

FAREWELL TO FAITHFUL WORKERS

We say goodbye to **Felix and Diane Dürrenberger** with great gratitude and respect for their outstanding performance. After 8½ years as house leaders of Kilchzimmer they retired at the end of January 2019. In a team of employees, most of who came from abroad, they not only brought their specific knowledge of the country with them, they were also able to speak to the neighbours and authorities in genuine Swiss German. How many doors did they open for us?!

Felix was a house manager ideally suited for the 21st century. Not only is he practical and skilled in many areas, God has also provided him with extensive knowledge for the digital age. For example, with a great deal of commitment he has made the best possible use of our weak Internet line to enable employees to work and guests to communicate with the outside world. He has led numerous renovations

and has improved life in Kilchzimmer time and time again. Diane was in charge of the house and kitchen team. With a lot of love and patience and with the commitment of the whole team, the service in the house was constantly improved, so that many guests and groups not only felt comfortable, but often booked the next appointment immediately. For both Felix and Diane, Kilchzimmer was not just a workplace; they put their hearts into it. Everyone who knew them felt that.

In the last few months they have cleared and cleaned the house and disposed of many things that had accumulated over the last 47 years. We are very grateful to them for carrying out this task beyond their actual retirement date in order to hand over the house in good condition.

Felix and Diane, a few words are not enough to describe what you have accomplished! You were the right people in the right place and God used you! THANK YOU! May God reward you for your work in His kingdom and may He bless you in this new phase of your life!



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Our Address:

CEF European Centre, Kilchzimmer,
4438 Langenbruck, Switzerland
Tel.: + 41 62 387 30 10
Fax: + 41 62 387 30 40
Email: kilchzimmer@cefeurope.org
Website: www.cefeurope.com

USA: CEF, PO Box 348, Warrenton, Missouri 63383

Canada: CEF, PO Box 165, Winnipeg,
Manitoba R3C 2G9

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Editorial/layout: Gerd-Walter Buskies, Brent Hautle, Tim & Sue Shirey.

After 30 years of faithful service, **Sonja Ballou** returned to the USA in mid-January. After first working in the laundry, she has spoiled countless guests and course participants with her unique dishes and recipes over the past 10 years as a cook. Often there was sustained applause after the meals. Sonja was not afraid to prepare large events for 100 or more people here in Kilchzimmer. After such a long time in Switzerland, settling in the USA is not easy, even though her mother, who is increasingly in need of care, is happy about her daughter's closeness.

Sonja, we also thank you very much for your faithful service and your creative ideas. The Lord bless you and help you with the change and everything new that comes your way!



Gerd-Walter Buskies

[on mission]

NEWS FROM CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP® IN EUROPE



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AND NOW I COME!

“We were in quite a hurry,” Ülle Käärrik, the CEF leader of the work in Estonia, shares. “During those weeks before Christmas we went from one school to another. In only 10 minutes we were expected to be in another classroom to hold a Christmas party for 1st grade children.” Outside the school a lady was cleaning the snow from the walkways. She recognized Svetlana, the CEF missionary, and said: “When I clean the area around the schoolhouse, I always pray that somebody will come to tell the gospel to elementary school children and that they will accept the Lord.” Svetlana answered: “And now I come!” The lady said: “I was praying that somebody would come!” – “I did come!” – “I have prayed for five years!” – “And today I will teach the gospel in the first grade!” It was so hard for that lady to believe, that God had answered her prayer.

CEF was in this school for the first time. The parents of one of the children had talked to their child’s teacher about this possibility and after the Christmas party, three other teachers wanted the programme to be taught in their classes, too. They were amazed how professional and rich the programme was and how deep the teaching went and were open for more teaching. “We went back to that school for Friends’ Day Parties in February where we taught about the Good Samaritan,” Ülle continues. “And in April we are welcome to even more classes to tell the Easter Story!” When she looks back at how it all began, Ülle Käärrik can only marvel: “What an encouragement this lady was to us – she prayed for the doors to be open. We need more volunteers like her!”



[A WORD FROM **GERD-WALTER BUSKIES** CEF EUROPEAN DIRECTOR]

THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH

JAMES 5:16 (NKJV)

Dear Friends,

Our prayer is *fervent* when we bring our cause before God persistently and do not pray thoughtlessly but with a desire to see our request fulfilled.

Jesus in Luke 18 gives an encouraging example of such prayer, the persistent widow who does not give up until she

receives justice. An example of this today is described in our article from Estonia. We need women and men (!) who recognize prayer for what it is, an effective tool that God uses so that children hear the gospel and can be saved.

For those who want to give depth to their prayer for children, I recommend the requests that Paul uses in Ephesians 1:17-19 or in one of his other prayers (e.g. Colossians 1:9ff). What a difference we would see if God would give children

the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him!

Your fervent prayer for children, as well as for our co-workers and their ministry, is effective! Often more than you may think or imagine. We are so thankful for your prayers!

Gerd-Walter Buskies



CHRISTMAS STORY FILMED AT AMUSEMENT PARK



“In preparation for the 2018 Christmas season, I created a kid’s Christmas calendar. This calendar had a different episode each day, which were then also published in book form in November.” This was just the beginning of a wonderful opportunity God gave Dorthé Jensen, the CEF national leader of Denmark. She was then a bit overwhelmed with the response. First the Christian newspaper in Denmark wrote about this project,

then her local church wanted to publish the calendar through YouTube, airing a new episode each day in December. So she contacted the large amusement park called Tivoli and they agreed to let her film at their location. Now, through the work of God, CEF has a Christmas calendar that aired daily in December through Facebook and YouTube. This way day by day the children learned more about the promised savior.

CEF Denmark has been receiving feedback — Children, adults and elderly people enjoyed watching the daily episodes (or reading it). Dorthé’s pastor told her that his boys started listening to the story and found themselves relating more and more to the main characters in the story as well as to the Christmas story itself. One mother said she had an argument with her son over having to postpone an episode until the next day. However, reading the story

(almost) every night with her son gave her a new appreciation for having a daily devotion time together. They bought a new devotion book to read together. Some other people shared that their families had the opportunity to see Christmas in a different light and engage in conversations about Christmas. CEF Denmark has made new contacts through interest in the Christmas calendar, which would like to receive their newsletter.

STAYING MINISTRY FOCUSED

Lazar and Izabela Atanasovski serve the Lord in Montenegro. Recently they shared their gratitude for the SPAN programme: “Right from the beginning, SPAN allowed us to focus on ministry rather than on our financial needs. We have a *Good News Club* and several *Teen Clubs*.” A short time ago they held a *Girl’s Winter Camp*, where they taught the girls how important it is for people to see Christ in their lives. Without SPAN, they would not be able to continue their ministry. Without SPAN, their children and youth would not hear about Christ who changes lives.

With your help SPAN (Sponsor A National) supports over 250 missionaries in Europe.



KILCHZIMMER NEWS

So far every month someone comes to look at Kilchzimmer. We are glad about the ongoing interest, but unfortunately we have not yet concluded a purchase. Recently we had a delegation from a Christian organization visit. They were interested in using the house as a training centre,

which would fit very well to the registered purpose. Unfortunately they think the house is too big for them.

We continue to pray. And as long as the house is not sold, Viv Stringer (accounting and administration) and Gerd-Walter Buskies keep their offices at Kilchzimmer.



EVERYONE LOVES TO HEAR STORIES OF WHAT GOD IS DOING



My grandchild was ready to start kindergarten and it was important to me that he would have the best teacher possible! On the list of teachers in the area, a name stood out to me, Maria T? Was little Maria from my Good News Club already a teacher? Yes! Time had passed but Maria had not forgotten the truths she had learned at GNC. I attended the Christmas program to see my grandchild, but I felt I was in church – the program was God glorifying and well... exactly how you would expect a believer to celebrate Christmas. At the end “little” Maria came up to me – “Well, teacher, did the program seem like you were in GNC? “Yes, it certainly did.” The tears streamed down my face as Maria told me her desire to give her absolute best to God – just like she had been taught!

Each one of us have stories to tell that bring glory to God and are a reminder that He is working in our lives and in the lives of the children we teach. During courses organised by the EPM (European Partnership Ministry) department in CEF, we take time to learn how to tell our stories.

In February 2019, such a course was held at the CEF of Romania headquarters in Sibiu. Full time CEF workers from Romania, Moldova, Russia and Serbia attended and learned how to tell their story, among other things.

May God enable each one of us opportunities to share of what He has done ... and may we all have a Maria coming along behind us wanting to make a difference in society!

Iulian Mangalagiu, EPM

EDUCATION UPDATE

We are excited to announce two new Children's Ministry Training Courses scheduled for this year: An English/Multi-lingual one in Sibiu Romania from June 9–Aug. 24 and a Russian one Sept. 14–Dec. 7 in Irpen, Ukraine.

For more information on these training courses and more, visit our new website, cefeuropetraining.org.



For details and
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