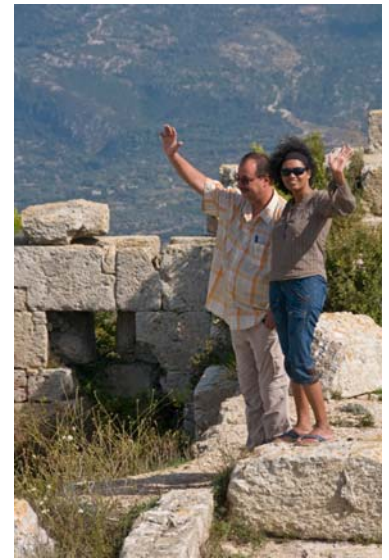


## Simson News, December 2009

Picture: The two of us standing at the site of Simon Stylites pillar near Antioch. The funny thing was that, searching for someone exotic and interesting, I wrote my first Church history paper about Simon Stylites 25 years ago...



Dear friends,

**Christmas is a funny time, don't you think?** For example, we all know (or have at least heard) that for sure Jesus was not born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December but, most probably, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month of Tishri (September/October); and yet the world loves to celebrate it in the 'winterwonderlandglühwein' time. And although it's his birthday, we actually get the presents! He grew to be the King of kings, yet we like to remember him as a cute, harmless little baby. We know that Christmas trees have as little to do with Jesus than bunnies and Easter eggs have to do with Easter, but here we go; ... because of the kids, you know. And there even seems to be this rule: the more pagan a family is, the more Christmas decoration it displays. Its obviously a competition out there :-). This year, our small town Kandern has littered its crowded space with the sensational number of 200 Christmas trees. Some houses are so lit up with flashing Christmas decorations we laugh saying, 'a Jumbo Jet bound for Zurich might actually attempt to land, thinking it's the airport'.

Anyway, the Simson family is also misusing Christmas as a holiday season for an attempt to relax a bit. Mercy is going for a weekend trip to Berlin with two of her girlfriends, and I am taking our boys and some of their friends to the Austrian Alps for a few days of skiing. The kids have grown up to be ski (Jan and Ben) and even snowboard freaks (Eric).

In January 2010, I will be going to Chiang Mai, Thailand, speaking to a Missionary group working in Central Asia on planting house churches. This is going to be a bit of a challenge for me, as the subject of house churches for us is almost an ancient, bygone issue that was hot and on the agenda of God maybe 15 years ago. Now it seems the spirit has moved on to issues beyond house church, like apostolic architecture or even Kingdom Economics.

Here are a few highlights of the last few months we would like to share with you:

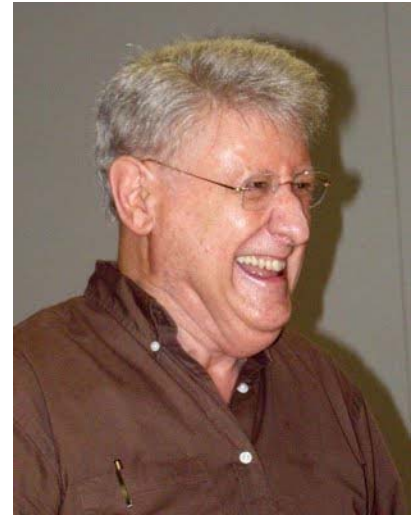


In September my former book "Houses that Change the world, which I have shortened and updated, came out newly with Tyndale, a publisher in the US, under the title "The House Church Book." I am continually amazed what God is doing through this book which I originally wrote for India and the Middle East. One Ex-Pastor and now church planter from Spain told me that the Spanish translation of this book has been basically *supressed by its very own publisher*. They probably got too many complaints from folks and feared for their own image. Yet, somehow that "subversive book" has somehow leaked to one pastor of a very large church in Ecuador a few weeks ago. He now makes TV advertisement for it, takes insights fom it and discusses it in his TV shows.

In September I went to participate in an apostolic-prophetic roundtable in Charlotte, North Carolina. The terms apostolic and prophetic in the US American climate have been greatly over-used and under-substantiated. The words mean everything and nothing. For curiosity's sake during my time there, I visited a well known ministry base of a prophet I used to translate for when he came to Europe many years back; I was hit by the vast spiritual emptiness of the place and the lack of any apostolic direction. With extremely few exceptions (a handful in the US?) that excite me very much, I see no real, honest-to-God, biblical, true Kingdom cooperation between apostolic and prophetic people who are dead to self and therefore alive for the King. By now, basically everyone and everything in the US who wants to be hip and in and famous, is apostolic or prophetic, (like the flavor of the day, in an ice-cream shop). We see the labels, but we terribly miss the substance.

Well, back to the meeting in North Carolina; this meeting was called by a good brother called Don Atkins. For me the absolute highlight was to hear the grandfathers heart of two friends there, Tony Fitzgerald (from Australia, now in Richmond, USA) and Dan Hubbel. Dan, of Winnsboro, Texas, whom I had asked to come to this meeting, is probably the cleanest, most sober apostolic father figure in the entire United States that I know of. He has done probably more than anyone I know to unite the churches in his church-divided town.

Dan (picture on the right) has secretly been out there and now has spiritual children (and grandchildren) all over the world; still, hardly anyone knows of him. As he spoke about his life as a former Baptist Pastor 40 years ago, how he was sidelined by the very people he ministered to, and how he faithfully stayed true to his calling, and now, as a grandfather, is making space for the fathers to make space for the sons, there was not a dry eye in the room. I truly wish that the spirit of such men would transform and mold American Christianity, helping it to get out from its competitive games, out of "playing church mode" to truly become a spiritual, selfless grow up man.



**Antioch 2009.** In 2006, God spoke to me to call about a whole list of people whose names he gave me to meet in Antioch (Acts 13) for a global gathering lasting one full week. The goal was threefold: to repent for missions made by man at the very spot where apostolic mission started, to have an extended time of corporate listening to God, and to have a prophetic outlook into the future of apostolic ministry. We went to Antioch as a whole family. One of the highlights was a trip to Tarsus, where Paul the apostle needed 11 long years to die to himself and consider it "dirt" what he was excited about before. One of the lessons for us is: only dead apostles are good apostles... We are still digesting the many inputs that we felt God gave to us there which are crucial to finishing the task Jesus gave to us. If you are interested, read the far more extensive report: [www.simsonwolfgang.de](http://www.simsonwolfgang.de) under current...

**Delhi2009.** The house church movement is gathering so much momentum worldwide that Dr. Victor Choudhrie and his friends invited the global house church community for a House Church Summit in New Delhi, India. Representatives from 40 nations – including 20 from China – came in November 2009 to Delhi and shared about an exciting time of small beginnings in many nations, while in countries like India, Bangladesh or Egypt the number of house churches has already overtaken the entire number of all traditional churches altogether. Even in Europe the movement picks up speed. And in Africa, one man has seen 1.000 house churches planted in Zambia in two years. One medical doctor from Nigeria kept hearing every night for 30 days a voice telling him: "Go to Delhi!" And, without an official invitation (which is a miracle in itself) he got a visa for India, went on a plane not knowing what he is supposed to do in Delhi. Halfway in Dubai he met other folks from Africa headed to Delhi, discovered they are going to the House Church Summit, joined them and here he was. I truly cannot even begin to describe to you the significance and scope of this Summit, that has basically embraced the vision to plant 200 million churches in the very foreseeable future. The picture left shows me weight-lifting Molong Nacua, a churchplanter from the Philippines. Again, if you are interested in learning more about Delhi2009, go to [www.simsonwolfgang.de](http://www.simsonwolfgang.de) under current.



**Starfish TV.** In April 2009 Mercy and I went to Helsinki, Finland, to shoot a professional TV series on invitation and arrangement by our long time friend Heikki Lassila. TV7 produced and recently aired a mini-series of five 30 minutes sessions to introduce the Starfish Vision. Very soon they should be viewable on the starfish website [www.starfishportal.net](http://www.starfishportal.net) and, of course, on youtube as well.

There is much more to share, but let this be enough for today. My family and I are pleased to be connected with you through sharing little bits of informations. Thank you all for your interest, prayers and support that helps us to keep going in these very exciting times. You can read now and then a post on Mercy's blog [www.whileweslept.wordpress.com](http://www.whileweslept.wordpress.com)

Blessings,

Wolfgang and Mercy

If you have heard from God about standing with us also financially:

Checks: Wolfgang Simson, Postfach 1248, 79397 Kandern, Germany.  
US Bank account: Bank of America, PO Box 31900, Tampa, FL 33631-3900.  
Account 003915594161 / Routing number 026009593 (for wires) / Routing number for checks 052001633  
Our account in Germany: Account name: Wolfgang Simson; Account number: 242681702  
IBAN: DE55600100700242681702 / BIC: PBNKDEFF / (Name of Bank: Postbank Stuttgart, Germany)