



May 2024



GREENLAND NEWS

Peter, Katharina, Joël, Cora & Leni de Graaf

Dear friends and family,

The snow is now gone from all the roofs, at the time we are typing this letter. But it is still bitterly cold in the wind, with about -10 degrees in wind chill. However, our four dogs don't seem to be bothered by it at all, and our quail in the coop also just keep laying little eggs every day.

ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

(Peter) While immersed in a very different culture, we long for the kingdom of God to grow. We look forward to people being set free from darkness, which is evident in despair, alcoholism, depression, etc. It is one thing to be delivered from the kingdom of darkness, but quite another to live accordingly. Where God reigns, there is true freedom. So how do we grow in this abundant life that Jesus promised us? For there is a great difference between knowing things and living in their spiritual reality. And that is the tension in which we live and in which we need wisdom.

(Thinka) It remains a struggle when people, who have experienced God's love in a tremendously powerful and life-changing way, nevertheless return to their old way of life. But we are also allowed to experience the opposite of this: someone whom we baptized in 2019 and was completely gone for years shortly afterward has begun to come again in the services. He keeps coming, is hungry for the Bible and asks questions from which we can tell, that God is at work in him.

(Peter) God's kingdom also shows itself in a marriage that was recently held. Two people have come under the conviction that they no longer want to live together, but that marriage is God-given. There are people who are making decisions step by step, showing that we are no longer of this world. Wonderful!

EXPANSION HOUSE OF PEACE

(Thinka) We have been allowed to use the House of Peace for 3 years now, which we were able to build in 2020 with your help. What a blessing! In its use it has quickly become clear, that we are short of space. The children's room of 12 m² must now accommodate about 20 children, and we lack a storage space, so

the bathroom has become full of items for the second-hand sale. But also the room where we hold the service is occasionally overcrowded. With the board of the Mission House, therefore, we have begun planning an expansion. We want to do that in two phases: this summer the nursery and storage and next year, if possible, the church space.

We already have €45,000 available for this purpose. But two more times this amount will probably be needed to realize the entire expansion. We are currently working on the permits and hope to be able to order the materials for the first extension before our furlough. Will you join us in keeping this project in prayer? Information to contribute financially for projectcode 486 can be found in the footnote of this newsletter.

The search for a new living place is still going on and we are praying about this, as nothing specific has opened up until now.

LEAVE

(Peter) While we are busy here seeking and following God's guidance, we are also preparing for the furlough in Germany and the Netherlands this summer. We will leave for Germany in early May and then return to Greenland in mid-July. At the end of June and the first week of July we will be in the Netherlands. We will still let you know when there will be meeting times. But also feel free to contact us, if you feel like visiting or inviting us, we can include that in our planning.



The search for our own new place to live has so far yielded nothing concrete, so we continue to pray for this.

LOOKING AHEAD

(Peter) But how will the church here in Tasiilaq continue in the meantime while we are on leave? We have focused in the last few months on getting the groups going, which we started last year. In those groups there is room to talk more with each other and to build each other up. The Sunday services should actually become celebrations of what happens in the group during the week. This is really a very important step to continue to grow spiritually. So we have stopped for a while since the beginning of the year with the weekly Bible school, to focus on the groups.

In the beginning, last year, we focused on starting four groups, in which a couple would lead. So there were 4 couples, in which we invested. In December, one couple decided to move back to the West Coast, because it was too hard for them to live here. A second couple decided to follow them in the coming summer and so will also leave....

The other two pairs merged into 1 group. This group meets regularly. They also intend to continue meeting together during our leave.

Furthermore, we are currently exploring the possibility of inviting someone from Denmark to give a short "Father Heart" school during the summer. We will see if God opens doors here.

We are also very happy, that Linda (our translator) has taken the initiative to organize "communal suppers". I hope this initiative will continue because it promotes the "we-sense" enormously. At Easter we had another breakfast where people could share their testimonies.

ENCOURAGED

(Thinka) In our last Zoom Meeting and the Christmas letter we shared with you quite frankly our difficulties. And we have been very encouraged by the reactions we have received! We received many encouraging emails, speaking Bible texts and prayerful impressions. Many have offered help and someone made it financially possible for our website (www.lightingreenland.com) to be updated and back online. And we have been pampered by several super sweet packages.... Thank you for encouraging us so lovingly and standing beside us in the work here! That truly gladdens our hearts!

One person had the impression that like Moses, we needed people to support our arms so that we could continue and not slack off. Your prayers and support in different areas mean a lot!

*Leni with
the puppy*



Dogsledging

FAMILY NEWS

(Thinka) Since it is clear that we are going on leave, Joel has been counting the days... He can't wait anymore, as he says. We have organized swimming lessons for the kids this year and hope that all three of them will reach a level that will allow them to swim safely. Also, as far as our kids' schooling is concerned, we are thinking about buying German and math lessons from a "world school", so that there is a good foundation for them to build on. Even if they already get extra assignments in their class, they would be able to handle much more challenge. I think that is also a reason why both Joël and Cora in recent times often ask if they can stay home - they don't feel much like going to school. On top of that, they are both missing friends who have moved or are going to move.

*Warm greetings!
Peter en Katharina*

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