

October 5, 2005

Dear friends,

Yesterday marked the beginning of my fifth month in Switzerland. I continue to press on with language school each morning. I am roughly half-way through the core curriculum offered at Inlingua. Over the last two weeks, two new verb tenses (conditional and imperfect) have been introduced so we have spent a lot of time working on them. They are very different but quite similar in pronunciation so a lot of practice is needed.

I continue to be blessed through various activities in the evenings. Although I still miss a lot that is said, it is nice to be able to follow the theme of a Bible study and talk with friends in French. It also is great to have the Staehlis home after being gone for three weeks on vacation. While they were gone, I realized just how much they were helping me with French.

Two weeks ago, I had the chance to climb Glarnish, a 9000' mountain with family friends who have also worked with Wycliffe. We started our hike at about 2400' on Saturday afternoon and climbed to 6000' where we spent the night in a cabin that is operated commercially during the summer. Early Sunday morning we started climbing again and after about 6 hours of hiking including 2 hours on a glacier using crampons, we summited. Shortly after noon, we started our descent all the way back to the cars. It was an amazing trip but also brutal on the legs. I've attached a picture from the summit that includes three of the six people who went.

Yesterday I received word that my grandpa went to be with the Lord yesterday morning. His health had been declining rapidly over the last several weeks and we knew the time was drawing near. I am so thankful for the opportunity I had to go see him one last time just a few weeks before I came to Switzerland. I also rejoice that he knew the Lord and passed on to me an inheritance that money cannot buy. Our family appreciates your prayers. They left this morning for Michigan.

Thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray for the endurance I need each day. I am also beginning work on a paper prayer letter. I would appreciate your prayers as I try to summarize my time here in Switzerland. May the Lord bless you.

Sincerely,

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