

# The Chapel Leysin, Switzerland

## PASTOR OPPORTUNITY PROFILE



<http://englishchurchleysin.blogspot.com>

### **What is The Chapel?**

--An international, interdenominational, evangelical church ministry in the English language in Leysin, Switzerland. Leysin is small winter and summer resort community of about 4,000 inhabitants in the French speaking part of Switzerland. Leysin is 90-minutes from the international city of Geneva and Geneva Airport. It is a beautiful Swiss Alpine village.

--It is an independent body of believers made up of expats from several different countries of the world including the US, Great Britain, Switzerland, Japan, New Zealand, and several East Asian countries, etc. There is no one particular Christian creed. Christians come from about six different denominational backgrounds.

--The Chapel ministers to the English-speaking expats and three international and English language schools in the village. In fact, there are over 100 nationalities represented among the international schools in Leysin. Americans, British, Japanese, and Chinese being the largest groups. The three schools are:

Leysin American School, for middle school and high school students  
Kumon Leysin Academy, a Japanese school for high school students  
Swiss Hotel Management School, for college age students and older

--The Chapel has been open for over 100 years with many pastors from many different countries.

--The Chapel has also ministered to many Europeans who vacation in Leysin throughout the year. These have included British, Dutch, Americans, Canadians, and even some English-speaking Swiss within Switzerland.

-- At the moment, The Chapel is closed, as the pastor passed away but could be opened again quite easily.

--Volunteers from the small congregation lead worship, small groups, and other essential activities.

--A board of elders governs the church, and the pastor is an equal among the eldership.



### **What Kind of Pastor is needed at The Chapel?**

The Chapel is seeking for a man/couple who has the heart for young people and staff in the three schools already mentioned.



Desired characteristics:

--Servant leadership. A humble spirit. Proven leadership skills.

--A talent and passion for preaching from a scriptural foundation with openness to the Holy Spirit in the selection of texts, the focus of the message, and in Biblical teaching and preaching.

--A passion for mentoring and discipleship ministries. The ability to train others to disciple. Willingness and interest in hosting members of the local community and student from the international schools with the intention of sharing the love of Christ and to disciple believers.

--Committed to prayerfully seek God's will and guidance for the future direction and emphasis of ministries for the church.

--A demonstrated ability to work with a variety of religious, cultural, denominational, and socio-economic backgrounds in one church family.

--Willingness to build up a small (about 20) congregation while at the same time reaching out to staff and students at three international schools.

Qualifications:

--A vibrant Christian faith with a strong Biblical foundation. Acceptance and appreciation of denominational and dogmatic differences.



- Experience preferred in cross-cultural as well as pastoral ministry. A disposition and aptitude to adapt successfully in a cross-cultural setting.
- Enjoys people, is pastoral, and charismatic in reaching out socially.
- Articulate in English and have an aptitude and willingness to learn a second language (French).
- Desire to shepherd the spiritual growth of the Chapel and to evangelize the staff and students of the schools and other expats in Leysin.
- The ability to work through the process of obtaining the necessary B permit status to maintain full-time residence in Switzerland. Or, an EU member state citizen who would have access to reside in Switzerland.

### **Important Information:**

- The pastor would be responsible for raising his support as the present congregation is too small to support a pastor.
- There is a need for a pastor to present the idea of tithing to the church as this has been a weakness in the past.
- Someone gifted in evangelism and has a proven track record of developing Church growth in membership.
- Purchase of a vehicle is a must as well as renting an apartment in Leysin.



- The church and outreach are in the English language, but a knowledge of French or a willingness to learn French is an advantage in the village.
- It is recommended that a pastor is affiliated with a mission for support raising. The former pastor was with the mission, Crossworld ([crossworld.org](http://crossworld.org)), but it is not necessary to be a part of that organization.

### **What are other ministry opportunities?**

We are presenting another ministry opportunity for any pastor who would be interested. It is not a necessity for the pastor in Leysin to engage in the below mentioned Asian ministries but is possible for anyone who would be interested.

The former pastor, Lou Felo, was reaching out to Ladakh, northern India. He made several trips a year to help with repair of schools, taking clothing to children in need, engaged in teacher training programs and looked for opportunities to share Christ with the people in Leh, Ladakh after establishing a comfortable working relationship with the locals.

Most of the citizens in Leh are Buddhists and Hindus, but there are also Muslims. The desire to share the love of God through humanitarian outreach to alleviate the needs of the people/children while at the same time present the Gospel in a low-key, non-aggressive manner.

There are opportunities to associate with a Nepali orphan school in Leh, Ladakh as well as work in over 200 public and ethnic Ladakhi schools in the Ladakh region. The minister of Education and the Head of Teacher Training has given Jay Comfort and teams formerly associated with Lou Felo the opportunity to visit schools to engage in teacher training programs and school renovation.

The ministry is an excellent opportunity to also work with over 20,000 Nepali refugees who are the backbone of the road construction industry in Ladakh.

Jay Comfort is leading this Ladakh work right now, and he is also engaging in mission outreach in Nepal. Jay would be willing to teach a man/couple to take over the Ladakh ministry. Lou Felo was also with Crossworld for the Leh outreach, but, again, a Crossworld sponsorship is not essential for this ministry opportunity.

### **What is the process?**

Contact Jay Comfort (an elder of The Chapel) at [jaycomfort@hotmail.com](mailto:jaycomfort@hotmail.com) and/or Jan Felo (wife of former pastor) at [janfelo@gmail.com](mailto:janfelo@gmail.com)

A visit to Leysin would be of great importance, and Jay Comfort would be the one to introduce any candidate to the town and to make opportunities for a pastor/couple to make acquaintances with Chapel members and key local villagers.