



June 2023

GREENLAND NEWS

Peter, Katharina, Joël, Cora & Leni de Graaf

Dear friends and family,

The first mosquitoes have already been spotted and that means that summer has finally arrived in Greenland. But it is not because of the many mosquitoes that we spontaneously decided to leave for a short time this summer... We had a joyful and turbulent first half of the year in which we could rejoice over and over again at what God is doing! A lot has happened: He brings new people in, and their lives change drastically. People are healed and delivered and make a choice to follow Jesus with their whole lives. The Lord is building His church. Great to experience that. And at the same time there are also setbacks and some things are not yet breaking through. We want to highlight a few stories for you so you can share in the joy and pray for the breakthroughs that are necessary.

WHAT IS GOD DOING?

(Peter) We see God works miracles in our little building. I write "little building", because in recent months the building has been so full that we are thinking about expanding. With about 50 seats, the building is packed with adults and children. Sometimes we have 40 adults and 25 children. And with little manpower, it is difficult to steer this in good boundaries. This growth is great, of course, because God is going after people.

(Thinka) During the last months God has added several new people to the church, who were deeply touched by God. This resulted in a deep conviction that they want to follow Jesus with their whole live. This year we have baptized another 11 people, some who have been part of the congregation for a longer time, and others who have recently come to know God.

One of those who where baptized is the brother of the local priest - you will understand how special that is, as the priest strongly opposes us: "you have lost your salvation if you are baptized as an adult". But this man testified joyfully after his baptism how he walking through the village while thankfully talking with Jesus.

Someone else told us how much joy and peace he now experiences. When he is fishing alone on the ice he feels joy bubbling up inside. Much unlike the suicidal thoughts he knew before. He was also really happy about beeing able to enjoy the interacting with his children now.



Yet another testified before his baptism that he finally found what he always searched for: Jesus. He turned from being a bitter into a loving man tells his girlfriend. He was also healed of knee problems when he forgave his father. Now he testifies of the goodness of God to all his friends and colleagues and has already taken several of them to the service, where they also meet Jesus.

(Peter) It is great that we were able to experience that deliverance and healing is not only for the Greenlanders. We have seen that prayer for a brother from the Netherlands, who was visiting here, had a powerful effect. He has been taking daily medication for ADHD since childhood. During the prayer he was deeply delivered, so that he could no longer stand on his feet. Jesus has delivered people when He walked on earth and He still does. That is how nearly 30 years of ADHD ended. The medicine is no longer necessary and he has now been free from this for 4 weeks. His wife also notices that he is a lot calmer. All glory to God.



GOD IS AT WORK, BUT WHAT ABOUT US?

(Peter) There are many more things happening than we can list here. The power of God is at work in our little church and every week we experience how people are delivered, healed and saved in God's presence. Salvation is the best, if you ask me. Yet we should not focus solely on salvation. In following Jesus, deliverance from the influence of the past is needed. We experienced for example, how several people have been freed after they had confessed abortion as sin. The deliverance however only took place after they also rejected the influence this had on their life and we together turned against the enemy. Several times evil spirits left them with loud cries even. The bloodguilt has laid a huge claim on these people and we cannot get out of the influence of the enemy without confessing and rejecting and resisting the enemy. Through the goodness of God and His liberating power, deliverance is then possible.

The fact that there are deliverances every week does not mean that people continue to follow Jesus. Your prayer in this area is highly valued. Some cannot cope

with the persecution that suddenly comes from their families. Others are happy that the problem of suicidal thoughts is suddenly gone, and they fall back into the world. Then it normally takes a while before they come back with the same problem.

(Thinka) It is frustrating when you have prayed for someone many times, confessed sin together and seen deliverance and then the person continues in the same mess. Or someone else who was freed from a spirit of death, who entered through abortion. She became convinced that abortion is murder. But not long after, she had another abortion because she could not resist the pressure from the child's father (with whom she has no relationship) and his family.

(Peter) This brings us to an important point, which is that people themselves have to also preserve their freedom. Or perhaps you could say: they have to learn to set their boundaries again. Certain sinful patterns of thinking need to be broken, and that's where discipleship comes in.



HOUSE GROUPS

(Peter) Over the last weeks we have invested extra time in 4 couples so that they will be relatively competent to lead their own small group. These groups are so essential that we consider them more important than Sunday services. A sermon, the power of God and worshipping together are necessary, but loving mutual connection can hardly arise there. That's why we want to work on getting the small groups going – which did not work out last year. Isn't it in that mutual connection that weaknesses can come to light and people can give each other the attention that they need?

(Thinka) We could witness this right away one of the evenings with the leader couples when the husband of our translator was finally for the first time delivered. It seems like the fellowship we had allowed him to open up about some things that he has carried with him for a long time and where he knew he needed deliverance from it. One of the things was regarding a movie he watched. Through watching that movie a spirit had entered him who made him really angry. After he opened up about this, several others also spoke up, who had seen the same movie and were then also delivered! We look forward to seeing how God will make these groups grow.



A LITTLE BRAKE

(Peter) The groups will start mid-June. At the same time we will take a little break. The pressure is big and even though it costs a lot of money to travel, we felt encouraged to do so. Will you join us in praying that the journey will bring us back refreshed and stronger? We don't want to leave for 2 months this time, but about 3 weeks in which we can shift our attention. We look forward that this will doing us good as a family. Will you also pray with us that we will see God's financial provision in this?

BACK IN GREENLAND

(Peter) When we return, there are already a few people waiting to be baptized. Our focus will then be on getting the small groups run fruitfully so that we can celebrate together a Sunday services.

We are not yet sure how and when we will expand the building, because such a building project will demand a lot from us again. We'll keep it in prayer and see how we can approach this next challenge.

FAMILY NEWS

(Thinka) It was wonderful to have a visit from my brother and his family at the beginning of the year. We enjoyed good conversations and the time together. For the children it was great to get to know their nephews better "on their own terrain". When they left, Joël told me that he really misses playing with them – his friends here couldn't play as creatively with Lego or Playmobil he told me. For them only playing football was interesting.

Before we leave, we are just in time to pick "rose root", the flower that is essential for the Greenlandic salad. Cora diligently helped to soak the flowers with some fruit in oil so that we can freeze the salad in a few days. Throughout the winter we will now have a traditional treat that is much loved at every party. Even though we all look forward to our unexpected holiday, we also don't want to miss the Greenlandic summer and want to collect and catch food for the winter. When we come back we hope to be able to go out on the boot together with others from the congregation, spend the night somewhere in tents and perhaps even hold an evangelistic service in one of the villages for the first time.



*Warm greetings!
Peter en Katharina*



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