



December 2020



GREENLAND NEWS

Peter, Katharina, Joël, Cora & Leni de Graaf

Dear brother and sister,

The last six months have mainly occupied us with one thing: the construction of the "House of Peace". It was a very strenuous time. Now we are entering the New Year with great blessing!

OUR BUILDING ADVENTURE

(Peter) In our last newsletter from July, we wrote that 150m³ soil had been excavated for the foundation. Back then, I did not have a clue how much blood, sweat and tears would flow until the foundation would have been laid. It took 1,000 hours to build the foundation together with three volunteers and now it is firmly anchored on the bedrock. In the months that followed, we have only communicated via Facebook. Therefor we are glad that we can now take some time to distribute this newsletter! Many have supported us and shared in our building adventure mentally, have carried it in prayer and supported financially. Looking back now, after almost 6 months, I can only say that God led this project. Great news: the "House of Peace" (= Eqqitsiniip iddivais finished! We had twelve volunteers visiting between June and the end of November, of which the last three even had 11 days of travel time, before arriving in Tasiilaq.

The construction has had its challenges. For example, when the foundation was ready and we had put in the floor, the rain came. My best efforts to protect the floor with large plastic sheets could not prevent water from getting through, with the result of water damage in the floor. That was at a time when the volunteers had just left and I was all alone. If I did not get help soon, the project would fail and everything would have been destroyed.



June



House of Peace - October



July



Half August



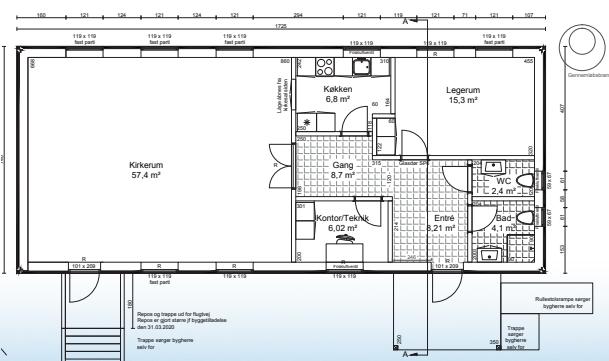
Topping-out

During that time I experienced the Lord as my Helper. Within a week there were five volunteers on our doorstep (from Norway, Finland, Iceland and the Netherlands) and started to help with great dedication. We worked hard from early mornings, while worship music played in the background and we often started off in the morning with prayer. Within three weeks the house was completely set up and closed, just before the first snow fell. Then we could also repair the floor. I worked in a lower gear in the following period, because I was completely exhausted.

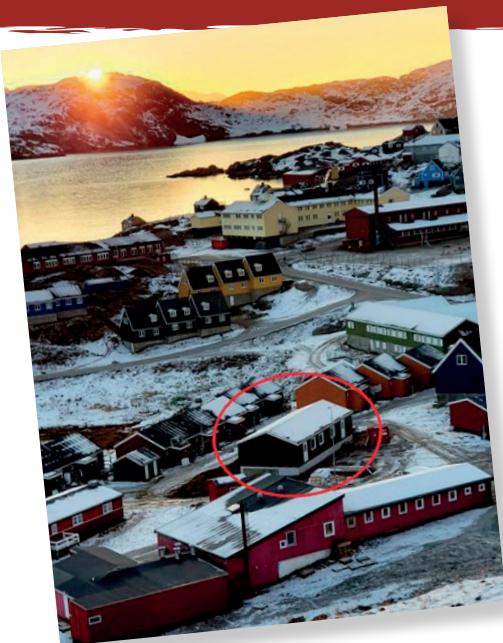
Now that we are nearly finished with the construction, people are asking us when we are going to open the house. We might even do this before January 2021 ... It seems that many people are eager to come. Let's pray for a great harvest!

An impression of one of the volunteers:

(Urs) During the period from November 13th until November 30th, Klaus, Fritz and me, were able to help with the interior work of the mission house. Our task was to assemble the kitchen, 5 interior doors, laminates, tiles in the shower, toilet and entrance area, wall cupboards, skirting boards and 2 room ventilation devices. Material and tools were all on site. Because of the good planning and logistics in advance, nothing held us back to successfully complete the work. During this time we were also able to enjoy the open house and the hospitality of the de Graaf family. Playing with the children in the evening, the Greenlandic food (whale meat, polar bear meat, whale skin, dried fish, etc.) but of course most of all the exchange and personal experiences of de Graafs with the people in Tasiilaq remain fond memories. Finding access to the locals is a great challenge. Reaching people's hearts requires a lot of sensitivity not only due to the language barrier, but above all because of the honest, but shy, and aloof nature of the East Greenlanders. Their 3 children Joël, Cora and Leni, who attend the local school and kindergarten, are grateful door openers. You can clearly feel the fire for their mission in both of them. Without this their motivation would hardly be as great, the cultures and ways of thinking are too different.



25th of August



Sunrise



Gemeinsames Essen



Little helpers

GOD IS MOVING IN PEOPLE

(Peter) Some locals have also been helping with the construction. I am thinking of one person in particular who was most involved. At the time of the drama with the rain and no volunteers, I was standing on the floor of the building, when this Greenlandic man came to me. We spoke in Danish and I felt compelled to pray for him. He was very open to that and God touched him in such a way that the great pain in his knees and back was largely reduced. Shocked, he left the construction site. Since then, he has helped regularly to help us (he is a very skilled carpenter on pension!). And all this, despite his brother being one of the biggest opponents of our work here. He and his wife are now even attending the Bible school that we started up again in October.

On one Bible school evening another great miracle happened to a sister in Christ. Much to her sorrow and despair, she could not fight off the angry feelings she had towards her toddler. Sometimes she even locked herself in the toilet to avoid using violence. This inner struggle came to an abrupt end when her time for deliverance came. As we prayed, God

began to deliver her from an evil spirit. A great resistance arose in her and her fingers bent until the deliverance was over. Since that experience she has noticed how the anger has completely disappeared and a great love and peace reigns in her, which immediately began to express itself to her toddler. An enormous burden was taken from her.

THE FINANCIAL PICTURE

(Peter) The immense amount that was needed for the construction also played a role in the background. So far we have received about 235,000 Euro out of 250,000. No funding organization has supported the project, as corona directed them to "renewed priorities". All the more wonderful that we have come this far, with your help! If you want to help us in the final challenge (the last invoices need to be paid mid January), you can do this by making a donation to Globe Mission, stating "Project 486 Mission House" (see bottom of the newsletter). Thank you!



Our greenlandic timberman



A look inside

FAMILY NEWS

(Thinka) Although this year we have not been able to take the boat out that often, we enjoyed the Greenlandic summer. While Peter and the volunteers worked hard, the kids and I regularly went for "swimming" in the 'flower valley'. In the evenings we usually ate all together with the construction workers at our home. And on Sundays we went out with a fully loaded boat to show our guests the beautiful nature (we even managed to fill the freezers for the winter!). It was an intense time in which I was regularly at the end of my tether and was able to experience that valuable things form under pressure! The highlight of the vacation was camping out one night in a fjord 1.5 hours away from Tasiilaq. The children are still talking about it - as they are about all the volunteers we were privileged to receive. Leni (2 years old) recently mentioned every single person by name who came to help. It was a great pleasure for the children to have so many visitors! And it is also a testimony of faith for them, as I could see from Joël's question when the volunteers continued working on the construction again after dinner: "Do they love God that much that they work so hard?"



(Thinka) What a wonderful God we have! No matter what challenges we find ourselves in, when we look at Him, a burden falls off our shoulders. Especially the Christmas season we find ourselves in invites us specifically to look to God. I like to remember that the first Christmas did not take place in perfect conditions, the situation was rather challenging for Maria and Joseph. Nevertheless, there was something that was perfect: Jesus, the child in the manger. He is my hope! For my own struggles, for the hopelessness of the people around me and for a bright future. The best is yet to come! We wish you God's all-embracing peace for your Christmas and the New Year! Thank you for coming along side with us this year and for supporting the work here in many ways!

*A warm winter greeting from Greenland,
Peter and Thinka*



Finally summer



Out swimming

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

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