seems that he immediately found the critical spots. How great it would be, if the effect of the therapy would prove to be just as good as with me.

House sold

By the end of October we were finally able to sell our house in Ukraine. Since I had no idea, how much time I would need to clear the house and deal with all the bureaucratic stuff, I drove by car. Our belongings we had already moved to Switzerland, but most of the furniture was still there. The buyer of the house bought some of it for himself for a fair price. The rest I sold or gave away to friends and acquaintances. It sure took a lot of organising.

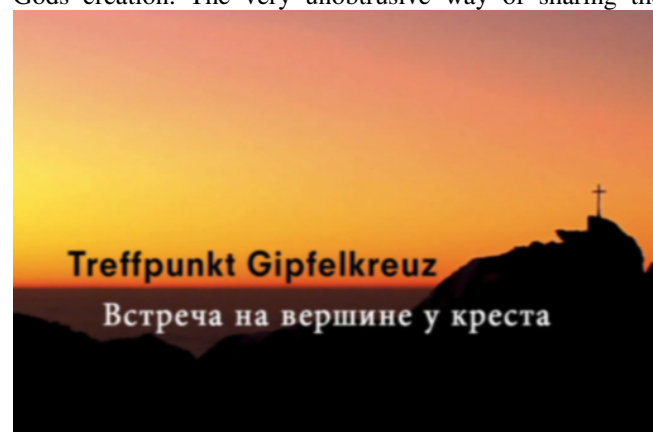
I am very thankful to my friend Igor, who assisted and advised me with the legal stuff. Everything went smoothly with the sale.

We had to sell the house at a loss, mainly due to the devaluation of the Ukrainian currency. At the same time we were still able to sell it quite a bit above market value. All in all, we are glad we were able to wrap things up in such a way.

Encounter at the summit cross

Maybe some of you have already seen this film. A group of Christian alpinists initiated 9 years ago the "Mountain Bible", a New Testament, which includes a whole series of testimonies from Christians that love to climb mountains. (available in German and French). 5 years ago they launched the film "Encounter at the summit cross". Even though this film is first and foremost addressing those who love the mountains, it is also great to watch by just about anyone who never uses rope and pickaxe in steep territory. Three climbing teams approach the peak of the Weisshorn at the

same time from three different sides. Simply fantastic film footage, accompanied by good music, allows us to marvel at Gods creation. The very unobtrusive way of sharing the



Gospel is the icing on the cake. No, I didn't become a mountaineer all of a sudden. Unfortunately I am still somewhat afraid of heights. The main reason, why I am interested in this film, is because it is also available in Russian language. The organisation "bergbibel.com" has granted us the rights to make the Russian version of the film available for free on our website. With the help of some friends we were able to separate the Russian part from the DVD, add some subtitles and then it was ready.

After having uploaded the film to the website, I had to do some advertising. I wrote (and still write) to all friends, acquaintances and just about anybody I could think of, who might love to watch such a great film. Within just a few days the number of visitors to our website jumped about tenfold. At the same time, some of my friends passed on the information through Facebook and other means. Some of them have quite a lot of contacts. One post alone was accessed about 1200 times and 50 more of his contacts shared the information further. Obviously, this has generated additional interest for the other content of our website. Some people, who watched the movie are now also watching sermons.

One of those to whom I recommended the film, was the real estate agent, who had represented the buyers of our house. While sitting and waiting for the notary to do the legal paperwork, we got to talk a little bit. He was interested in Switzerland and already then reacted very positively when I shared some thoughts about the meaning of life. Here now his reaction to the film:

"I have just finished watching the film. Impossible to describe this beauty in words! This film is not just about the Alps. This film is about the power of the spirit, courage, love for life, about the importance of supporting and safeguarding close ones who will not let you fall down into the abyss. I will watch this film one or even several more

times. With a pen in my hand. Then I will write down these beautiful and powerful words of life. One simply wants to shout for joy over such beauty! Thank you, Erich. Now I would like to travel to Switzerland, into the mountains. Although I have to admit, that I cannot imagine to climb up to the cross on that mountain. Unthinkable. At the beginning of the film I could not imagine people standing next to this cross. The way up there seemed insurmountable... But at the end these courageous people nevertheless stood there, where heaven touches earth, holding onto the cross! Thank you."

If you have some acquaintances, friends or neighbours, who speak Russian, then please point them to our website www.zanovo.info. There they can watch the film free of charge. Or you can download it from there and pass it on. If you know of other missionaries working amongst Russian speaking people, then please also point this out to them.

If you don't know the film yourself, then I recommend you visit the website www.bergbibel.com. Here you can order the DVD, which includes apart from Russian also German, French, Italian, English and Chinese. The quality on the DVD is even better than the one on our website. Maybe that would make for a nice gift. You can also order the "Mountain Bible" in German or French as well as the new movie "Focus Matterhorn", available also in English. It is possible to ask for permission to show one of the films in public.

Should you have trouble with ordering, contact us and we will help you.

Part-time

Since November 1st I am working only 80% in ministry and 20% in an additional job for Wilhelm Zurbrugg, who happens to be the president of the organisation "Mountain Bible". I am mainly involved in construction work, but at times also in forestry or agricultural work. My working hours are flexible and will depend on the jobs that need to be done. The practical work outdoors makes for a good change from the office job. Apart from some sore muscles I coped well during the first few days and my back didn't cause any problems. As long as I don't overdo it, it will actually have a positive effect on my back.

The second year

The evaluation of the first year in Switzerland looks positive. However, we are also aware, that the second year will be different. We are thankful, that we got through the first year quite well, and that we have been able to gradually settle in here in Frutigen.

The changes in the second year have already started with the part-time job. This is a good thing for a number of reasons. First of all, it is simply nice to get amongst people again and do something different. Secondly, it is a good thing for my back, and thirdly, we really do need the extra income.

Since the beginning of this year we are about \$400 short in support. My part-time job covers for that but we depend on finding either more paid work or additional support. If you would like to join our support group, please let us know. For more information regarding payment options, see below or contact us.

Despite the reduction of ministry time, we still feel that we are not yet finished with our calling, and that God still wants to reach many Russian speaking people through our ministry. Recently we got to know a Ukrainian couple who

lives in Bern, and there are also a few other new contacts. Right now we just don't know yet how this will develop. We need God's leading in this.



Our children are doing well. Also during this winter they enjoy skiing with the skiing school for local kids. I for myself have started using the touring skis, with which I can hike up almost any mountain and then ski down. That is obviously much more strenuous than using a lift, but it fits our budget much better and adds to my fitness. ☺ How about joining me for a hike?

Greetings

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- the renewed health of my back! Hallelujah!
- the sale of our house
- the film "Encounter at the summit cross"
- the part-time job

Pray for

- good progress in Tetyana's physiotherapy
- those watching the film "Encounter at the summit cross"
- the ministry of the "Mountain Bible" amongst alpinists
- God's leading concerning the Russian speaking folks in Switzerland
- sufficient financial support

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