



EVERY NATION

SWITZERLAND CHURCH PLANT



MISSION REPORT

March 2024



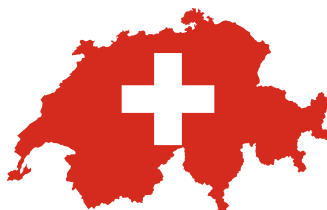
**THANK YOU
FOR PRAYING**



Our primary mission objective was prayer – to earnestly intercede by the leading of the Holy Spirit and to proclaim divine truths over Switzerland and the city of Bern. Guided by our MISSION STATEMENT, which served as our compass, each day was devoted to seeking God's direction and leading the team in prayer.

What proved immensely encouraging was our encounters with individuals throughout the journey who affirmed the very prayers we had prayed the previous day(s).

In addition to our primary goal of prayer, we held a secondary objective of seeking divine connections for both the church plant and our upcoming business mission in June. This involved trusting God to orchestrate meaningful relationships and partnerships that would further advance our mission and vision.



CONNECTIONS

There were 6 quite significant meetings during our time in Switzerland.

- 1. The Bern Economic Development Agency**
- 2. Ben Imobersteg from Campus for Christ**
- 3. Peter and Mirjam Wilburg**
- 4. Thomas Eggenberg from BewegungPlus**
- 5. John Gerber and Geru Furrer from GPMC in Thun**
- 6. VBG Bern - Christian student movement**

One major highlight was, just as November last year, every ministry or church we met with on this trip uttered these words either directly or in prayer - “Welcome to Switzerland.”

BERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (BEDA)

The BEDA is a government initiative that exists to promote and support economic growth in the canton of Bern. All the other cantons have something similar for their region.

Someone from our church in Pretoria was invited to Switzerland to meet with some of these agencies and I had the opportunity to join the meeting in Bern.

This was incredibly valuable to gain insights into starting businesses in Switzerland, the support that is available and to gain two connections at the BEDA as well as a contact from the innovation hub at the University of Bern.

We will now be able to initiate a meeting for our trip in June to look into the opportunities for new businesses in Bern and the greater Switzerland.



Kanton Bern
Canton de Berne



BEN IMOBERSTEG CAMPUS FOR CHRIST

Ben has been working with Campus for Christ for 11 years and came to faith as a student himself. He had such an incredible open heart as we spoke about the vision for the church plant and our heart to see students reached with the Gospel.

There was definitely a connection and we are really excited to see what partnership can unfold from this meeting. They have been doing campus ministry in Switzerland for many years and they offer a wealth of wisdom and resources! There is also a huge synergy between our hearts for the lost, discipleship and missions.

We don't need to reinvent the wheel ;-)



PETER AND MIRJAM WILBURG

We unfortunately did not take a picture with this incredible family. Peter is a South African married to a Swiss and they have 4 awesome boys!

Our hosts (Adam and Linda) invited them over as a connection and this proved to be another divine setup! Peter works for the Bible translation organization Wycliffe and has many connections with church leaders and organizations and then he also started his own business which will be very helpful again for our trip in June.



They are such a beautiful family with incredibly open hearts. Every time we just stand amazed at the quality of people God is connecting us with.

THOMAS EGGENBERG BEWEGUNGPLUS

Peter connected us with Thomas from BewegungPlus. They are a church in Bern but also form part of a network of evangelical churches with a heart for church planting. This was a Godly setup!

His heart for the Kingdom is so inspiring and there was also just a connection with regards to our vision to plant churches and what is already alive in their hearts. We really walked away from this meeting feeling that this was one of the reasons we needed to come on this trip.

This is definitely a possible church we would get connected to in the integration phase of the church plant and we will meet up with Thomas again in June as we explore in what ways we can work together.



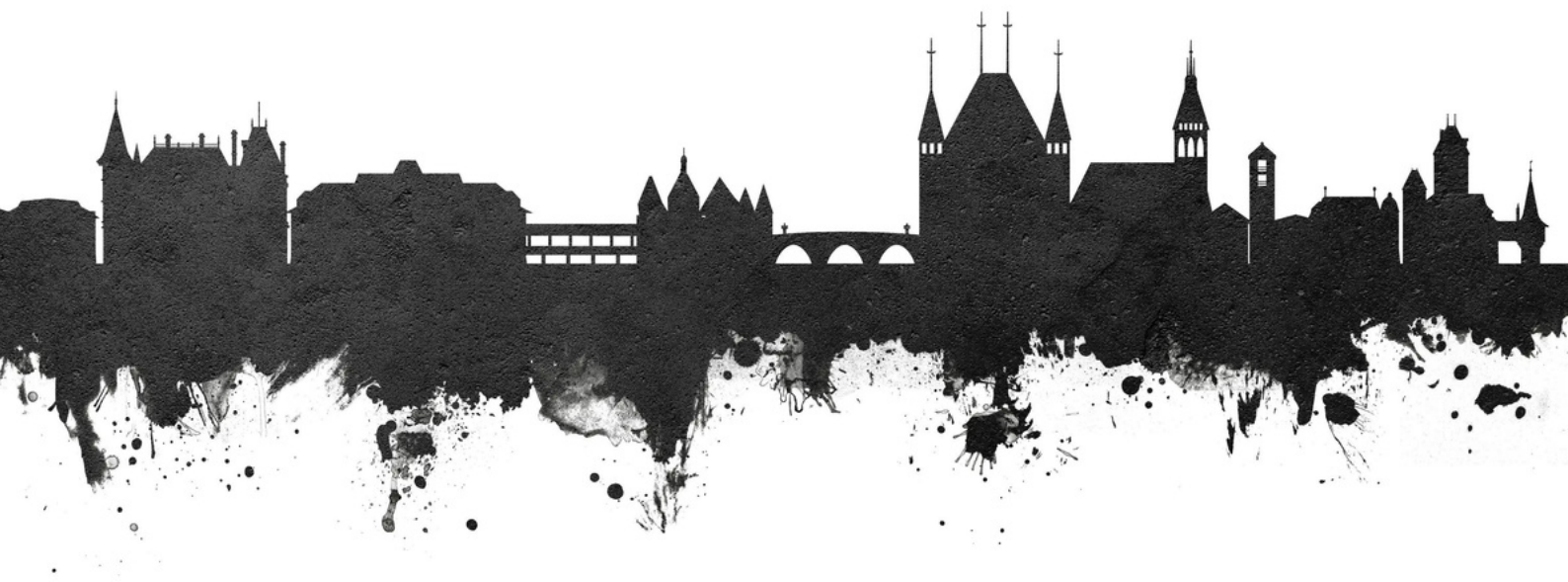
JOHN GERBER AND GERU FURRER GPMC IN THUN

We unfortunately also didn't take a photo with this meeting.

Danny, one of our contacts from last year, invited us to meet some of the leaders of the church that he attends in Thun - gpmc.ch

What a vibrant church with a massive heart to see the lost reached and for disciples to make a real impact in their communities.

Their approach to church is different, but so effective and it seems to hit the culture head-on. Again, we are looking forward to this connection and how we can work together for the sake of the Gospel in Switzerland and the rest of Europe.



CHRISTIAN STUDENTS VGB BERN

Our last meeting for this trip was to meet up with Christian students who are part of a national movement called VGB. We also met up with the St Gallen branch in November. They work together with all the churches and ministries and their ministry focus is targeted toward faith and the mind, providing evidence for the faith and getting people to think about faith in an age of skepticism.

This was such an encouraging time of fellowship, worship, and studying the Word together. There was such a real hunger among the students and there was also a curiosity about the church plant. In one way we feel we could start tomorrow with the students!

There truly is a generation of young people who are ready to be equipped and set on fire for the Gospel!



PRAYER FEEDBACK



PRAYER FOCUS REPORT CAMPUS



We had an incredible day praying on two campus sites, had two networking opportunities. We were joined for the day by two friends from South Africa, Tommy and Tsai Lou, who were in Bern on a business trip.

There was an opportunity for Jaco to join a business networking session with Tommy, where he was able to engage business people in preparation for the June mission and the church plant.

We started praying at the Botanical Garden faculty site next to the Aare river, where we prayed into Col 2:1-8, focusing, amongst others, on:

- God as the true source of sustainable lifegiving knowledge and wisdom;**
- encouragement for the next generation of students and campus staff**
- identity rooted in Christ, not degrees or achievements.**

At the main campus, which also overlooks a big part of the city, we able to:

- stand in the gap as intercessors and repented that students are seeking knowledge above seeking God;**
- prayed into relationships on campus;**
- prayed for the administration of the university;**
- and had an engage moment where we prayed for someone on campus and shared a word with him.**

We ended the day with a very enlightening meeting with Ben regarding the current work that is being done on campus by Campus Crusade. Ben shared some of the initiatives they are busy with on campus. The session was an encouraging session which ended in a moment where we could pray for Ben, his family and where he has faithfully served in this area of campus ministry for the past 11 years.

PRAYER FOCUS REPORT CHRIST-CENTERED



We had another productive day praying at four sites. We were joined for the morning by our hostess, Linda, and we focussed on Christ as Lord and His kingdom rule principles.

We started praying at the Bundeshaus, the Swiss parliament, where we prayed into Col 2:13, on:

- Christ should be the true foundation of all bodies of authority;**
- Christ was the original foundation, but it was layered and hidden under rebellion, compromise, and shame;**
- repenting of Switzerland putting their faith and trust in worldly systems of leadership, that actually lead to a false freedom;**
- the “gates” should open to let the King come in (Ps.24:7-9)**

We then prayed at the Reformierte Kirche, Reformed Church:

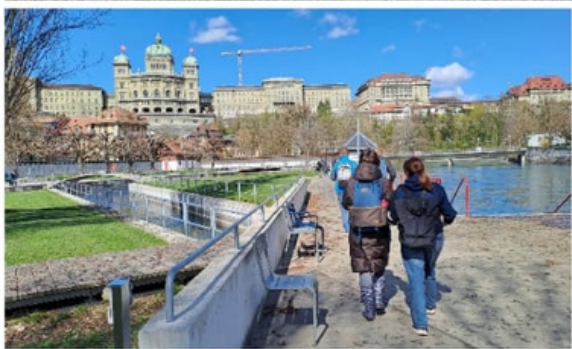
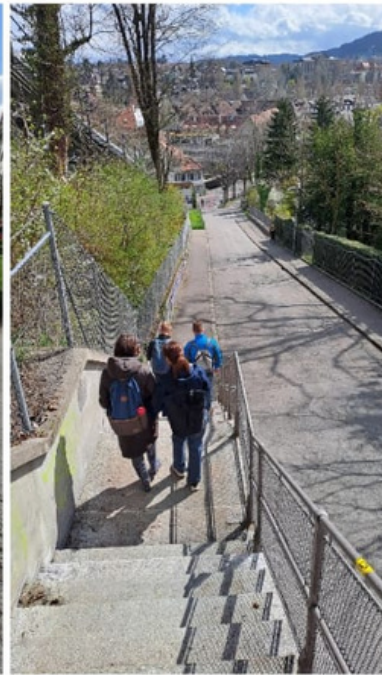
- revival for the church, to get back to Jesus;**
- unity in the body of Christ;**
- church being open for all;**
- protection for the church against persecution (Rev.12:17)**

From there we went to a castle, which is now the Bern History and Science Museum. We prayed that the city of Bern and the Swiss nation would fall in love with Jesus again and that the skewed image of Christ be restored. We also prayed for the church plant, and that the Lord would add Europeans to team.

We ended the day praying at the Rathaus (Bernese municipal building). In the 17th century, a bible stood on a stand in the government building, symbolizing that a pastor had the authority to go to government and through scripture say what they were doing wrong. However, it is not so anymore. We prayed for:

- Godly people to arise that will lead the nation and restore leadership;**
- Godly men to be appointed in governmental positions to provide counsel to leaders;**
- that believers will have boldness to stand up against unrighteousness.**

PRAYER FOCUS REPORT CHURCH PLANT AND UPCOMING MISSIONS



Today was a bit of a colder day in Bern. Benji and Maria (who joined us from Zug) shared their journey and challenges in Switzerland. This was significant as it confirmed what we prayed for yesterday.

After hearing about their Swiss journey, Jaco shared the heart for the Bern church plant. We then headed to the streets of Bern for a prayer walk.

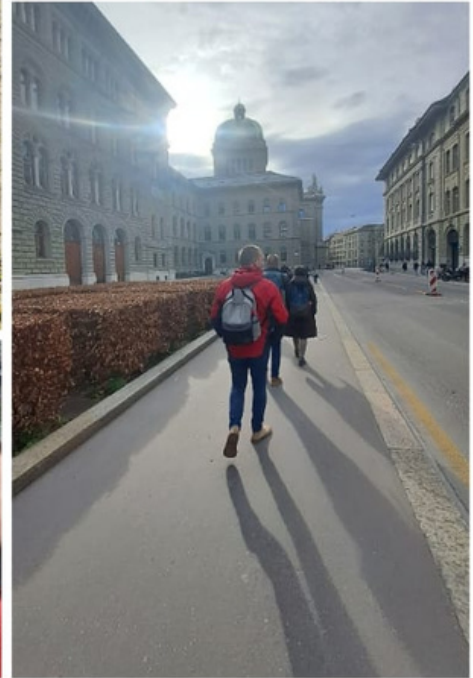
Highlights of our prayers during the walk are:

- we prayed that the right people would sign up for the coming Swiss missions (June and September).**
- That there will be an unlocking of hearts for nations and missions.**
- God would add people to the church plant, and that they, just like the Aare river, will flow back to Europe as churchplanters and missionaries;**
- that funding for missions and the church plant will not be laboursome, but will flow freely**
- trusting that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be unlocked for the church to reveal God's kingdom to the people of Bern;**
- We submitted the "how" of the church plant, pertaining to the timing and way of entry, to God's sovereign hand.**

Thank you for covering us in prayer and all the prophetic words being sent.

We are starting to see how the different prophetic words and prayers are coming together.

PRAYER FOCUS REPORT SPIRIT-EMPOWERED



Today we focussed on praying for the Holy Spirit to impact the city of Bern, the Swiss nation, and beyond:

- **we prayed into a picture of a drop of water that became a trickling stream, then became a river, and then a raging river - don't despise small beginnings, as the Lord will have His way;**
- **to align thoughts and minds to His ways**
- **we prayed into faith, love, and hope for the people**
- **that a Spirit-empowered lifestyle will be a reality for the team from the start;**
- **Acts 2:1 talks about how the disciples were together in one room, when the Holy Spirit was poured out. We prayed for unity among the body of Christ and for His Spirit to be poured out.**
- **there are many sounds that people are listening to, but that the sound of the Holy Spirit will be recognized by the people, and that they run after Him;**
- **that the Lord will build bridges amongst different churches to unite and work together in the city;**
- **praying that the team that will plant the church will be so sensitive for the Holy Spirit that they will walk in a room and know what to say.**
- **an analogy / picture of: people receiving a daily amount of water. This water should be fully poured out onto the field until there is nothing left because the next day the bucket will be refilled.**

We also had meetings with leaders from two churches - one based in Bern and one in Thune. From our meeting with them the following stood out:

- **they are open to receiving our church plant.**
- **they both agree that more churches are needed in Switzerland**
- **we received great insights on integration and how to reach the people of Bern.**
- **with both there are collaboration and partnering opportunities in the future.**

PRAYER FOCUS REPORT SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE



Today, we prayed into social justice and the Kingdom of God being a Kingdom of righteousness and justice. After seeking God's guidance for the day at the train station in prayer, we went to pray at a youth center known for drug usage under the youth. The place was filled with graffiti depicting the rebellious nature of the youth, which actually is a crying out for acceptance and love.

We then prayed at the Bundeshouse (parliament) again, for policies and regulations to be set in place that can lead to social justice based on God's moral standard.

Midday we were joined by Elindi, a South African studying in Switzerland, doing her PhD in NeuroScience. We had lunch together and then prayed in the canteen on the University of Bern for the church to be a safe place for students.

After Elindi returned home, we walked to a hospital and prayed that God would reveal Himself to patients, their families, and the hospital staff.

We then had a communal supper (prepared by the students themselves), including worship and Bible study with students from different church backgrounds under an organisation called VBG. We are so encouraged to see their hunger for God and desire for discipleship.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Business Mission - June 2024**
 - **Potential Team Mission -
September 2024**
 - **Harry and Wendy relocation date:
September 2024**
-
- **Ongoing support raising**
 - **Vision Night (dates TBC)**

THANK YOU

Thank you for standing with us in prayer!

Please continue to pray into the preparations for both the June and September missions, for the team (Jaco, Riëtte, Evan, Harry, and Wendy), for our support-raising efforts, and keep praying for this incredible nation as we are extremely expectant for all that God has planned.





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