
SWISS NEWS

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Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

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Dear friends

Everything changes, but our God remains the same. No matter what happens in our lives, His love remains forever.

Translation- and Studio-Ministry

It is not always easy, to write something interesting about a ministry, that consists mainly of the same kind of work, day in and day out. Translating sermons requires reliable and meticulous work. Sentence after sentence needs consideration to figure out which words to select, so that the listener will get to hear the same as was said in the original language. When it comes to quotes from the Bible, it is often necessary to check many different translations in order to find the version which is closest to the English one, so that the exegesis will make sense.

After finishing a sermon series about prayer we have now started a series on Revelation. The thoughts of this sermon series are really freeing. Instead of looking at Revelation like at a crystal ball, in which we can see a calendar about the future, we learn that Revelation is first and foremost a revelation about Jesus Christ and the cross. This helps us to cope with the “here and now” including all the sufferings, and to remain faithful to God. Especially amongst Russian speaking people there are a lot of conspiracy theories being spread, also amongst Christians. It is therefore of tremendous importance that believers return their focus to the main thing, namely spreading the Good News.

Book published



More still than with a sermon, it is important, to be very attentive when translating a book, so that really everything is correct, especially if it concerns a title like the sensitive topic of “suffering”. In his book “Is God to blame?” Greg approaches the topic from two angles at the same time. On the one hand he thoroughly researches, what the Bible says on the topic, on the other

hand he checks, whether the interpretation also makes sense in our life, which so often is full of suffering. Theological examinations are of little use, if you can’t apply them in practice. In my view, this is by far the best book I have ever

read on this topic. It does not give any superficial answers. The complexity of the question is not being brushed aside. The reader wrestles together with the author in order to find an answer. At the end we have to admit, that even though we cannot understand a lot of things, one thing becomes very clear: We can understand God! He has revealed himself very clearly and unambiguously in Jesus Christ! The cross is the culmination of this revelation! And because of that we can even in the midst of suffering clearly say: No, God is not to blame! This was not his will! At the same time we receive hope, because he promises to be with us no matter what happens.

A special prayer request is the distribution of the book. Because of the still ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia it has become increasingly difficult ship goods across the border. It is really important to us that this book will also reach the people in Russia and not only in Ukraine. In both countries, the topic is currently extremely important.

Focus Matterhorn

After having received very good feedback for the Russian version of the Film “Meeting at the summit cross” we have decided to tackle the translation of the more recent film “Focus Matterhorn”. This film was also produced by the agency “Mountain Bible”. It was supposed to show a somewhat different perspective than those productions that only concentrated on the 150th anniversary of the first ascent to the Matterhorn. The partners in Russia, who already translated the first film, were willing to tackle the second one too. In turn they get the rights to broadcast the film on their TV-station. It is our goal, to offer the Russian version of the film on our website free of charge. Also, the Russian version will be integrated in the next edition of the DVD.

If you know how to use the advantages of modern technology, then you find always new opportunities to reach people with the Good News. Through a search in the internet I was able to find addresses of various associations and clubs of Russian speaking mountain climbers. I pointed them to the first film and immediately we registered a lot of visits to our website. Most of these people are probably non-believers. I got a number of positive feedbacks.

Part-time

Since November 1st I have been working 20% in an additional job. We hoped that with that we could balance out our too low income. But after a closer look at our finances at the end of the year I had to admit, that even this was not sufficient. Our income was still too low. No matter, how much you try life in Switzerland requires a much higher income than life in Ukraine. A special “thank you” to those, who support us since a long time and also to those, who

stepped in recently with extra support, trying to cover what was lacking.

God has now opened a door in a different direction. Since May I am working every Thursday and Friday for a company, that sells furniture. I am helping to deliver the furniture to the customers' homes, where we build and set it up. First I was sceptical, but by now I can say, that my back is holding up. The muscles are growing again and now I can earn the lacking income by my own strength. That fits also very well into the development of the translation ministry. At the moment we do not plan to translate any more books. The translation of the film requires only oversight from me and also for the video Bible in Russian sign language I no longer have to invest time. Because of that I am now officially only 50% in ministry, for which the support is sufficient.

Video bible

Volodya and his team diligently continue their work. Meanwhile they have progressed well in the Old Testament and are finishing the book of Jeremiah. Only the rest of the prophets are left. The whole video bible in Russian sign language for deaf people should be finished around the beginning of next year. Currently their YouTube channel has about 240 subscribers and more than 23'000 times one of their videos was accessed by someone.

Private stuff

Tetyana has now finished her physiotherapy. The progress is enormous. Having struggled with back issues for almost 15 years, she now has a totally different quality of life. We cannot speak of a total healing, but she has developed a much better feel for when it is time to take a break, and she has learned from the therapist what to do, when some of that tenseness in her muscles reappears.

Recently we had an opportunity to earn some extra income by cleaning windows at a factory. After work Tetyana really felt the tenseness and the sore muscles, but she recovered amazingly fast, which would have been unthinkable just a short while ago. She also realised, that she had no problems cleaning windows even on the third floor, which would have been impossible until recently. This in turn means, that Tetyana will now be much better capable to join us on some of our mountain hikes, from which she had to abstain so far due to dizziness and fear of heights.

Thank you all, who have prayed about this for such a long time. Both of us have regained a quality of life we haven't had in quite a while, although we of course realise too, that we no longer are only twenty.

Tetyana is increasingly involved in the area of music. Currently two pupils are regularly taking vocal lessons to improve their singing skills. Tetyana is trying to not only pass on musical skills, but to also equip them spiritually for their life journey. Apart from that she is regularly involved in a group, leading worship on Sundays.

Currently our nephew Esa Hytti, the son of my sister, is visiting Switzerland. Partly he is working on the farm of our cousin and now spent a bit over a week with us. Working for a farmer on the steep slopes of the Swiss Alps or helping to cover a roof, he was able to earn some money. Apart from that we found time for some tourism and to play some good games together.



From the 16th to the 31st of July we will travel to Ukraine, this time for only a short two-week trip. On the way back we will stop in Budapest to participate in a conference where Greg Boyd is the keynote speaker. Participants are members of "Christian Associates" together with quite a number of Europeans, who love to listen to Greg via podcast. It will be an interesting opportunity to meet like-minded people. Since "Christian Associates" is also involved in the house church movement, this is doubly interesting to us, as we have had four years of very positive experience in our house church in Ukraine. Apart from some spiritual refill, we hope for new impulses and contacts.

Greetings

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- the published book
- the health of our backs
- the new part-time job
- the progress with the video Bible

Pray for

- patience and good quality when translating
- the translation of the film "Focus Matterhorn"
- successful finishing of the video Bible in sign language
- the people listening to the translated sermons
- the people reading the new book
- protection on our journey to Ukraine

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