

SignPosts

March 2013

Volume 2 Issue 3

SignPosts Editorial Team:

Pastor Greg: Cheer Leader

Beth Nutter: Grammar/Punctuation Queen

Cindy Meyer: Computer Geek

From The Pastor's Study

Thankfully, Lent has not become a money making scheme. I guess it is harder to market something for Lent, a time when people are called to think seriously about their lives, their devotion to God and the passions that pull them away from the Holy.

Perhaps someone could invent a "Lent Clock," one that calls us to stop, pause, and spend time with God. Instead of reminding us to do something, the Lent Clock could tell us to stop doing and just be with God. Instead of telling us we are running late, it would remind us of grace. It could even be programmed to sound a gentle chime when our stress levels were high to remind us to turn to God to understand our true worth.

The Kingdom of God has always had a different time schedule and rhythm. May you find a time each day during these last weeks of Lent to stop and be.

Make a good Lent.

On the journey together,

Greg

Thinking Theology: What Those Words Mean

Lent: Lent comes from a Middle English word that means "spring." It is a period of 40 weekdays (not Sundays) before Easter and begins with Ash Wednesday. It was originally a time to teach those who would be baptized on Easter, and grew into a time for all believers to repent of their sins and prepare for Easter

Easter: The yearly celebration of Christ's victory over death. The date for Easter is always the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or after March 21. That means that Easter can be as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

Easter Season: The season of the year from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, a time of 50 days.

Got a term you hear in church but wonder what it really means? Send Pastor Greg a note and he will feature it in an upcoming Thinking Theology.



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Newsorthy

Mark Your Calendar!

2013 Book Club

Let's read some great books together! During the year, we will study five books that are wonderful guides to the Christian life. Our second book is The Ragamuffin Gospel by Brennan Manning. This wonderful book reminds us of the great love of God and His boundless mercy. We will discuss this selection on April 25th. Other books in our series are:

The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard, May, June and July

Beginning to Pray by Anthony Bloom, September and October

Three Simple Rules by Rueben P. Job, November and December

New Youth Bible Study: Living The Journey

How do you take the wisdom of the Bible and apply it to your daily life? Come and join us at the Randall's house for a journey that will take us into the scriptures and then lead us back into the world with new ways to bless others. Each session will last one hour, and we will meet every other week through May. March dates are the 10th and the 24th and we begin at 7:00 pm.

ATS: After The Sermon Class

Sermons are mostly one way communication. The preacher talks, you listen. We're going to try and make the sermon a conversation in 2013 with our ATS Class (After The Sermon Class). Join us in the fellowship hall after the ARISE service for a discussion about the sermon topic of the day. Most Sundays it will be lead by the preacher of the day, but we'll also have others lead the discussion. If you are not currently involved in a Sunday School class, come and join us!

Lenten Lunches

Come and join us on Wednesdays during Lent for a time of worship and fellowship. Each week a congregation will host a 30 minute worship service which will be followed by a light lunch. Here's the schedule for 2013:

3/6 Mt Ararat Baptist

3/13 St Catherine's Roman Catholic

3/20 Clarksville Presbyterian

Church Survey

During the first few weeks of March, we will be distributing a survey during Sunday School and Worship. This survey is a major part of our new strategic plan, and we need each person to prayerfully fill out the survey and return it to the church by March 17. Thanks for your help!

Spiritual Renewal Week

Mark March 27-30 on your calendar now and begin praying for those days. We will take the days before Easter as a time of spiritual renewal with both times of public worship and guided personal prayer. Be watching for more details!



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2013 Disaster Relief Training

Registration for 2013 Disaster Relief Training has begun. There are three dates/locations to choose from. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cindy Meyer (434-738-3056: keepsakekwilting@msn.com) for additional information.

Coming Up At CBC:

- March 3: Brotherhood Breakfast and special worship based on the cross
- March 4: Deacon's Meeting
- March 6: Lenten Lunch at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church
- March 7: MCC Meeting
- March 10: Living the Journey
- March 13: Lenten Lunch at St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church
- March 20: Lenten Lunch at Clarksville Presbyterian Church
- March 24: Palm Sunday, Living The Journey
- March 27-30: Spiritual Renewal Week
- March 31: Easter Sunday

Did You Know?

- 14 of our children sang at the nursing home and all of them sang a solo?
- We had over 85 people at our Talent Show, most of whom were youth?
- Our ARISE band participated in a youth event at Concord Baptist?
- The Minister of Students search committee is starting their work?
- That the Discovering CBC class had 15 participants?
- Our new ATS class had a great start?
- That God continues to bless our congregation in mighty ways?

Missions

The Swiss Linguistic Landscape: Challenge and Opportunity

I thought you might like to hear about our new cultural surroundings here in Switzerland. This past Saturday I attended an Inter-Varsity training session with colleagues and student leaders from different parts of Switzerland. So I had the opportunity to use four languages, three Swiss languages and English with my Australian colleagues. This is one of the blessings of missionary work!

We live very close to the so-called "Röstigrabe" or "Barrière de Rösti," that is the term for the linguistic border, especially between French and German-speaking populations. This is not to be confused with the Swiss borders with France, Germany, Austria, and Italy. That's challenging enough when you consider that Switzerland (15,940 sq mi/41,285 km²) is smaller than Virginia (42,774.2 sq mi/110,785.67 km²)!

To give you an idea of this linguistic landscape, look on a Swiss map for Senèdes (where we live, hard to find!) and Giffers (where Lilian works, also hard to find!). Senèdes is a French-speaking village. There are no road signs or shops in German to help those from the other side. Lilian drives ten minutes to the east and she's in Giffers, a German-speaking village. Now politically, Senèdes and Giffers are both in the same canton (similar to a state). Official documents are always in both languages. Kids learn German, French, and English, so they are



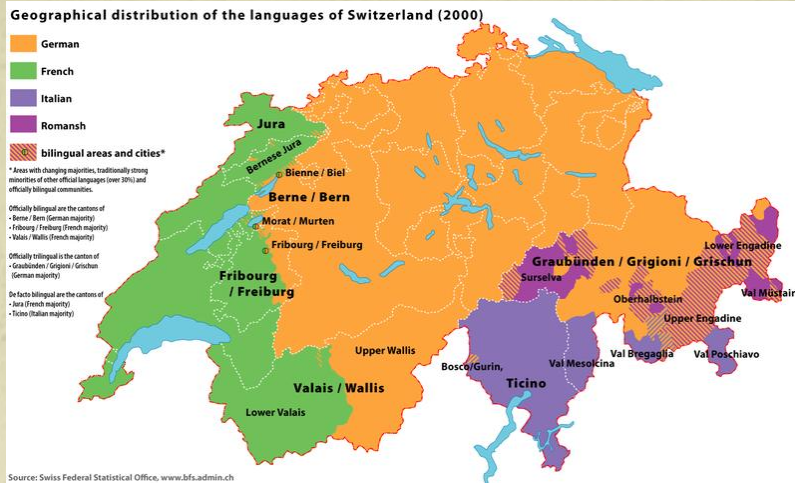
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supposed to be able to communicate well with each other. Many are bilingual, even trilingual. Swiss people grow up with visual and audible reminders that they live near "other speakers." This ranges from multilingual ingredients on food products, technical instructions, media, and public announcements like in trains. Or on a more personal level, you might meet someone who just speaks to you in their language, since you are supposed to understand it, and you have the right to answer back in your language. This happened last year when I was trying to figure out how to get a bus ticket from the vending machine on the French-speaking side of Fribourg. The bus driver noticed my perplexity and compassionately got out of the bus to help me. Well, I started to speak to him in French, but he explained the whole process in his German dialect. It worked. Sometimes this linguistic encounter can be quite simple like when you enter Fribourg (where I work), you are greeted by a bilingual sign with "Fribourg" and "Freiburg." That's not too hard to figure out. Yet, if it were only that easy; the difference in place names can be so drastic as "Düdingen" (in German) and "Guin" (in French)!

Besides these obvious differences between languages, a few things complicate *real* communication. First, on the German-speaking side, they also speak dialects. So, you can imagine how the French-speaking population feel...they learn "high German" in school and not one of the Swiss German dialects (because there are in fact many Swiss German dialects!). This problem can be overcome by the fact that French speakers can just speak standard German, because the German dialect speakers know "high German" well...or at least they should...You see they are very proud of their own language and in general don't really like to speak standard German. Ugh. You see how it's complicated...and this leads to the next challenge or opportunity, namely, the use of English!

Second, these days most Swiss youth like to learn and speak English. This is true on both sides of the linguistic border. In fact, what often happens is that when young people from German and French-speaking sides meet, they often choose English as their common language. It works quite well when both parties feel comfortable



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expressing themselves in English. This happens in private conversation, but even in university classrooms and research centers. At the University of Fribourg, I constantly here German, Swiss German, French, Italian, and English. Sometimes you can hear people switch from one language to another in mid-sentence. So, for English speakers, this means it is easy to mix with Swiss people, right? Yes and no. Yes, with the younger folks, but much less with the older generations. Also, English can only get you so far socially, since it isn't reasonable to expect an entire group (class, family, club, etc.) to switch to English just because you are there. Swiss are hospitable...but let them be Swiss, please. There simply has to be an agreement when English is necessary to allow communication to happen or to get the job done.

To close, you might be wondering what this "Rösti" thing means. It is a Swiss dish like "hashed potatoes," which represents one of those national myths that Rösti is a defining factor between the regions, that is, that the Swiss Germans actually eat more Rösti than their French-speaking compatriots! In fact, people on both sides enjoy this dish and there are different competing recipes for it. So, if you want to eat well, come to Switzerland (there's more than just Rösti!), but even more so, come to Switzerland if you want to experience a linguistic challenge or opportunity!

Your missionary and correspondent from Switzerland,

Salut, Tschüss, Ciao, Bye!

Maurice Morgan



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Laughter is Good for the Soul

Submitted by Betty Rodenhizer

Father O'Malley answered the phone one afternoon.

"Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"

"It is"

"This is the IRS...can you help us?"

"I can"

"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"

"I do"

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is"

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will !!! "

Conversations With My Father

Submitted by Cindy Meyer

As I lay here in the darkness of my sins, the silence weighs heavy on my heart. Shame, Guilt and, Sorrow are my companions. They lend little help in finding my way through this labyrinth of despair. Movement is difficult and my will to do so wanes. Strength ebbs and it feels like the murky quagmire will win and pull me into its depths. And so I think perhaps I should just let go and give in to this feeling and renew my friendships with Shame, Guilt and Sorrow. A cold breeze blew and its numbing effect seized my mind with fear of forever being lost in this darkness. My heart raced and deep within strength was renewed. My soul sang out hope and promise and confidence took hold.....I would find my way. And, so I did. I opened my eyes and there was light. I lay still in Your smiling presence and let Your love warm me. As my consciousness roused, I knew You never abandoned me; neither in sleep nor wakefulness. Thank you, Father, for loving me with all my faults and brokenness and reminding me that hope and promise are always near at hand.

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Recipe Box

Submitted by Evelyn Allen

PARTY CHICKEN

Put In a large baking pan: 1 small jar dried beef (2.25 oz.), torn up (Soak for a few minutes to remove some salt.)

Cover the dried beef with chicken breasts or strips

Mix 1 can cream of mushroom soup and 1 can cream of chicken soup and spread over chicken

Spread 2 cups low-fat sour cream over chicken

Place 6 strips of bacon on sour cream

Bake at 275 for 3 hours



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Note* Every Sunday</i> 9:00 ARISE 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p>			<p><i>Note* Every Wed</i> 6:30 Mission Sparks 6:30 Mission Friends 6:30 Adult Bible Study</p>		1	2
3 8:00 Brotherhood Breakfast	4 5:45 Children's Committee Meeting	5 6:30 Youth Committee Meeting	6 Noon Lenten Lunch Service at Mt. Ararat	7 7:00 MCC Meeting	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins 	11 7:00 Rosa Liipfert Circle Meeting	12 7:00 WHM Meeting	13 Noon Lenten Lunch Service at St Catherine	14	15	16 Katie Yancey Birthday
17 St Patrick's Day  Relay for Life Bag Lunches	18	19 12PM Prime Time Luncheon	20 Spring Begins  Noon Lenten Lunch Service at Clarksville Presbyterian	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday 	30
31 						

← Spiritual Renewal Week →



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