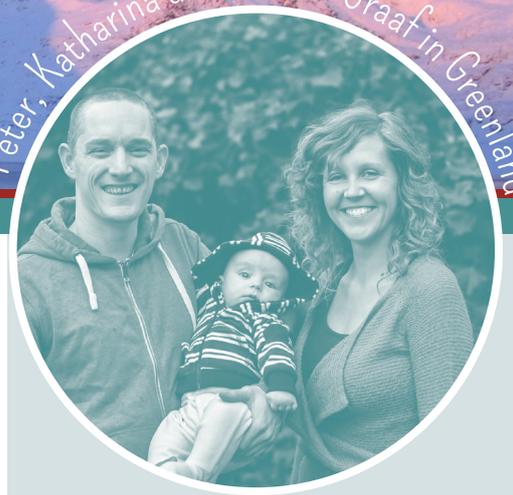




September 2015

Greenland News

Peter, Katharina and Joël de Graaf in Greenland



Dear friends and missions partners,

(Peter) Exactly one year ago we left with three suitcases and hand luggage to Greenland, Nuuk. The house was for sale and we had said goodbye to our car and job. From Nuuk, we would go further to the east coast – Tasilaq –, which happened last January. From a hotel apartment to the home of friends who were on vacation, to a house where we can now stay for a year. Right now we are settling down in the new house. It is a strange experience that we first sold or gave away everything, and now have to arrange all furniture again... But it is such a blessing that we can do this.

After having been in Tasilaq for three times, this is the first summer I experience. I see many people going out on their boat to hunt and fish. And I have joined a dozen times. Either alone with my friend Peter or also our two families together; four adults and six children on one boat. It is on the boat where I also learn Greenlandic. Step by step, painfully slow, but it is coming. By the way, I found out that Greenpeace is not against seal hunting in Greenland (but in Canada)! So I can safely say I've caught a few by now ;-).

Looking back

(Peter) What do I see when I look back on the past year? Many changes, with profit and loss... I see friendships that continue online, but I also don't have contact with some people anymore. I can go outside Tasilaq to enjoy fishing and hunting, but I can't just take the car to go visit friends or family. I see that God is doing great things in lives, but I also see that we are much more alone in our friendship with Him. We don't have a weekly house-meeting as we had in Holland any more. But I also see young believers who are build up in their lives with God, such as the person I visit in prison whom I help to grow further with God. It is remarkable how the Gospel

Family news

(Katharina) Shortly after our return to Greenland Joël turned 2 and since mid-August he goes to a childminder for half days. We were pleasantly surprised that despite the long waiting list he had already been allocated a place. There are three other children and Joël enjoys playing with them. For us it is a bit stretching to leave him in a different culture with someone we don't know and can communicate with only limited. And even though we can't expect to have him in Dutch standard day care, we think and hope that Joël will benefit from his expanding environment. He will have more contact with the Greenlandic culture, Greenlandic food and for sure he will quickly pick up the language. Maybe soon we can learn something from him... On my question how the whale meat he ate at the childminder had tasted he responded smiling in Greenlandic 'mamaraa' (it tastes good).

3 seals in sight



The house we live in now

Peter writes down new greenlandic words





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can suddenly touch me again while seeing how it sets a person free. Looking back, we have seen how people have forgiven each other and interest is awakened with new people to join the Bible school. We also see how occult practices (read witchcraft) are being dealt with and that people are instantly healed (e.g. from back pain) during prayer. God is wonderfully at work here!

Some other news is that things seem to get better with Mikki, who was diagnosed with cancer on three places. He and his family have moved to Denmark three months ago where he is being treated. He gained some weight and the cancer seems to decrease. Will you continue to pray with us for his recovery?

Katharina, could you say something about the yellow house? And about what you hope will happen in the coming year? Which direction is God leading us?

The big yellow house

(Katharina) It is nice to see that the Sunday services have already gotten a permanent place among the people here in Tasiilaq. Since our return we were asked (on the street or in the supermarket) several times when the meetings would start again. People are looking forward to meet God and so do I. I wonder what next year will bring. The big yellow house is still on hold. So far we have not made any further progress on it. That's a pity, because in my mind I had already thought of different activities we would do there in the coming months. So now I have to rethink and see what other doors God will open.

What will the future bring?

(Katharina) I am happy with the people we already know here and hope that we can deepen these friendships. We are now for example neighbors of Dan and Marie (she translates, if you can remember) and hope to get involved with them more. I also hope that we get to know new people that God puts on our path. Building relationships is one of our priorities here, also in the coming year. Along with that comes learning the East-Greenlandic language. So far we have focused more on the Danish. In everyday life we can get far enough with our Danish now, but we notice more and more the importance of learning Greenlandic. We will focus on this from now on. That will not be easy but will have great value! Concerning our "activities", I do not really know what we are going to do next to the Sunday services and the Bible school. Prayer will certainly play an important role in this. Some time ago I heard in a sermon that we should not start any church activities unless God tells us to do so. There is wisdom in this I think. So we will pray and seek Gods guidance in order for us to join what He is already doing here.

Much love, Peter, Katharina and Joël

Lunch on the boat



In summer there are even flowers growing here

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