



December 2024

GREENLAND NEWS

Peter, Katharina, Joël, Cora & Leni de Graaf

Dear friends and family,

At the time of writing, we are in the midst of a storm that will last for the rest of the day, with wind gusts up to 180km/h, causing the whole house to shake. This morning, while the storm was going on, I received a question about where in the Bible we can read texts that deal with alcoholism. It came up because someone was bringing his mother to Jesus. Wonderful!

10 YEARS GREENLAND

(Thinka) In September 2014, 10 years ago, we arrived in Greenland's capital Nuuk (on the west coast) with a desire to reach east Greenland with the love of God and see people's lives changed as a result. It then took another four months until we were able to travel on to Tasiilaq. Looking back, we must say we are grateful. We could never have imagined how this adventure would unfold. We were able to experience many moments of glory. But it was also often by trial and error. And often it was the low points that benefited us the most. Pruning hurts. And it is precisely through brokenness that God's glory can manifest. After 10 years, we can say that to establish God's kingdom here in Tasiilaq needs perseverance and prayer above all. We are therefore enormously grateful for you, some of whom have persevered with us for 10 years and support the work here, financially, in prayer and through relationship. Thank you so much!

Over the years we have tried different ways to reach and disciple the people here. It caught my attention that now, after 10 years, we offer the least in terms of activities. God has increasingly revealed to us that establishing His kingdom is primarily a matter of prayer.

First schoolday of Leni



Our livinghouse



THE STRATEGY

(Peter) We see it happen more often, that people are touched by God and the change that then begins is challenged hard, viewed with suspicion and sometimes later questioned curiously by others. Prayer in all of this is absolutely necessary, because the struggle is not over after someone comes to faith. The struggle continues to overcome worldly desires. We have learned to embrace this spiritual battle more and more and see how God continues to point us to prayer.

It is abundantly clear that we cannot do the work of God without the power of God. But how much of our activity is focused on becoming full of that power of God? In recent times, God has increasingly given us a desire to adopt prayer as a lifestyle. This practically means that I take ample time each day to intercede. Isn't it true that "what you deal with, you get infected with"? And so it is when we spend considerable time in the presence of God.

Furthermore, we run a group every week, where people come together to take time with God and each other. And also we have started to eat together on Fridays, after which we also pray together for an hour.

When Thinka and I were in prayer individually, we asked God, independently of each other, if He would give us a strategy. Both of us received God's answer, "This is the strategy." Prayer is the strategy.

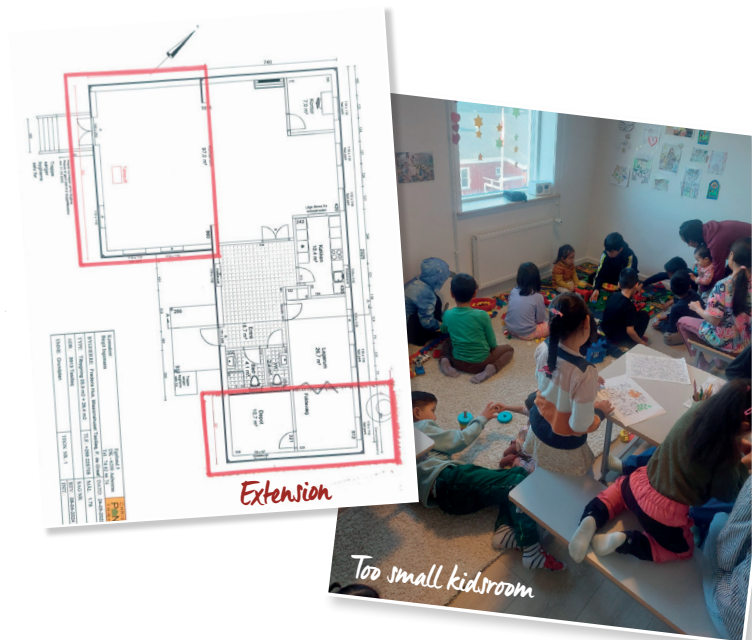
And the beauty with this strategy is that everyone can participate in it! Prayer requires something of us. It is not always "goosebumps" and "glory." Sometimes we are tired. Sometimes even a little sick. Sometimes we are under pressure. But it is as Watchman Nee once said, "Our prayers lay the track on which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, its power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails."

It is a great work of faith and it requires discipline. Will you join us?

CONSTRUCTION NEXT SUMMER

(Peter) God's kingdom is growing, which we have seen over and over again with joy in the past 10 years! There has even been a building that we can use. That building is now too small, especially for the children. So in early December we hope to expand it with 3 volunteers (2 from Germany and one from the west coast) another 12m² at the children's area and another 12m² of storage space. This is the maximum we can get out at this location. But the church space also needs to be bigger. We have 50 chairs there, but that has been really full a few times. So we are focusing on building a large expansion next summer.

That construction still requires some finances, but most of it has already been received. Last week we received USD 100,000 through to project application we submitted. In order to complete the entire project (expansion of nursery + expansion of church space), about 30,000 EUR is now needed. It is my deep desire that all the finances that have been given will "convert" into saving souls and transforming lives.



In 2020, we were able to finish the building and now we are focusing on completing the expansion starting in June. Would you like to participate? Come? Pray? Give? Will you help to further facilitate the Gospel?

In addition to expanding the House of Peace, we are also planning to build our own house. But more on that in another newsletter. In the house we have now moved into, I am still working on the final installations of the kitchen. After that, a few other jobs await me....

JESUS BREAKS OUR CHAINS

(Thinka) "He led them out of darkness and the shadow of death and tore their bonds." This text from Psalm 107:14 is on a card we received from someone recently. Every time I look at it (it hangs on the toilet) I thank God for doing exactly that here among East Greenlanders. What joy, when you see people becoming free from what was holding them down.

When I think of Jesus' birth, I don't primarily see a little cute baby bringing joy to the world, but a revelation of God's kingdom on earth. God's kingdom that overcomes darkness and expresses itself in power by saving souls and changing people's lives. And as a result, changing an entire society... So that is a prayer I often pray: thy kingdom come, thy will be done! In me, my family and East Greenland... Christmas shows us, that the impossible is possible - for God.

With this in mind, we wish you a blessed Christmas season in which you may experience the breakthrough of Gods kingdom! With God, everything is possible!

*Warm Christmasgreetings,
Peter and Katharina*

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FAMILY NEWS

(Thinka) In September Joël and his class spent 3 weeks in Denmark in an exchange program. He lived with a Danish family there. It was quite exciting beforehand - staying with unfamiliar people, speaking a different language... But to our and his own surprise, Joël had a great time there. He keeps in touch with his host brother and has progressed very much in the Danish language. We are very happy with the progress at school that we are seeing this year. The children all have great teachers and I have the impression that they are really learning something for the first time. Truly a point of thanks!

When Joël returned from Denmark, two new housemates were waiting for him: the parakeets Benny and Freddy Yellowhead. And a few weeks later we got another litter of 7 puppies! So much fun!