

Newsletter February 2012

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our family is doing well and our children are growing fast. We are glad that Julia has started sleeping from late in the evening until the early morning so that we will not wake up anymore in the middle of the night. At the same time the church has gone through an important growth process, as I will write to you about it in this and the next few newsletters.

Assembling In Another Place Again



The main assembly room for worship



The children's room

In December Danielle wanted the church to consider two different places as future assembly rooms and in January the church had to decide about it. Both places belong to relatives of her. We organized a team of four people to check on these two possibilities. The disadvantage of both places was that they were a little more expensive than the current assembly place. Then the relatives that own one of the two places turned down their initial offer because there was disagreement about how they wanted it to be used. The congregation then took a look at the other option which belongs to Danielle's sister and her husband. The large part of the congregation liked the place and wanted to move there. From my personal standpoint I did not see any advantage comparing that place with the current assembly room, but I still could approve to move.

The new place of worship where we have met as a church on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening since February is close to the center of the city. There is a large parking area for special events of the city of Thun about one to two minutes from the assembly place. The house where we now assemble is rather old, but Danielle's sister put a new floor into the assembly room. Also, she had the toilette replaced, which was very old. When almost all the members and children are at the assembly and we have some visitors, it can get a little crowded, but otherwise it serves its purpose. If we grow in numbers, which is what I am hoping, then we soon will need to look for another assembly place. I hope that God will lead us through spiritual growth with a more evangelistic approach and he will provide for us a fitting place of worship large enough and affordable for this church.

Series on Evangelism

I started a series on evangelism with the title “The Gospel that Still Has Power Today.” It began at the end of January and I intend to finish it in April or May. Some of the main themes were: Our need to seek people rather than wait for people to come to the assembly places and some strategies and suggestions how we reach that goal as for example through acts of kindness to the people around us. I built my lessons largely on the Gospels preaching about the groups of people that Jesus was able to reach best: the outcast and downtrodden like the poor, the taxcollectors, foreigners, etc. The last part is meant to be about applying all this in simple actions rather than in large programmes. I can tell that the level of awareness about the need of stronger evangelistic efforts of this church is already growing as a result of the series. We want to be a mission minded church and even in a time where it seems very difficult, through God's guidance we will be able to reach some people with the power that the gospel still has on people today.

News about People

Martha, who has been diagnosed with ALS, continues to live in her own home as long as she can. Gabi, her daughter in-law, invites her frequently to have lunch with her, her husband and her two children because every single task at home has been more difficult to do for Martha since the time of the disease's outbreak.

Asking For Your Prayers:

- Strengthening our confession of Christ in the world
- My mother's and my father's treatment of cancer
- Teklosien and his faith. Also for his wife and his two children
- Missgine, Teklosien's cousin, who we are not sure whether or not he found a job yet
- Lucia's health problem with her kidneys
- Marcel's continual recovery from back surgery
- that Elfriede, 83, will receive the proper care in an elderly home in the future
- The health and continual growth of Robin, Ilja, Elena, Jeanette, Joline, Sarah and Julia
- Anna, 20, who visits the church assembly only occasionally
- Rösli, 84, who attends the Sunday morning assembly as a regular visitor
- Teenagers of church members – Mathias, 20, does not attend church any more since 2009; Benjamin, 16, only occasionally visits the assembly; Rahel, 14;
- Ueli, a church visitor, who studies electrical engineering in Biel, 40 miles from Thun
- 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: