

Newsletter March 2011

Dear brothers and sisters,

There are a lot of interesting old and new challenging opportunities to serve in Thun. This is also true for the month of March and for the following months. The purposes of all the ministering is to strengthen the congregation in Thun and its mission outreach to the glory of God. The outreach related to children has perhaps provided the greatest opportunity to serve in the last few months and with the growing number of kids, the children's ministry will become even more important in the months ahead.

Feast dedicated to Joline



The gathering around the tables in the Pöstli in Steffisburg

We ate together the food that many of the church members in Thun and St. Gallen had brought along. Mirko and Angelica were especially thankful to many church members in Thun who came to the feast and brought along food for the approximately fifty guests.

Angelica and Mirko invited their friends, relatives, and all the church members in Thun and St. Gallen (St. Gallen is the homechurch of Angelica) to celebrate the birth and healthy growth of their daughter Joline who was born on September 6, 2010. It was a time to express joy and thanksgiving to God. We confessed that God is the creator and sustainer of Jolines' life as every other life. Mirko and Angelica asked me to speak at the gathering for about ten minutes and after that two men and I were invited to pray for the parents and for Joline. Then we

Coordinating Help for People in Japan

When I heard about the Tsunami, the earthquakes and the atomic disaster in Japan, I decided to use one Wednesday evening to speak to the church about the disaster and how we might be able to help the Japanese people. Since my overseeing congregation, the Park Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee, supports a lot of mission work in Japan, it gave us a good chance to get involved much in the relief efforts. I reminded the congregation of all the mission work that the Park Avenue Church has been doing in Japan. Also, since I knew that most of the German-speaking Churches of Christ did not know any Christians or missionaries in Japan, I wanted to give them an opportunity to donate money for Japan. We hope that we can make a major collection from the German-speaking churches for our brothers and sisters in Japan and for other people in Japan that were affected by multiple disasters.

Another Article for the Feste Fundament („Firm Foundation“)

I contributed a third article about Archaeology in the March-April issue of the magazine “Das Feste Fundament.” My article is entitled “Who was Herod the Great?” It focuses on a lot of the great building projects that Herod the Great constructed. The article can be found on the following website: www.gemeinde-christi.de/dff/. To get to this specific article, you will have to turn the numbers to the March-April issue of 2011.

News about People

Johanna has shown no more interest in coming to church even though she had expressed that she was not happy with a lot of things in the church she was attending. She attends with her husband a large charismatic church in the area. My parents taught her for many years some basic Christian teaching. We all regret that Johanna cannot find a church home where she has peace in Christ.

On the other hand, we have been again in contact with Margrit, 60, who my parents used to teach together with Johanna. Margrit attended not this congregation, but the church that her husband has been attending in the countryside for some years. She started coming to the church assembly in Thun, when she and her husband had some marriage problems and she sought out for help. She told us that she carried all her husband's stuff out of the house and did not allow him to enter the house because she owns the house. Margrit has been attending church a few times ever since.



The happy parents and a grandparent of Joline (Angelica, Alice who was baptised in Basel a few years ago and Mirko)

Asking For Your Prayers:

- Strengthening our confession of Christ in the world
- God may work through us to provide much help to the people in Japan
- Teklosien and his faith. His wife and his two children who are still in Eritrea.
- Missgine, Teklosien's cousin, who is looking for a job
- 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, 82, 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
- Ilja's, Robin's, Elena's, Jeanette's, and Joline's health and continual growth
- Anna, 20, who visits the church assembly only occasionally
- Rösi, 83, who attends the Sunday morning assembly as a regular visitor
- Teenagers of church members – Mathias, 19; Benjamin, 15; Rahel, 13;
- Ueli, a church visitor, who studies electrical engineering in Biel, 40 miles from Thun
- Margrit who started visiting the church again on Sunday morning
- 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

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