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INTERLINK MINISTRIES, INC.



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Dear friends,

German Party

In the last "mein Nächster", MEOS' magazine, there is an article titled: "Creative German Party in Uster". The article describes one group of people's creative inter-cultural outreach.

Once a month they meet with people of other cultures starting with an international pot-luck buffet meal. Dishes are labeled, which also include the important ingredients. After the meal the children and young people enjoy special programs prepared for them. The adults practice the German that they have already learned plus having a chance to learn more with easy non-threatening games. After this a Bible story is told. It is then discussed in groups among others on the same German learning level with prepared questions.

The reception to the "German Party" is good. Around one year after the start, 24 adults, 8 young adults, 8 teen and 3 children started to attend the church where its held each month. Even though many of the people who have come to the German Party are in a transient state and many move away, a core group always come. Even better, and also a good sign, they are constantly inviting their friends and new neighbors!

As you can imagine to have programs for the children and youth that run in parallel to the adult program with its multiple groups based on German learning level, it takes a lot of helpers to make everything happen. However having these programs for different age groups means that parents can easily decide to come and bring their children too.

On one hand the vision behind the German Party is to help people around us that come from other

cultures in their language learning process. On the other hand it is a way to offer friendship in the often, for outsiders, lonely Switzerland. Much more important is to share the best we have, the Gospel.

After watching a silent movie about the Sower (Mark 4) there was very active discussion in the groups. After this there was an opportunity for those that wanted to learn more about the Bible to receive a German-Arabic Bible and cards with links to Christian websites and Bible Apps in different languages. Six Bibles were taken and almost all of the cards.



MEOS provides resources for groups like the one that is using the "German Party" as an outreach. Last year MEOS published a handbook, "German Courses made easy". This is an invaluable resource for anyone wanting to start a German course as an outreach.

Being a Sower

Most of you, I am guessing, are familiar with the parable of the Sower that Jesus told in Mark chapter 4. The Sower sowed seeds and they fell on different types of ground with different results. These results ranged from seeds that were eaten by birds, to seeds that produced 100 times more seeds.

Jesus finishes up with, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear." Another translation says, "Whoever has ears to hear had better listen!" However, Jesus disciples did not understand it. Jesus goes on to explain the parable.

He starts with the most important piece of information that the seed is the Word. A sower has

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seeds that he wants to plant. God has seeds that he wants us to plant, His Word the Bible. First we need to have the seeds with us so that we are prepared to share the Word.

Jesus goes on to talk about people's reactions to the Word. My reaction and maybe yours is I need to find that good soil and sow my seed there, but Christ never told us that is what we were to do. In fact I think that the point of parable is that we are to be sowing the Word regardless of what we think the condition of the soil is. We are to be sowers!

If we wanted to expand on Christ's parable maybe we should also be building scarecrows to chase the birds away, tilling the hard ground, picking rocks out of the rocky ground and pulling out and burning the thorns! In 1 Cor. 3:7-8, Paul has the same idea when he speaks of planting and watering. He could have gone on to speak of weeding, fertilizing, pest control, and other tasks that need to be done to see a good crop.

Websites and such

My work at MEOS on developing and maintaining their websites continues. The new meos.ch is nearing completion. Late last year we made a decision to switch to the next version (8) of the program (Drupal) we are using to run the website. One reason that this decision was made because this new version had matured enough that it was now a usable product for MEOS' needs. This change in version meant rebuilding what we had already built in the earlier version, however this time we could do it more quickly as the planning and research had already been done.

Another major reason for making this switch was that using a newer version it would be longer before that version would be come obsolete. We plan to use the ground work that we have done with the meos.ch website as a template for other websites that we plan to build or that need migration to new software. I have been working closely with my boss, a web-design firm and the content editor of the website at MEOS to see this project become a reality. I trust that God will use this website to inform and inspire people about MEOS' ministry in Switzerland.

As much as I would like to think that I could work

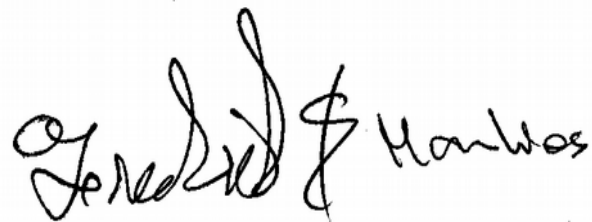
myself out of a job, it does not seem possible. We are already discussing three other website projects for the future.

Kids – Update

Oliver is in the 2nd year of his four year design engineer apprenticeship at Ferag AG. During the month of April he is doing a welding course. Last year he went to France for two weeks to better learn French. He has an oral test to finish his French studies in summer. Also coming up is his mid-apprenticeship exam in summer. This is a very important and difficult exam that he must pass to continue. In addition to this he has another mid-apprenticeship math exam on all that he has learned so far.

Alice has finished high school and is currently in an extra grade in a school for a year. This school helps students prepare for and find an apprenticeship. She is in the Art and Media class. She enjoys the chance to learn and be creative. Alice will start a four year apprenticeship in August as a furniture and kitchen carpenter with Pfister Schreinerei + Küchenbau AG in Zell. If you are interested to see some of their work and what Alice will learn to build, you could visit their website: pfisterkuechen.ch (German only).

Thank you for making what we do possible with your financial support! Thank you for your prayers for us and our ministry!



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