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# SWISS NEWS

Newsletter № 88

Erich and Tetyana Salzmänn

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## Dear Friends

Once again a new decade has begun. Not so long ago we were worried about the Y2K-problem (Computer problem due to the millennia), many groups prophesied the end of the world. Now another 20 years have gone by and we are still here. The new problem is the corona virus. Both, the computer problem 20 years ago and the current problem are very real. Humanity had and has to face them and find solutions. At the same time, it is important not to panic about them. A healthy portion of serenity is necessary, if we want to cope with these problems. And this you find only if you have a perspective that reaches into eternity.

### Kiev kids

Just before Christmas an acquaintance contacted us. He was hoping that Tetyana might be able to help him due to her contacts to Russian speaking people. As leader of a small charity organisation Marek Wnuk was searching for new sponsors. Tetyana told him to turn to me, because I already have some experience in this field.

In the year 2000, Marek (PL) and his wife Natalie (CH) started a children's home outside of Kiev, Ukraine. As a professional pedagogue for traumatised children, a theologian and teacher for adults, Marek is very well educated for the difficult ministry amongst traumatised children. Natalie is a social worker who can assist him well. The ministry kept growing. Meanwhile the children's home "Sunshine", which permanently takes care of around 16 children, is lead by Ukrainian staff. Marek is often on the road. He leads seminars and training for the staff of children's homes as well as foster and adoptive parents in Ukraine, Belarus, Transnistria and even Central Asia. That way he can pass on his wealth of experience and knowledge to other people, who are often struggling with the difficult children. The children's home outside Kiev serves as an example, which demonstrates to the locals, that the ideas Marek teaches are not only theory, but actually work in practice.

I found this rather small, but very effective project really worthy of support. I will now from time to time help in the area of fundraising. I have already helped them to write the annual report for 2019. "Kiev Kids", as the organisation is called, is thankful for every new supporter, no matter how big or small the help is. More information can be found on [www.kievkids.ch](http://www.kievkids.ch), although currently only in German.

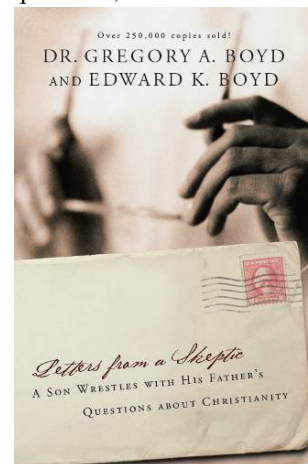
In a non-direct way, by supporting us as a family, you will now also become a small part in this valuable ministry. I hope you don't mind. ☺

### Projects in Ukraine

Volodya would not be Volodya, if he would rest on what he already achieved. He would love to record more material in sign language for deaf people. A possible project would be the classic "Jesus – our destiny" by Wilhelm Busch. The book is easy to understand, and for that reason well suitable

for deaf people, who often have only a low education, and it communicates the Gospel clearly. A second book title would be "Gods Smuggler" by Brother Andrew. Foremost, Volodya asks for prayer support. Should anybody among you be interested to support the production of these book titles as video books financially, then please get in touch with me. For each book title around 5000\$ are needed (Volodya himself contributes 1700\$).

The translation ministry continues. At the instigation of a colleague, I am now fast tracking a book project in German. The book "Letters from a Skeptic" was a bestseller, but is no longer available in German. The book contains a communication by letter from real life. Greg Boyd and his father, who was at that time about 70 years old, discussed over a period of about 3 years the most important questions, which the skeptic and agnostic father asked very bluntly. With well-founded arguments, but also with a lot of love, Greg was able to help his father, to come to grips with these questions, which almost all atheists ask in a very similar



fashion. After three years and around 30 letters from both sides, the old man accepted Jesus. We would love to make this very valuable book once again available to German readers. Right now I am still sorting out the rights with the English and German publishers. Greg Boyd himself has already given the green light either for a reprint or for a free-of-charge version (PDF) for download from our website.

### Hacked

Unfortunately, our websites fell recently victim to an attack by hackers. For a short time, they were inaccessible at all. Then a professional was able to help me solve the problem for the moment, only to have it reoccur, because he did not have enough time to finish everything. Meanwhile most is back to normal. At least we lost no data. Since people are daily accessing the websites in Russian and German, such an attack is very annoying. Please pray for safety and that this would not happen again.

### Job hunt

The hotel in Aeschirried, for which I managed the bookings via Airbnb, was sold per end of 2019. That was the goal right from the beginning, when I started to work for them. The new owner continues with the hotel in a similar style, but has personally taken over my job. This meant, that I needed some new work.

Since October I have been looking for another part-time job to replace that income, as well as for a job which might at the same time also replace the heavy work for the furniture shop. The aim was, to keep about 20% available for the translation ministry.

This proved to be a difficult task. Although there are many part-time jobs available nowadays, it was difficult to find something for which I could also show the required formal qualifications. I am quite capable in many different things, but lack the diplomas to go with the experience. And as long as the kids are in education, we don't want to move, which means, the job needs to be in our area.

Just in between writing this newsletter in German, and now translating it into English, we got an answer to our prayers. In the coming days I can start a new job, first 2 days a week, and as of June, 4 days a week, matching all the above mentioned requirements.

I will operate a large plant in a sawmill. For that job my diploma as a professional lumberjack was crucial, plus my experience with computers. More about that next time.

### Personal

Tetyana has recovered well from the operation. With that, one problem is gone, but she still struggles with some other health issues, especially with her back. But everything is rather unclear, and the doctor struggles to diagnose her problems.

This fall I had to take a break of several days due to my back issues, and just before Christmas the problem reoccurred. At least my shoulder is back to normal. Now I look forward to the new job, which will no longer require me to lift around heavy furniture.

Both our children started well into their professional education and like their jobs. Dan has to get up very early for the work at the Swiss Postal Service, and is often a bit tired because of that.

### National Champion



After we had organised a total of 5 youth tournaments during the last season, a juniors Swiss championship took place. Snooker (the supreme discipline of billiard sport) is a very difficult challenge, and for that reason,

many give up after their first try. There is only a small hand full of youth, which dare to play on the large 3.5 metres long table. In the qualification round, each one had to play a match with every other player. The two top-ranked players would then face each other in the final. Dan was able to beat all his opponents with one exception. The only 10-year old Jenson, who was just about tall enough to play on the snooker table, is very talented, considering his age. He was able to win against Dan, who had to settle for second place, which still was sufficient to qualify for the final. That rankled Dan greatly. During the two weeks up to the final, he made a serious effort and trained diligently. At the same weekend, when the Swiss Championship of the adults took place, the juniors also played their final on one of the neighbouring tables. All players had to turn up in elegant

shoes, slacks, shirt, waistcoat and bow tie, as is the rule in snooker. Gradually, Dan got his initial nervousness under control, played solidly, and managed to get his revenge for the defeat in the round robin. With a clear 3:0 victory he got the title as Swiss Juniors Snooker Champion.



### Arts

Darja is often busy with painting. She would love to do that professionally, but to earn a living with it, as we all know, is not exactly easy. Recently, she was portrayed in a Ukrainian Christian Magazine, where a friend of Tetyana works, who visited us a few months ago.

Every so often Darja is doing a painting during a youth sermon. Who knows, how her potential will continue to develop.



Thanks to all of you for supporting us!!!

### Erich & Tetyana with Darja & Dan

#### Prayer requests

##### Give thanks for

- the successful surgery for Tetyana
- the good start into the professional education for our kids
- the new job

##### Pray for

- the translation of more sermons and articles
- the publication of "Letters from a Skeptic" in German
- the security of our websites
- the ministry of "Kiev kids"
- the projects of Volodya for deaf people

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