



May 2017

# Greenland News

Peter, Katharina, Joël & Cora de Graaf in Greenland



Dear friends and mission partners,

**(Peter) Silently our Greenlandic friends carry the burden of their experiences with suicide, murder and sexual abuse. Danish is not sufficient to help profoundly and our desire to see recovery increased.**

Therefore, we have invited a Greenlandic pastor (Brian Wind) from the west coast to provide training and counseling. He has years of experience teaching the course "pain of the heart" which strongly touches upon issues of pain. The first attempt in November to fly him over had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The second attempt in April also seemed to fail due to bad weather. We were very disappointed because we had 15 participants (who had also taken vacation for the course) and we did not want to cancel it again. In a

rush, we decided to start the course via Skype. This was new for Brian, but we managed well! Already the first sessions touched the participants strongly and after two days, we received good news. Brian was able to fly to Tasilaq! On the third day of the course, he was present in person, along with a friend and could also give more than 15 counselling sessions in Greenlandic. For the first time after 30 years, someone could talk about the abuse he had suffered and deep pain could come out.

This was intense and so was the deliverance he experienced. The love for God was fueled and his even face had changed visibly. Almost everyone wrote farewell and forgiveness letters which were read out. Shame and isolation were broken, which resulted in telling others what God had done. The next Sunday 22 (!) people came to church. After the service, someone openly confessed his unfaithfulness and asked for forgiveness. There was a very loving environment of grace. God had powerfully used the course to open peoples eyes and bring healing to their wounded hearts. Although we did not understand much of the course in Greenlandic, the reaction of the people touched us deeply, because we know them. The recovery process that has started is so heartwarming and liberating. Your support through prayer and finances has been of tremendous value to the glory of God! We would really like to hold this course again in the fall!

## Family news

(Katharina) Peter is sitting on the couch, earplugs in, preparing the Bible school. I sit on the floor with Cora and play the Greenlandic sentences that were recorded in the morning again and again in order to repeat them. That is not fair, thinks Peter. When I am learning Greenlandic on my own, he will soon be behind in learning the language. I find it quite convenient that taking care of Cora gives me an advantage in this regards. At the moment much of my time is filled with house hold tasks and raising Cora and I do not always find that easy to be honest. Playing with Cora while at the same time learning Greenlandic therefore feels like a nice combination. On the other hand, Peter enjoyed a ride on the dog sledge and a snow scooter tour for the first time this winter. Next time it will be my turn, while Peter cares for Cora and learns Greenlandic...



Participants of the counseling course

## Bible school

(Katharina) The Sunday service and Bible school are fixed activities in our work here. After the Bible school on Friday evening everyone likes to stay and hang out. This time Marie (our faithful interpreter) shares that she has good conversations at work about God. She encourages her colleagues with what she learned in the Bible school. We agree together to pray for her colleagues and a few weeks later, Marie tells us that a colleague would like to



Course via Skype

Cora and our friend Sabine





May 2017

# Greenland News

come to the Bible school when it starts again. Great! Spontaneously we decide that the current Bible is finished and that next week a new Bible school will start. When people come for the first time we like to make clear what Jesus did for us on the cross. And how important it is to personally choose to accept the work that Jesus has accomplished.

Playing guitar in the service



The Greenlandic culture is a narrative culture. Therefore, Peter tries to use stories and examples to explain biblical truths. When he puts down two empty cups on the table to clarify the gospel you hear a sigh from one participant "I love this." There is a tissue in one cup that symbolizes that there are things in the way of having a relationship with God. Jesus takes the tissue into His empty cup. When He dies on the cross, He leaves behind all our sins in hell (under the table) and raises up with a clean cup. Because our cup is now also clean, the cup of Jesus can be put into it and Peter explains that Jesus wants to live inside of us. The example speaks for itself and the colleague, along with her sister, reacts with tears on what Jesus is offering: forgiveness, a relationship with him, new life. It is such a joy to pull up with a small group of people. There are about 5 people who come regularly and we witness how they grow in their relationship with Jesus and are excited about sharing this with others.

On a dog sledge tour



## Visa and furlough

(Peter) For the past three years we have received a visa on the basis of our work as missionaries. In June this missionary visa expires. A new type of visa may be available, if as a pastor I would get a license from Denmark to perform weddings. This new visa application is keeping us very busy and we are supported by the Pentecostal church in the capital Nuuk. It is not certain whether this application will work out and therefore we are also considering to find work as a teacher for example. That is certainly not our first choice but we are not ready to leave Tasiilaq so soon.

A temporary stay in the Netherlands and Germany however is coming soon! On the 6th of June we are leaving for the Netherlands and plan to stay for 6-7 weeks. The date of return to Tasiilaq depends on the new residence permit. We hope to have good news on this topic in our next update.

Warm regards and hopefully we meet,

Peter, Katharina, Joël & Cora

Waving to a friend from kindergarden



For sponsoring:

Globe Mission

Evangelische Bank

IBAN DE20 5206 0410 0004 0022 53

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

Peter and Katharina de Graaf · Box 99 · 3913 Tasiilaq · Greenland · Email: info@lightingreenland.com

