

Newsletter October 2010

Dear brothers and sisters,

This fall we have had several outreach projects. To prepare for these projects I held a series of lessons on “Confessing Christ in the World” pointing out seven obstacles and how to confess more openly Christ in the world. After that I held a series of lessons that were especially designed for guests on three Sunday mornings in October and November. We also continued with our collection of money for orphans from the Ukraine in October. The church has been and still is very active in outreach during these last few months of the year.

Collecting Money for Orphans in the Ukraine

In September we reserved a booth in front of the Landi (a store) in Steffisburg to collect money for orphans in the Ukraine. We also were able to sell a few children's clothes that Martha knit and candles that were donated by Angelica's mother and her friends. On October 30 we made another effort to benefit orphans. All those who donated, received an invitation for a special Sunday morning series designed for guests. The total amount of money that was donated at the booth was more than 1500 Francs (about \$1500). A few church members donated 400 Francs which made a total of 1950 Francs (about \$1950). We are extremely glad about the large amount of money that was given by some generous people.



My father and Kornelia in front of the booth

Lena and I will hand over the money to a small charity organization in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine, which will give the money to orphan homes that Lena and I had visited in 2009.

Special Sunday Series to Invite Guests

I started a special series of lessons on „the Family of God.“ On three Sunday mornings members were encouraged to invite guests. The first of these Sundays was on October 31, when I spoke on „The Perfect Father.“ We had a total of 6 guests for worship that first morning of the series. One of the guests was an elderly lady that I have been teaching English in my office for more than a half a year. This student of mine came along with her husband. Another one of our guests was Johanna who attended the assembly for the very first time. There were one or two guests who knew about the special series because of an advertisement that we had put in a local newspaper. Two of the special Sundays were in November (more on that in the upcoming November Newsletter). This will be a new way of reaching out to the community in the future giving church members the opportunity to invite friends for the series of lessons and for the worship service.

News about People

Peter got a job in an office of the international company Ammann in Langenthal. The company is known for its machines that mix asphalt (concrete) for the production of roads. Mr Ammann, who is the chief of the company, was elected as one the seven Bundesräte in Bern a few months ago (similar to office of president in the US, but there are seven people who are called into office). Nicole, who is the daughter of Peter and Kornelia and the sister of Tino and Mirko, visited Thun for one month. She has been married to Alex for more than ten years. Their first few years they lived in Switzerland. As Alex had difficulty to find a job, they moved to Buffalo, New York, where he



Nicole with her parents (Peter and Kornelia)

worked for a few years as a campus minister. Last year they moved to San Jose, California where Alex was able to start preaching for a Church of Christ in that city. We were very glad to have Nicole among us. Marcel had to undergo a third back surgery this month. After this surgery, it seemed to him that it was more successful than the previous ones because he felt less pain. He will not be able to work as a prison guard for a few months.

Asking For Your Prayers:

- Strengthening our confession of Christ in the world
- The guests who came to listen to the special series
- Marcel who underwent a third back surgery
- The health of Elfriede, 81, and her being able to move to an elderly residency soon
- Lena's mother who finished undergoing chemotherapy to fight breast cancer
- Peter who is thankful for his new job
- Regina's husband, Peter, who is looking for a full-time teaching position for ethnology
- Babies: Ilja's, Robin's, Elena's, Jeanette's, and Joline's health and continual growth
- Anna, 20, who continues to attend church on Sunday morning once or twice a month
- Teenagers of church members – Mathias, 18; Benjamin, 14; Rahel, 13;
- Ueli, a church visitor, who started his education as electrical engineer in Biel, 40 miles from Thun
- We are glad that Johanna made it a first time to the assembly on Sunday morning
- Tino and Mo traveling

Any Funds Can Be Sent to Our Overseeing Congregation:

Park Avenue Church of Christ
5295 Park Avenue
Memphis, TN 38119

Grace and Peace,

Ivan + Lena

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