

# NEUCHÂTEL CHURCH MAGAZINE - MARCH 2010

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: **Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> after the service**  
Important points will be discussed – make sure you're there!!

BIBLE STUDY at Roy and Mieke's flat, 8 pm:

Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

(No bible study on April 6<sup>th</sup>)

DEBATE @ EIGHT: at Roy and Mieke's flat, 8 pm:

Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup>

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**1<sup>st</sup> April at 7 pm: Maundy Thursday, Agape**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April at 5 pm: Good Friday "Voices around the Cross"**

**4<sup>th</sup> April at 10 am: Regular morning service**

## ECHOS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee met on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The main items of discussion were the reports of the "Time to Think" day compiled by Bill Packer and Jon Bright, begging the question "Where do we go from here?"

The change to a morning service once a month seems popular.

We must improve contacts with the English-speaking community in Neuchâtel by maintaining and up-dating the website, producing attractive flyers, organising public events and encouraging members to make personal contacts.

We would like to strengthen our links with All Saints in Vevey and suggest that we attend their service on the fifth Sunday of the month.

We need to establish a "pump fund" in view of having to give greater financial support to a minister when Roy retires from Neuchâtel. The treasurer reported that despite increased attendance at church, donations were inferior in 2009 to the previous year.

For all this work to make known the love of our Lord, we need **prayers and people.**

RZ

From Roy and Mieke

The time has come said the walrus "to think of cabbages and kings, to think of many things" so said Lewis Carroll. The time has come in the church for ALL of us to think about what we can do to help the church grow and continue to make an impact on the community of this region.

In a recent sermon I was speaking about the roles played by the two sisters introduced in Luke chapter 10,

**Martha** -- up front, busy, easily distracted, and worried about the details, but got on with it. She would be good around here, there would be no shortage of helpers for the Junior church, she would be organising us all to be with the children, there would be lots of open social events and a 3D stunning interactive website!!!

We would have lots of people ready to pray, read, lead services and even preach!!

Every practical need of this church would be covered several times over  
The Treasurer's pledge letter would have been answered several times over so that the financial future of the church would be well provided for.

**Mary** -- quiet, sitting down, listening, and reflecting. Mary would be praying and thinking about what has happened in the church over these past few years. Listening to Sonya' story and that from Jodi (this month's magazine) and seeing that the Lord has been so wonderfully at work in these two lives who passed through Neuchâtel.



We are at a point in our church life we need quite a few Martha's, there are real urgent jobs to be done and the church cannot go forward unless these are faced up to. But we also need to maintain those moments of stillness, when God speaks to us and moves us on. We need the Mary's to realise the moment to stop and sit at the feet of Jesus.

Which are you? We need both!

## J o d i ' s S t o r y



Moving to a foreign country is not an easy thing to do, but when I moved to Neuchâtel from the US, I quickly became adjusted to work and travelling around Europe. It was so great to see all of the famous towns and to experience the local cultures of France, Italy, and Switzerland etc. After deciding to stay longer in Europe with my job, I realized that something was missing from my life...a church to worship in. I missed going to church on Sundays and the fellowship of other Christians. And I wasn't quite sure if there was a church for me in Neuchatel due to the fact that I didn't speak fluent French.

One day, however, a co-worker informed me that she found an English speaking church in Neuchâtel and she gave me the details on the services and bible studies. I was definitely going to check it out as at that point in my life, I really needed some direction from the Lord and fellowship from his servants.

Coming to the Neuchâtel Church for the first time was such a great and memorable experience for me. I remember how welcoming and hospitable everyone was, especially the Minister, Roy and his wife, Mieke. I instantly felt at home, welcomed and loved. Over the next few weeks, I attended services and bible studies and began to know many of the congregation. I looked forward to these times, as it was so great to share in the Lord's love with other people. The bible studies were a great opportunity for me to learn more and to hear other's thoughts on various passages. The discussions were very meaningful to me and they gave me a renewed interest in reading the bible again, something that I had not done since moving to Switzerland. They even gave me the motivation to lead a few bible sessions, which I was very happy to do.

Over the months, the Church became like my Swiss family. I loved going to the services, hearing the 'monkey stories' from Roy and the fellowship after church. I even was unsuspectingly re-introduced to one of my favourite hymns, "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky". I had not heard that hymn since I was first baptized 10 years ago, how special and meaningful that was! I knew the Lord was at work in my heart through the Neuchâtel Church!

Another thing that amazed me about the Church was that, despite the small congregation, the desire to perform good in the name of Christ was plentiful, whether it was through prayers or organized functions. A few of the functions that I remember was the annual auction held to raise funds for a missionary supporting medical care

for Indians of Paraguay. I enjoyed the auction a lot because not only was I supporting a great cause, I was able to enjoy the fellowship through some laughter and good food. The Carol Service, held this past December, was beautiful and brought many new faces to the service in order to sing praise at Christmas. I was so happy to see a packed house for this night and to praise the Lord through the carols we sang.

There have been so many special times at the Neuchâtel Church for me. I have been so blessed to have worshipped there and to get to know so many wonderful people. It became a family for me and I was very sad to have to say goodbye when I moved back to the US. I really wished I could take the congregation with me because it was such a great church to belong to. But, I knew that wasn't realistic and I can only pray that I will find a wonderful church just like it back here in the States. However, nothing can take the place of all the memories I have of the bible studies, the '*Debates @ Eight*' and the congregation. They will always remain in my heart and will always be a blessing to me, and hopefully others who would like to join the church. Thank you Roy and Mieke for your hospitality and warmth! You have touched my heart in so many ways. And thank you, to the congregation for welcoming me in and for always being such a close-knit congregation. I will miss you all but as we always end our service, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen"! It doesn't matter where we go, as long as we keep serving!

God Bless!

Jodi

*We miss you, Jodi ! Don't forget to send us the zucchini bread recipe !!*