

# **GREENLAND NEWS**

Peter, Katharina, Joël, Cora & Leni de Graaf

#### Dear friends and missionpartners,

(Peter) I am writing this from the new office in the mission house. The renovation is not quite finished yet, but step by step it is becoming a place where we can work, pray, have conversations, and prepare. The construction work will probably be completed before Christmas. All in all, the construction work has been a blessing and was really needed. At the same time, I feel a desire within me: that the many hours and efforts that have been put into wood, screws, and walls would be reflected just as strongly in the equipping of local Christians and in their calling to reach their own people with the gospel.

### DESIRE, OPPOSITION, AND PERSEVERANCE

We have carried this desire—that local believers reach their own people—with us for years. But we also experience strong opposition. That is not surprising, but sometimes it feels like a cold shower. In such moments, I am reminded of Paul, who was working in a city when Jesus encouraged him in a dream: "don't give up". That is actually the core message: **keep going**.

Christmas is coming. Advent – "coming" – makes me think about how all this fits in with Jesus' command to "go and preach the Gospel." We have gathered a few times recently to eat together and worship God. And yet I find that sometimes I just want to walk away. Why? As we gather, I see that certain choices in discipleship are not being made. As we gather, some breakthroughs fail to materialize. While there are deliverances, I see that some fall back into alcohol. All in all, spiritual growth and depth, including sanctification and living in one's calling, seem to be stagnating.

I understand Paul when he says that he is "in labor pains" "until Christ is formed in you." Sometimes it feels exactly like that here.

At the time of writing, there is a young woman who has been saved by the Lord in a wonderful way, but who in the past two weeks has seriously considered aborting her unborn child or taking her own life three times. Such reports affect us deeply. And it is not the first time that we have experienced and accompanied this up close. You would think that after a number of years, the seed should be visible by now. Sometimes it feels as if we are waiting for the bud to break through, even though we have been sowing and watering for a long time.





## A BIT OF PRACTICAL TEACHING

During our last meeting, Thinka noticed something. Just before worship, she had taught about our thoughts: that we must renew our minds and be alert to what we allow in. What do we look at? What do we listen to? What do we allow into our hearts? And what do we allow into the hearts of our children?

After the teaching, we worshipped God. Shortly afterwards, someone was set free – a clear moment where we saw that the Lord still touches people. But at the same time, someone's four-year-old son was playing a game on a mobile phone in which he could shoot at others, with gruesome images. The mother sat staring ahead, somewhat absent-minded.

Thinka couldn't bear to watch and spoke to her about the game her child was playing. This woman was sincerely grateful for the correction. Although she had heard the teaching several times, she had never realized that this game also fell into the category of "what you allow into your thoughts."

These are small but important moments: a bit of insight, a bit of awakening, a small step toward sanctification and transformation.

### **SUPPORT**

We wrote earlier in an update that we had become financially weaker. People responded to that, and it touched us. One-time donations helped us enormously, and some people wanted to contribute regularly or increase their contribution. It helped us out of a tight spot! And we trust God again that He will provide the tickets so that we can go on leave to Europe again next year.

We feel truly supported in this. I also strongly suspect that those who give regularly are also praying with us. This work is only possible through perseverance. And sometimes we feel like Moses, who had to hold up his staff so that the people would win the battle. He couldn't do it alone; others stood beside him and supported his arms. That is how we experience your prayers and support.

### CHRISTMAS IN TASIILAQ

We know that so much is possible with the Gospel. Throughout history, entire cities and countries have been transformed because the Word of God was given space. We live in the conviction that God wants to work in the same way here. But it requires dedication on our part: being available, persevering, daring to speak, and obeying.

Opposition and victory go hand in hand here, but for me it is crystal clear that we have a God who does not give up.

And in order not to give up, He sometimes sends people here for personal contact, people give us financial support and pray for us. And now, as we approach the end of the year, we are once again on the threshold of Christmas. Here in Tasiilaq, Christmas means not only lights in the snow and familiar

songs, but also the revelation that God Himself became man and entered our darkness. And darkness did not prevail, with its confusion and struggle around life and death. Our Savior came into the midst of it and conquered: **Immanuel, God with us, here too**.

That victory is our victory. Nothing and no one can change that, and it is our most powerful hope. We proclaim this boldly: that His coming and victory is our strength in life and for what is yet to come. The best is yet to come!

We wish you a blessed Christmas, in the presence of Jesus.

Warm regards, Peter and Katharina

### **FAMILY NEWS**

(Thinka) In response to our request for help in the last update, my parents spontaneously decided to come and help with the extension of the mission house. Not only did we get a lot of work done in the three weeks they were here, but the kids also loved having their grandparents around and being able to stay with them!

Meanwhile, Joël has already embarked on his next adventure. Together with his soccer club, he is spending a week in the capital Nuuk, on the west coast, to participate in a tournament. In the meantime, we are enjoying the snow that has already fallen and hope that Joël will be back in time for Sinterklaas evening. Due to the weather, you never know if the planned flights will go ahead or if you will be delayed. Joël has been given time off school for this trip. The situation at school was quite tense before his departure – social inequality is becoming increasingly noticeable among the children and there have been several incidents. We would really appreciate it if you would pray with us for this!



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