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Dear friends,



Its time for some news from us (spot us on the roller coaster? Kind of a typical picture at the moment...). Well, tucked away in a minute village of 356 inhabitants in the Black Forest we find ourselves in the three-country-corner Germany, Switzerland and France, 20 minutes outside of Basel (and, more importantly for those under 16



year of age, a mere 45 minutes away from Europa Park...). From here, we are connected with a growing number of housechurch networks (totalling about 120 housechurches so far) in what we call the "Rhein-Region", roughly that stretch of land from Liechtenstein to Lörrach, following the course of the River Rhine where it flows from East to West, until turning sharply North at Basel. Its an ancient mission field that has seen some of the very first fruits of the Gospel in Europe through the connections of the Celts (who were residents in the Rhein-Region also) and the Gauls/Galatians (Pauls letter to the Galatians was really also a letter to "The Celts") in the first and second century. Later, Columban of Ireland has worked here in the 6th century, once calling it lovingly "his belt": the Rhein river being the belt, the Bodensee (Lake Constance) the buckle.... It was Konstanz where Reformer Jan Hus was burnt (1415), and its the very area from which the famous peasants wars emerged (1524/25) that proved to become that huge testing ground and immense failure for Martin Luther's Reformation, or the place where Calvin published his Institutes (Basel). Its a contested area that has been the hot-bed of the historical Post-Reformation housechurch movements which gave birth to the Brethren movements, the Mennonites (remember Schleithem?), or the Amish. Today the region houses the Swiss Pharma Multis, the "Bank for International Settlement", a central bank for 55 central banks, and, of course, us! Maybe the time for yet another **Reformation made at the Rhein** has come!

We have three passions: the **reshaping of the Church** of Jesus Christ to accurately reflect the design of its author and King; an **economic reformation** by returning to Kingdom Economics, the messianic principles of money and work; and a **reformation of unity**, that will happen as the Body of Christ repents of its human fragmentization and returns to it's original design, the smashingly attractive Bride of Christ.

Our Mission is probably best summed up in the little text box on the left that is expanded on our newly updated website www.simsonwolfgang.de – come have a look! It flows out of a vision that basically *has us*; for us, this is important: we do not feel that we ourselves have a vision, but the vision truly has us, and gripped us from the inside-out, consuming us to passionately pursue what is ahead of us.

Today, the first news is probably that **we are changing our email-Newsletter system** from entering Email addresses by hand to a way you can subscribe to our newsletter yourself by simply entering your preferred Email address to our newsletter list. Why not do this right now at our website? Or simply click [this link...](#)

If it is OK we would like to recap a bit of what has been happening over the last months. As all of us don't multiply what we say but really multiply who we are, we'd like to start with some **family news**:

In general as a family we feel like passing through a door, leaving the old, entering a new time. Old priorities and ministry styles have to go, new ones are to come. We feel excited and weak, hopeful and broken at the same time. Humanly speaking, we have never been weaker, we guess. Financially, we are never sure how to cover this or even next months expenses, but it has taught us to either rely on God or simply drown. Mercy had a **strong hit of vertigo**, rendering her virtually unable to move, on 29th September 2007, and it is only slowly getting better. The doctors cannot find anything wrong with her except a dislocation of earstones (*otoholithes*) in the middle ear that causes the dizziness, probably as a late result of the tumbling car accident she had in February 2007. Since then she did some crazy excercises (including standing on her head!) and, after our friend Daniel Hari had prayed

for her, she feels significantly better. But its not completely gone yet, and she is down to probably about 40% of her original strength.

Mums back! My mother (age 86 now), who had two strokes since April 2007, is back since 30th November in our house! What a joy to have her in the family again. She is weak, can't speak, can't eat, but she can smile! We have found a great help in Esther, a Christian single woman who has recently moved into our house to help take care of her.

Jan, our oldest son, is 15 now (in his book: almost 16), and it was a joy to go with him on a father-son male initiation "**rites of passage**" trip in November 07 up to the rough and wind-beaten shores of the Orkney Islands. Boarding a ship in Aberdeen we were handed a disclaimer of the Ferry company that because of strong storm warnings they cannot guarantee our safe delivery (just like life!). Jan was thoroughly initiated into sea sickness with a vengeance, and being on our own with no female prying eyes fixed on the question if we were really good boys, we ventured into all all sorts of man-things that probably should be published in a John Eldridge book. I would, however, not even mention in public how Jan expertly drove our rental car along the picturesque shores of famous „Loch Ness“, chasing down "Nessie" the nonexistent residential monster. In a bigger view, we think its true that all humans go through 4 phases in their life: child -> adult -> parent -> grandparent (see 1 John 2), and if not someone from the older generation initiates the younger ones and intentionally awards them with membership in the next stage, either no one really will, or someone we don't want (like the media). Now both our younger boys (Eric 13, Ben 10) can't wait to become 15 as well...

Ministrywise, we were focussing on four things right now:



The development of the housechurch movement in the USA. In general, "housechurches" are only a first step of a far larger historic rediscovery of what ekklesia truly means in the context of the Kingdom of God. We believe that in many nations some movements are born of the Spirit (some are also born out of rebellion) that themselves go through a childphase, an adult-phase, a parents-phase and a grandparents phase. If we have heard God right, we are to focus on 15 nations (out of the existing 266 nations, territories and colonies on earth) that, in turn, will "parent" or multiply whats happening at home with the rest of the nations. The USA is one of these nations, and it now seems to move into the next phase (which one, you think, is it?). We feel God has told us in the year 2000 "to become missionaries to the US"; first thing we bought was actually a flag to remind us of this. Since then and out of small beginnings, housed by our friends Tony and Felicity Dale (look out for their new book "Reformation") many networks of housechurches have sprung up, the sum total is probably around 20.000 – 50.000. Some, like George Barna, count it significantly higher. These last months saw us doing housechurch seminars and visits in a hair saloon in New Jersey, a coffee shop in Philadelphia (want to see me there? My friend Don Graves did a video, click [this link...](#)), a salvation army house in Boston, with Neil Cole and Alan Hirsch in Ontario, or at a very significant prayer retreat in Colorado Springs (read more in "Keys of the Kingdom" on our website). In October, it was a joy to meet a local housechurch planting network and speak at their "Rocktober-Fest" in Kansas City (www.rocktribe.org). It was actually the first time I was speaking about the Starfish Vision in the West. When I concluded my message I ended it saying: "See you in Jerusalem!" - and for some reason pointed right at this one young man whom God had brought from Israel to be in the meeting. I will later tell a bit more about this... it's a bigger story!

Kingdom Economics. Jesus the King is coming back and is initiating a very foundational house-cleaning. This begins with an intentional return to him as a governing (not just representative!) King in the first place, and from there to rediscover and utterly respect the constitution of the Kingdom (the NT). This Kingdomization-process (Kingdom: the realm of Gods uncontested rule) moves on immediately to architectural issues (like apostolic and prophetic foundations), and then, small wonder, to restore the virtually nonexistent financial and economic infrastructure of the Kingdom that has been either hijacked by empire-builders (give, or worse, *tithe* to me!) or strategically ignored (don't even *talk* about giving). One of the key developments of our time is a general move into what I call the *Inspiration Age*, a 4th Industrial Revolution that includes spirit-based inventions (see website for more). Mercy and I visited a few friends of ours that together sit on a number of (functioning!) inventions that, once implemented, will simply rock this world. 17 years ago it had been prophesied to

us we would be involved in exactly such a dimension of ministry, so we were not too surprised, although the inventions themselves – and their implications! - are quite breathtaking. In summer last year I have called together a few business people in Germany for an “Innovators Day” at the home of one of the leading christian business thinkers and practitioners, testing the preparedness for such an “Inspiration Age”.



Starfish Setup and preparation meetings. In 2006 I started to write what is now called “The Starfish Manifesto”, a large volume almost done and edited (publication planned for June 2008) seeking to lay out the foundations for an open-source-based global missionary partnership (not another mission agency!) towards finishing not only some of the goals we find ourselves captivated by, but about inspiring a process to see a multiplication of disciples, organic churches and regional apostolic networks affecting all areas of life (family, education, culture, business, politics) in order to see half the planet (and thus all the tribes and people groups) discipled. To say it mildly: getting the book out has been like trying to deliver a 10 kilo baby! However, we feel many signs that God’s hand is on this from the beginning. A recent trip to Antioch and Israel with a few friends to prepare the places for, in my eyes, very significant global Starfish gatherings, has been a breeze and we found preparedness everywhere we went. We will tell you more in the next newsletter! A new website will start up soon that you could watch: www.starfishportal.net

Writing. If you have a quick check on our new website under “Current book projects”, you get an idea! After reducing the larger volume “Houses that change the World” into an updated introductory format (probably called *Housechurch 101*) that will appear with “George Barna Books”, an imprint with Tyndale, a larger American publisher, there is a team of us working on a very crucial subject: Not long ago Alan Hirsch, Neil Cole and I met in Wisconsin at the beautiful Lake Geneva for a writers retreat. We plan to write a substantial book on the five-fold ministry together that helps to introduce, explain and help initiate the team ministry outlined in Eph. 4. Do you know the joke about an Aussie, an American and a German...? I think you get the point. Proposed title: *Primal Fire*.

Ahead: Given the strong schedules and challenges we had in the recent past, we would simply love to take a longer time-out, June-August 2008 during the kids summer break, but we don’t yet know if we will make it financially. But God knows what is best for us, as he knows what is best for you as well. We would like to thank you for your interest in our family and journey, and if we could cross paths in the future in the fulfillment of the missionary vision that may have gripped not just us ☺, that would be even more wonderful. Thanks go to all those who have been able to stand financially and in prayer and thought with us, and if you are prompted by God to pray for “this 10 Kilo birth” to go smoothly, “father and mother” will be very grateful.

Remember, if you wish to continue getting further Simson News, you would have to enter your E-Mail into our newsletter tool on our website!

Blessings to you all,

Wolfgang, Mercy and the Kids
April 2008

For those who have asked us how to stand with us financially as well, our bank accounts are:

Wolfgang Simson, Postbank Stuttgart, Germany, Account Nr 242681702 BLZ Nr (bank code) 60010070, IBAN: DE55600100700242681702, BIC PBNKDEFF

USA: (wiring into) account No. 391 559 4161, Bank of America, Beltway Plaza, Greenbelt Maryland, MD4 301 1538

or a cheque to: PO Box 1248, D-79397 Kandern, Germany

