



“BUT GOD”

A Great Statement of Faith

As we begin a New Year have you learned to rest in the sovereignty of God and under all circumstances be able to say...BUT GOD. In one of my favorite chapters in the bible, Genesis 50:20&24, we see Joseph responding to his brothers fears with this two word response of great faith...BUT GOD.

Even though Joseph had forgiven his brothers 17 years earlier for their sins against him 40 years earlier, when they had considered killing him but ended up selling him into slavery, they had not forgiven themselves. So when their father Jacob died they feared that Joseph would now take revenge upon them for their earlier sins. Joseph breaks down in tears of sadness upon realizing that his brothers had never really believed the forgiveness he offered those years before and he explained to them how he was able to forgive them. They had intended to do evil to Joseph BUT GOD was using their evil to accomplish HIS GOOD. So resting in God's plans for his life and God's love for him Joseph was able to look past their motives and see God's hand in everything that happened in his life.

Therefore if God is in control of everything then I will have faith in HIM. Joseph says BUT GOD twice once in verse 20 looking backwards in faith over his life and seeing God’s hand in everything that happened to him. And because of God’s faithfulness in the past he’s also able in verse 24 to look forward in faith to the future and know that God will keep His promise to bring the Israelites back to the promised land, so much so that he makes them promise to bring his body back home.

We do not know what trials and blessings, what joys and sorrows await us in the coming year. What we do know is that we have a God who loves us and knows all of these events and has plans to use them for HIS glory and our growth.

BUT GOD...what two wonderful words these are when we can utter them in faith and confidence in a heavenly father who loves us.

May God bless you and keep you may His face shine upon you in this new year and whatever comes may you like Joseph with great faith be able to face it and utter...BUT GOD!

- Editor

News From Norway

Please Continue to Pray!

After now living in Mongolia for over four months I have more or less settled in to my work with the Norwegian Lutheran Mission. I know that there are many people praying for me through Hauge Foreign Mission and I am truly grateful for those prayers. And I ask for continued prayer as I continue to try and learn the language while I begin my duties with Norwegian Lutheran Mission.



Bayariin Medee Church holds a "Fun Night" each fall where they invite non-believers and they sing, play games, and have a sermon.

In the middle of November I went from full time language studies to half time language and half time work. So I now have started gaining a better understanding of all the work being done in Mongolia through NLM.

Many of my tasks are within the administrative office of NLM in Ulaanbaatar. The other part to my work with NLM is working with the local congregation that NLM helped plant several years ago. The congregation is called Bayariin Medee Church which simply means Good News Church.



The young adults are very social and have a lot of good fellowship together

I have tried to become as active in the church as possible from when I first arrived. It is of course difficult because of the language barriers but I believe

the Lord has guided me through getting to know the work the congregation does.

The congregation averages almost 100 people each Sunday. The service usually lasts two hours and includes lots of praise and worship music as well as the sermon. Mongolians are very interested in music and that can be seen and heard during



We play games and have good fellowship during our English classes!

church services as well. I must admit it is a bit more lively music than I am used to in the traditional Norwegian Lutheran congregations in the US!

Then the congregation has many different activities throughout the week. They have a new believers class on Tuesdays, bible studies for different ages on Wednesdays, small group meetings on Thursdays and worship practice on Saturdays. They are also active in trying to start a diaconal project through the church with the support of NLM.

The church leaders are dynamic individuals who have a passion for the Lord and for teaching others about the Word. The Pastor and his wife, Puje and Amara, are extremely dedicated and talented and have a heart for the Lord and for their congregation.



Four new believers were baptized during Christmas service.

I have been fortunate to work some with the young adults in the congregation. Bayariin Medee has a very strong young adults group with roughly 80 members. They have bible studies, small groups, new believers class, sports club, and now an English club that I have helped start. The Lord has blessed me during my work with this group. I have been able to

meet some wonderful young christians here in Mongolia and I am sure I have learned more from them than they have from me. I am also active in the sports club. This clubs goal is to attract non christians into the church fellowship and to teach them about our Lord and Savior. I must praise the Lord as an individual who started in the sports club this fall was just baptized during the Christmas service!

So please continue to pray for the local congregation in Mongolia and for the work being done by all the church members, NLM, and myself.

~David Olson



LEFT: A womens choir from the church sang during Christmas Service right after the drama about Jesus birth.

RIGHT: Ganzorig, leader of young adults group, gives a short devotion during sports club.



LEFT: This picture is of the leaders in the young adults group in Bayariin Medee Church

Hungary News

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them,
“Peace be with you.” (John 20:19)

Married Couples’ Family Conference in Piliscsaba



In early November 2012, our family decided to make a trip to Piliscsaba, and to spend a long weekend there. We did so because we were encouraged by the dear Pastor Györgyi, serving in Csburgó, and his wife, who have told us so many good things before about this event.

When we left with our two children at the end of the school holidays, we thought the event would give us some spiritual food to satisfy us. Apart from that, we also intended to get out of the everyday rush and turmoil.

After a long journey, our arrival seemed like meeting people we already know and love. Although we were here for the first time, we met with a warm welcome. Assuming spiritual fellowship, we turned as friends to other families we did not know yet. The opening devotion in the evening calmed down our unquiet souls, as we heard and got aware that Jesus is the way, and that we walk the path God assigned to us together with Him, even if sometimes we become uncertain. It is the Lord’s index finger leading our steps whether we obey Him and accept His direction, or we resist His will as disobedient children. His careful hand shepherds us anyway, but we must feel and understand His presence. Our little children felt the elevating atmosphere, too; they showed deep attention to what they heard.

On Saturday, the families went apart; the children and the adults sat for different programs. The children were grouped according to their ages, but all of them were able to receive the Word of God as a personal message. A



Bible story, a song, a handcraft work all moved the souls of these lithe human beings to God. I think every experience leaves a mark in our minds and in our hearts, to return and take effect later, when life asks us its own question, expecting an answer. Then the soul will remember and respond,

hopefully the way pleasing God. The teaching will take effect.

We adults, together with our spouses, listened to a lecture Dr. Ferenc Pálhegyi gave us. Then we talked to him and to his dear wife. We thought and talked about Christian marriage, considering the features, virtues, advantages and values of a family living in faith. We felt the truths we heard were fundamental, for being humans follows that we turn to our beloved ones, our spouses, our children and our fellow people listening to them with attention, to find out what they need, even though paying full attention may not be easy in the noise of our everyday lives. This test can be passed with strong faith, goodness and with much love. That is what this couple, who have been living for more than fifty years together, as well as the comments of the participants, confirmed us about.

We felt the best on Sunday; we had gotten to know the participants, friendships were formed, we got closer to one another in the talks, and those who had been friends before were tuned to each other again.

We went home with richer and lighter hearts. Our faith in the Lord and in people was strengthened. We were happy to live in a nice and whole family; however, we try to use what we heard with self-criticism, for correction—for it also showed us we were fallible people. So we need and ask God to continue His work in our souls, our marriage, our family, and our narrower and broader human relationships.

We are thankful to God for leading us to Piliscsaba this weekend.

~Judit Füstös

News From the Halvorsons

God's Timing

Sometimes, as I fly Bible translators and others involved in the work of Bible translation around Papua New Guinea and do other tasks in the aviation department like updating documents that our pilots use when flying, I wonder if what I am doing is really having a positive impact. This is especially true when I think of language groups where a translator worked for years and years to translate the New Testament and now very few people are actually using the translated New Testament. (Many translations are well received, but there are some that the people of a specific language show very little interest in.) But in early January I was reminded that God's timing is not always ours, and He produces the fruit He wants when He wants. On January 2nd, I had two flights to fly hundreds of pounds of rice and other food and supplies into a remote village along with a gentleman in his late 70's. And what would one person do with hundreds of pounds of rice? Well, he was the man who had completed a translation of the New Testament in this language back in 1976, and he was bringing the rice to the village to help feed 80-100 people who were going to attend a 3 week Bible school that is held 5 times a year in the nearby village (Numba village). God is doing some amazing things through this Bible school and many people in the area have turned to Christ as the students have shared what they have learned with others. But, it hasn't always been this way. When the New Testament was dedicated in 1976, the people of this language group showed very little interest in the New Testament. However, in the 1990's the people invited the translator to come back to the language area and revise the New Testament translation. The revision was completed in 1999, and since then the people have shown great interest in the Bible. A Bible school was started in this language area as a result of the people's interest in the Bible, and it has been operating for the past 10 years. 1 Corinthians 3:6 says, "I (Paul) planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow." (NLT). I may or may not see the result of my work in this lifetime, but that is okay as long as I am faithful to do what God has called me to do.

~Jamie & Lisa Halverson serve with Wycliffe Bible
Translators in Papua New Guinea

Letters to the Editor

When we think of the nearly past year, we are reminded about the old Norwegian hymn: *Hitinntil Herren har hjulpet så vel. Inntil i dag, til i dag!* (Until now the Lord has helped. Until today, until today). To us it has been a peaceful and even year with no dramatically changes.

This summer we spent more than two months at Hornnes, and were visited by our children for about one week. We really enjoyed it. Per Gunnar and his fiancé were travelling I Europe, and one day we got a cell phone message that they had engaged. The wedding will be in Os close to Bergen on the west coast in the end of February. Os is the home place of Ingvild.

The NLM General Assembly in July at Lillehammer was one of the highlights this year. We met a lot of friends and were richly blessed by inspiring biblical preaching during the many Bible- and Mission hours. A special blessing this GF was the commissioning of David S Olson from AFLC in the States. He has already started work and language studies in Mongolia. We thank God for David and pray that he will rejoice in his service for the Lord among the Mongolian people.

All our children are working with the same as mentioned in last years letter – and the same with Åshild. Due to lack of personnel Gunnar had a 20% job at the Mission Headoffice for six month. He enjoy being a retired person, and in addition to his many hobbies and private jobs, he continues to travel around as a volunteer preacher. At present he is recovering from a successful surgery for prostate cancer. We thank God that everything went fine, and most likely there is no cancer left. This will hopefully be verified when the results from the biopsies are ready.

The painting at the top is made by an artist who has also been a lay preacher in NLM for several decades. This is also a test in Norwegian language – it is even “New Norwegian”. The shadows of the three crosses tell us what was the purpose of Jesus being born as a baby in Bethlehem. To be a Savior to all who believes in Him. Praise the Lord!!

After some years at Hornnes we will celebrate Christmas here in Oslo together with all our children. Christmas Eve will be at Anne Marie (our eldest daughter) and Nils Ragnars home. Christmas day we will all be here. We hope that you and your families are all doing fine. We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With love,

Åshild and Gunnar



Letters to the Editor

Dear Jonathan,

I wish you and your family and your church a blessed Christmas and a New Year spent in the Lord's closeness.

After his operation in November, Pastor Bulcsú is getting better and stronger. He came to the last few church services, and we hope he will be able to preach again from the start of the next year.

Many blessings,

Gergely Fejos

- Editors note: Gergely Fejos translates all the article from EKE into English for the BANNER. I asked him how Pastor Bulcsu was doing with his battle with cancer and this is his response.

October 18, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in HFM,

First of all, we would like to say thank you for all financial and prayer support EKE has received from HFM.

It is very important for our fellowship, and we appreciate that we can count on you in providing the background of our ministry.

We are thankful also because Péter Malik and his wife, visiting you on our behalf, received such a loving welcome from you. Last Saturday, Péter reported to our fellowship on his experiences with you with great joy.

Andras Oravec – ***this an excerpt from letter to the HFM board on behalf of the EKE Board***

EDITOR'S CORRECTION:

The previous issue of the Banner was incorrectly labeled as the winter issue. It should have said "*Fall 2012.*"

Receipts

<u>October 2012</u>		<u>November 2012</u>		<u>December 2012</u>	
General Fund	160.00	General Fund	185.50	General Fund	285.00
Hungary	200.00	Hungary	10.00	Hungary	240.00
NLM	60.00	NLM	40.00	NLM	150.00
NLM Mongolia	200.00	NLM Mongolia	200.00	NLM Mongolia	10,273.30
NLM Tanzania	20.00	Mongolia Youth	2,160.00	Mongolia Youth	5,850.00
Retreat Scholarship	10.00	Retreat Scholarship	10.00	Retreat Scholarship	10.00
Oct '12 Total	\$650.00	Nov '12 Total	\$2,605.50	Dec '12 Total	\$16,808.30

Fiscal year 2013 ends September. (2013 Fiscal began in October)

<u>Mission Gifts:</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec '12</u>	<u>TOTAL Fiscal Year 2013</u>
General Fund			\$630.50	\$630.50
Retreat Scholarships			\$30.00	\$30.00
EKE-Hungary			\$450.00	\$450.00
NLM			\$18,953.30	\$18953.30

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