
SWISS NEWS

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Erich and Tetyana Salzmann

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Dear friends

Throughout all these years, I always had enough material to fill a newsletter. And I rarely struggle to find enough topics to talk about. (Which isn't always a good thing! ☺)

Recently however, I realised, that much has changed and therefore it has become more difficult to fill a newsletter with interesting topics. Let's see, what comes of it this time...

Translation ministry

Currently, this is the task taking most of my part-time job as a "missionary". I deliberately use quotation marks, because we are well aware that this kind of work is often not perceived in the same way as if you feed hungry children in a third-world country. The tedious painstaking work in an office, battling with words, idioms and grammar, or the umpteenth attempt to correctly speak a Russian phrase into the microphone, requires, that one is really convinced by the material worked on. And that I can definitely claim for myself.

I would even go so far as to say, that without the material by Greg Boyd, I would probably have hang up my faith altogether. I still wrestle at times with serious doubts (yes, that happens with people in ministry too), but at least I have a solid base, on which to rely on. Sometimes I wonder, who caused more of these doubts – non-believing sceptics or "difficult" Christians.

I have just translated a few articles on "Faith and Doubt" into German. You can read them on www.reknew.org or better still, get the book "[Benefit of the Doubt](#)". It helped a lot, when I realised, that Doubt is not simply the enemy of Faith.

Until new material (books or websites) become well-known and well-spread, it usually takes some time. Meanwhile, an increasing number of people actively use our Russian translations. The German translations, although more a by-product, have recently also seen an increase in users. Because of that we are thinking about a concrete opportunity to publish "[Is God to blame?](#)" with the help of a German publisher. Suffering and the question "why?" is something every generation wrestles with. However, publishing this book is connected with a certain financial risk. For that reason, we still hesitate.

I well understand those people who think, that there are already enough sermons and books out there, so that no further production is necessary. The question is always, which kind of books and which kind of sermons really help people. To have a big variety helps reaching a lot of different people.

Oleg, who helps me with the sound and video engineering, thinks that the material is very valuable. If there is a delay on my end, he already waits impatiently for the next text or



the next recording. He himself uses much of what he learns in a house group and a men's meeting.

Please pray for him. Apart from the fact that he is sitting in a wheelchair due to a muscular dystrophy, he also suffers from diabetes. The latter has now started to cause him increasing problems with one of his legs. In worst case, an amputation might be necessary. Although he cannot walk, the legs are still important

for when he slides on his own from the bed onto the wheelchair or from there onto his scooter. Right now, as I write this, he is in Germany, where a very helpful doctor is treating him. The latest news is encouraging, but please, still remember Oleg in your prayers.

Children's video bible

Work on the children's video bible is already in full flow. This too, is a job of diligence behind the scene, which Volodya and his team are doing. The first stories are already on the internet. If you are curious, you can see them here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/surdobiblia>

The overall work on the book will take around two years. Just over half of it is already funded. In order to finish the book, still more support is needed.

A new stage of life



Time with the children flies by. Recently Darja turned 16. In summer, she is finishing school. After that she will go for one year to the French speaking part of Switzerland. In Goillon, VD, she found a very interesting educational job. On the farm Les Eterpis (<https://marche-bio-les-eterpis.ch/>) she will do a so-called training in house-keeping. Apart from the full variety of tasks

within the household with two small children, she will be working in the farm's own shop with biological products and help in their own bakery with a real wood stove. One day a week, she will go to training school in Morges. Apart from all the subjects on proper housekeeping, she will also be able to improve her knowledge of the French language to a very fluent level.

What will follow that is not yet decided. The jobs of a florist or a watchmaker are currently top on the list.

Dan (14) has one more year at school. Professionally he is interested in the overall direction of logistics.

How to move on

Obviously, this question has to be asked from time to time, especially when the time comes nearer, when the children will leave home.

The job in the furniture delivery is straining my joints and seems to be too much in the long run. Although my back is doing much better than in the years before, my finger joints and my shoulder hurt more than I am willing to take permanently. For that reason, I have started to look around for another job. However, that turns out to be not so simple. My original profession as a lumberjack is for the same physical reasons not really an option anymore. I have quite a bit of experience in many other areas, but no diplomas. Apart from that, being close to the age of 50 does not exactly help matters.

I am thinking, whether I should continue with a 50% job, or whether it would make more sense to increase to 80% or maybe even 100%. I would like to continue the translations for a while longer, but since the financial support is gradually decreasing, I might be forced to consider such an option. I want to be open for all possibilities.

May we ask you, to actively participate in this decision-making process? You are part of our team since many years. Please pray for us about this, but not only that. We would love to hear from you, either by means of helping us to close the financial gap, or by pointing out job or ministry opportunities. (Of course, I would prefer something in our region, but I don't want to exclude other options.) Tetyana would also be open for a part-time job.

Of course, we have discussed the option of a return to Ukraine, once the children have finished their education. However, we currently have no specific vision for that. It is difficult to imagine, what exactly we would do there. For that reason it looks rather unlikely, except if something totally new pops up.

Please bring all of this in your prayers before God, and then write to us (or call us) and let us know your thoughts. They can and should be honest, no matter whether you think we should definitely continue the current work, or whether we should bring our ministry in its current form to a close. Just tell us, what God puts on your heart. We want to be open for God maybe pointing out a clear direction through you.

How is ... doing?

Occasionally someone asks how certain people, whom I have written about, are doing. Sadly, a longer silence usually means, that nothing has changed.

Andrey: The condition of Igor's son is still pretty much as it was. At times, he is in hospital, and then he sits again back at home and does nothing. It is very hard for the parents. Still, the mental illness manifests itself in a way, which indicates a very strong influence from the spiritual world.

Zhenya: Until very recently, there was not much new happening with our nephew. In order to pay for drugs he was stealing. Not so long ago he had to go to court again. However, currently he has a new job, about 150km from Rivne. We pray that he finally might get onto a good track.

Sasha: A while back, I wrote how he had an encounter with God. Since then I lost contact with him. I am still hoping to find out, how he is doing.

My colleague at work is now facing divorce. Please continue to pray for this family and especially for the 4 children. I cannot imagine what goes on in their hearts, and what kind of a picture of God develops, when their parents separate.

So, now...

... we look forward to your feedback
... we are thankful for all your support
... we are curious, what will follow



With this picture, the newsletter is once again full. ☺

Greetings

Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

Prayer requests

Give thanks for

- the growing interest in our translations
- the educational job for Darja
- the first parts of the children's video Bible
- the health improvements

Pray for

- Gods work through the translated material
- the work on the children's Bible in sign language
- Oleg's health
- clarity concerning the German book translation
- Andrey, Zhenya, Sasha
- my colleague at work and his marriage and family
- our health, and clarity about work
- our two kids and their professional education

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