



October 2018

Greenland News

Peter, Katharina, Joël, Cora & Leni de Graaf in Greenland



Dear friends and mission partners,

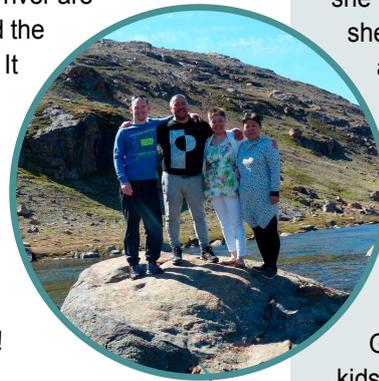
With the boat on land and the green northern lights starting to become visible, a new season has clearly started. Friends who came to visit us this summer described the life here in Tasiilaq as “hard and rough”. God’s light is beginning to shine in this harsh climate and the torn society.

(Peter) When we started up the Sunday service in September, not many people came. Opposition (= verbal persecution) from the families causes people to withdraw. Nonetheless, three new people attended the service, who came to faith! In addition to these conversions, something special happened. A woman had suffered from damage in her hearing, as a victim of domestic violence. There was a continuous noise and she could no longer hear normally. At the moment of prayer, the power to heal was present and her hearing slowly came back. Suddenly both ears were completely open! Perhaps you can imagine the joy and surprise? It was fantastic! We have been sent by Jesus to testify in the power He gives and we see how the sun, spiritually, is rising slowly.



Sabine with Leni

(Katharina) The very first baptism we had in June is a testimony to this. The three people Peter could baptize in the ice-cold mountain river are those in whom we have invested the most: Hans, Linda and Sabine. It is a great joy for us that through baptism they publicly testify that they want to follow Jesus! When we walked back to the village after baptism, a man came to meet us, who wondered where we have been and what had happened. He noticed that the atmosphere in the valley was very different. What a beautiful confirmation of spiritual reality!



The baptism

Family News

(Katharina) As a family we really enjoyed the visit we had this year: around Leni’s birth, my mother was here. And in the summer we could welcome Peter’s parents and a befriended couple. It was wonderful to have friends around us again. Yet we realize that we have already built up genuine friendships here as well. For example, Hans and Linda have already become a familiar face at our home. Our kids have also closed them in their hearts. Cora is crying sometimes that she wants to go to them and recently she even said she wanted to sleep at their house. Every day after kindergarden Joël wants to take friends home. It is heart-warming to see how they are sitting next to each other during supper even though we sometimes do not understand them, because they speak East-Greenlandic. Nice to see, that the kids are able to live life in this country!

Life in this culture

(Peter) Peter was a fisherman and familiar with catching fish in his nets. Well, I do not know if he caught a lot of seaweed, but at least I did. For hours I have removed seaweed from our nets and at a certain point I did not want to try fishing anymore. We wanted to make one last tour at the end of the year and went sailing one hour. While the net was fastened to the coast, we slowly sailed backwards to set the net. Suddenly I saw how a salmon jumped up out of the water. Less than ten seconds later, the net started to pull and we saw how the salmon had swam in! And this was



Catching salmon



Joël with friends



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the first of the twenty salmon that swam in within 4 hours. How happy we were! But now we had to work hard (collecting, scraping, removing guts, transporting some 60 kg of fish, filleting, some brining/smoking and vacuum packing ...). We can now enjoy salmon all winter and were able to share with others.

The awesome catch



The big yellow house

(Peter) The "big yellow house" was the symbol for a mission house under construction from the beginning of our missionary work. After many attempts and disappointments in which many people sympathized with us, we finally got a spot from the municipality where we are allowed to build a mission house. It is located in a social housing district and is the remaining foundation of an old school. The location is excellent! We have two years to build the house. The building will help us to solidify and facilitate the work. A place of God's peace in this harsh and rugged environment.

The mission house also bears the name 'house of peace'. The costs of the project are estimated at 300,000 euros, of which some 60,000 have already been saved. The fundraising for this is a lot of work and perhaps you want to help us in this practical work? If you want to contribute financially, you can do so on project code 486 (see bottom of the newsletter). It is beautiful and exciting how God will show us the way in this and encourages people to do so.



The building area

New developments

(Katharina) At the end of October, Peter goes to the National Leaders Conference of the Greenlandic Pentecostal Church for a week, with whom we officially joined in May. It will be challenging to be here with the kids alone for a whole week (and maybe longer, if the weather is too bad to travel).

Linda will also join Peter to the conference. It is enjoyable to see how she continues to grow in her relationship with God and that she very much likes to pass this on to others. Amongst other things, this winter we will focus on coaching her in the work for God - we need wisdom for that.

Another new development that I have started with is to run a children's Sunday service. A year ago I could not have imagined that, but apparently I am now ready for this challenge: every two weeks a new program and with that I learn the Greenlandic sentences. The last time: "God made me, that is why I am special!" For me it is also a way to learn the language. I hope to provide the kids the basis for knowing God and what He has for them.



Cora plays Inuit

Much love,

Peter and Katharina

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Subject: "Project 99 - De Graaf" or "Project 486 - missionhouse"

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