

September 1, 2005

Dear friends and family,

Greetings from Switzerland where it seems more like spring than summer. You may have seen on the news that parts of Europe have received a lot of rain which has resulted in flooding problems in many areas. Although the rain has not been heavy in this area, much of the water from the mountains does pass through this valley. Where I live has not been touched significantly but in the neighboring town of La Neuville, several stores have been flooded along with a number of summer cabins at a local campground. Along with the rain, it has also been unusually cool.

I continue to press on with French. With the end of the summer nearing, I am now in a class of three. The small size has been really important as we have tackled a number of more difficult grammatical concepts the last few weeks. Consequently, my study has been centered on grammar rather than vocabulary lately. **Although some days are hard, I am thankful for spots of encouragement along the way that indicate progress.** It is also very nice to have another Christian in the class for the first time. She and her husband are Swiss and are also preparing to go to Cameroon.

Although I definitely prefer the summer weather, I am looking forward to the return of a number of church activities that are suspended during the summer. In two weeks, Mid-Day Contact (translation from French) will start again which is an open house meal at the church. It is a great opportunity to practice French while connecting with people at the church. The house groups (weekly Bible studies) and choir also restart in the next few weeks.

I am very blessed by the hospitality of Robert and Christine Staehli. My living situation is certainly an answer to prayer. I have finally attached a picture of them. They have three children who are grown and now on their own. Their youngest just left for Russia where he hopes to teach French.



When I am discouraged or mentally exhausted, two reminders encourage me to keep studying: **you are praying and people are waiting to hear God's Word.** Thank you for your prayers and support.

In Him, Robert

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