

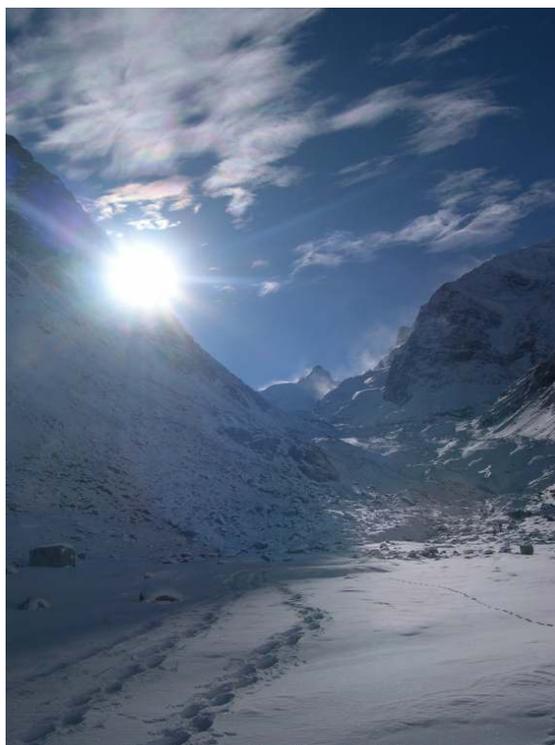
## January 20, 2005 Email Update

Dear Family & Friends,

Happy New Year from Switzerland!

As a brief summary from the last several weeks, at Inlingua our Christmas break began the afternoon of December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The following evening, I went with the Staehlis (my host family) to Christine's sister's house. Christmas is celebrated primarily on the 24<sup>th</sup>, so we enjoyed a wonderful meal of "Fondu Chinois" and opened presents. Christmas day, other family came and joined us at the Staehli's house. Of course, one of the highlights of the day was talking to my family gathered in Colorado at my brother's place.

December 27<sup>th</sup>, I left with the church for a week-long ski camp. We were in the town of Zinal at around 7,000 ft. From there we caught a gondola to go to the ski slopes. It was an excellent time with about 50 people, most from the church. I heard and talked a lot in French and really enjoyed being with and making new friends. Though initially we didn't have much snow, the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> the snow started falling and we received between 2 and 3 feet – great conditions for a lot of skiing. One of the days we hiked to a glacier. You'll find two pictures attached from that trip.



The New Year was ushered in while I was still in Zinal and I felt an unusually strong desire to call my family. Because I was using a cell phone, I had some problem getting a connection. Finally I was able to get through to my brother and it was then that I learned that my Grandpa Cypert had died the afternoon of December 30<sup>th</sup>. Though we will miss him, we rejoice that he is now in the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Please pray for grandma as she adjusts to life without him after 73 years together.** If you would like to read the tribute assembled for his memorial service, you can find it at [www.petersonfamily.info/GCypert.pdf](http://www.petersonfamily.info/GCypert.pdf).

January 9<sup>th</sup>, I restarted at Inlingua. I expect to be there until starting at the university in March. I would appreciate your prayers **as I begin the application process to the university and for wisdom as I look for the best classes.** Thank you for your prayers as I continue to study French. I'm encouraged to see progress and yet I often see the gaps in my understanding and comprehension. Recently, it was very encouraging for me to be able to, for the first time, **share my testimony, ad lib, with a junior high youth group.**



May the Lord bless you. Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement.

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