

Newsletter December 2010

Dear brothers and sisters,

The year 2010 has brought many exiting positive developments in the church in Thun. Clearly the strongest church development that we experienced, was concerning our efforts to evangelize. We had a few evangelistic events that were absolutely new: the Grillfest in July, the three Sunday series specially designed for guests in fall, and the Evangelism Wednesday on the last Wednesday of the year. In this newsletter I would like to write on some of these developments. We are grateful for your prayers and for your support for the ongoing mission work in Thun.

The Knusperfest for Outreach



Missgine (on the left) and Teklosien (on the right) at the Knusperfest

when I spoke about real friendship. At the Knusperfest I spoke about real faith. We had eight visitors most of which were relatives of church members. Teklosien and his cousin Missgine, both from Eritrea, Africa, were also there. I have been reading in the Gospel of Luke with Teklosien since November of 2010. At the end of the year we invited them both for dinner to our apartment.

A group of people from church organized and invited the church and their friends and relatives for the Knusperfest. Church members have been meeting for the Knusperfest over the last few decades. It has been a casual meeting at the beginning of December, when church members and some of their friends sat together at tables and eat peanuts, chocolate, mandarins, etc. The difference from this Knusperfest to the former ones was, that although we kept the casual part, we included in it a Christian message and the singing of Christian songs. This summer we had already used this type of outreach at the Grillfest,

Evangelism Wednesday

I suggested to the church that we focus our minds on evangelism on the last Wednesday of the year. I asked the church members that some of them would briefly describe some positive things about the church's evangelism in 2010. The evening began with a reading of a passage of Scripture. Then I made a summary of all the evangelism efforts in 2010 that we had done. After that some church members shared with everyone else one or two things that they liked about our efforts to reach out to people. There were some very motivating comments that were made by different church members. One member commented on the three Sunday series as a new fantastic way to reach out to people (this past fall I preached on the themes God as father, God like a mother, and the church as family). One member had some encouraging words to share about how we present ourselves as a church to the community using as our logo a little green plant and the words next to it: "Real friendship, real faith, real life ." One member commented about the good lesson that her mother, who is not a believer, enjoyed to hear. It should become an uplifting and motivating time for evangelism and this it truly was. At the end of the evening I pointed out that my father had suggested that for the upcoming year we may want to think about putting a small size tent in the streets of the city to let people know about the church. I closed with the reading of passage from scripture and a prayer asking God to strengthen our efforts in reaching out to people.

News about People

Ilja turned one year old on December 3. My parents, Lena and I celebrated his birthday together. Lena's birthday was two weeks after that on December 19. Marcel's condition of his back has not improved. He will undergo further therapy. After the surgery two vertebrae in the spine will have to grow back together. Lucia was told by her doctor that she has a problem with her kidneys. There will be further checks that she will have to undergo. Rösi, 83, a friend of Lucia, continues to attend the assembly as a regular visitor every Sunday morning.



Our son, Ilja, at the birthday party

Asking For Your Prayers:

- Strengthening our confession of Christ in the world
- Teklosien, my German and Bible student, and Missgine from Eritrea
- Lucia's health problem with her kidneys
- Marcel who has two vertebrae in his spine which need to grow back together
- 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
- 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
- Rösi, 83, who started to attend the Sunday morning assembly regularly
- Teenagers of church members – Mathias, 19; Benjamin, 15; Rahel, 13;
- Ueli, a church visitor, who studies electrical engineering in Biel, 40 miles from Thun
- Johanna who is still hesitant about coming to church regularly
- Tino and Mo who are 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

Ivan + Lena Voser Ziegeleistrasse 34a 3612 Steffisburg, Switzerland
E-Mail: voserivan@hotmail.com Phone number: 0041 33 534 57 37