

The Christian Fellowship Banner



VOL LXI; Num 1

WINTER 2014



For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Is 9:6

Christmas 2013

All good wishes for a blessed Christmas
and a happy New Year!

Sincerely Yours,
Norwegian Lutheran Mission

Marianne Røn
Horten Egland *Magnar Gjelsvik*
Gjermund
Eystein Engås *Eric Vanebø*
Øystein Tønnes *Jørgen Bør*
Hans-Peter Jæger *Kazuyoshi Shioya*
Ør Stølen

Lars Gaute Jæsang *David Asland*
Chairman General Secretary

This card is decorated by a women group within
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya

NLM, Sinsenveien 25, 0572 Oslo,

News From Norway



From left: Ingrid, Ellen, Nils Ragnar with Martin, the two old ones and Anne Marie with Vegard.

Christmas Greetings from the Osengs

We thank God for His mercy and blessings during all this years and we are happy to know that He will not change in years to come.

In the middle of March all the Oseng clan – minus the newly married ones – left for a 2 weeks visit to our second homecountry – ETHIOPIA :-) All of us enjoyed every minutes by visiting places and meeting old friends from the time we lived and worked together. To see the growth of God's Kingdom in Yavello area and enjoy the fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters we will never forget. We are filled with blessed memories and thankfulness for these wonderful days.

"North of Norway there is nothing except ice and snow – God placed Norway on the edge of the world", I used to explain to the Boranas in Ethiopia when they asked about my

homecountry. This summer Åshild and I went straight to the edge of our country in the north where we had never been before. We went up there by ship bringing the car with us (Tickets were birthday – gift to Gunnar), and our old Toyota did a marvellous job in getting us safely home 3500 kilometres in the south.

Now we are looking forward to celebrate the greatest happening ever known in history – the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that we all may rejoice in the joy and blessing proclaimed by the Heavenly angels : *Behold, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.*

Yours

Åshild and Gunnar

News from David Olson in Mongolia

Mongolian people enjoy celebrations, parties, and any type of gathering. So when the Norwegian Lutheran Mission holds its annual work Christmas party it is no small affair. The office

spends weeks discussing what the party will be like, what clothes will be worn, and what type of entertainment will be performed. It is understandable for an employer to award its employees for a year of hard work but my first thoughts were the same as thoughts



that come very often in the US as people get caught up in the

Article Continued on Page 6

News From Hungary

Serving God

I received the Lord Jesus as my Savior in summer of 2005. From that time afterwards, I wanted to live a life pleasing God. For this purpose, I asked God to lead me in all my important decisions such as the issue of my job and my home, and I wait for God to give me the proper spouse. I thought, however, that this was enough to live a “good” Christian life, not caring that God has a plan with other issues of my life, too. Whenever it came to serving God, I had nothing to say, for I had no area of ministry. Several times, the Holy Spirit of God inspired me to share a testimony, and I refused to do so because of lack of courage.

However, two years ago, God showed me He wanted to make me start to serve Him. On a weekend youth conference in November 2011, the passage about Jesus serving five thousand people (Luke 9:10-17) made it clear “serve” others with the Bible Hour. God began six months later, with Debrecen.

There was another turn 2012. God asked me to of duty at work. I had a half years, and in the too much to me (it took working hours), but work, I did not want to God made it clear that stopping this work must thought He meant me to the youth group, but the thoughts of God are not our thoughts, and He already had a greater plan for me.



in my life in November give up a certain scope been doing it for 4 and last months, I felt it was time beyond my normal since I enjoyed this give it up. However, the time I gain by be given to Him. I give more time on the

Finally, on Jan 31, 2013, I gave up this duty, and in this way I was able to start my ministry in EKE. In February, I went to the youth conference in Piliscsaba as usual – it was my ninth year here. For the participants, the conference closes with lunch, while for the people who serve, a discussion and a prayer group follows in the afternoon – and I was invited to this discussion, too. We were asked if we would like to serve at the following conferences as “background praying people” or as group leaders. My first thought was “no”, of course, for I am not suitable for this, but looking back on the Christian life I had lived, I saw that there is much more joy in saying “yes” to God, and in living with Him (even if it seems harder) than in resisting His will (as I had experienced many times). At the end of March, I heard the call from God, “The Mighty One, God, the Lord, has spoken, and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.” (Psalms 50:1); “See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking.” (Hebrews 12:25). I feared to say no to Him.

On the preparation meeting in May, besides hearing practical advices, it was good that I got to know the other brothers and sisters who were to serve. I took part in the ministry of the summer youth camp as a background praying person, which was another major step in my relationship with God, because earlier, I had had difficulties in praying aloud. It was good to see, too, that the power of God is perfected in our weakness. God gave me and the other group leaders good thoughts even when we were totally puzzled.

In November, God sent me to the conferences with the verse in 1 Chronicles 28:20, "Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished." I really needed God to encourage me, because at these conferences, I served as a secondary group leader, then as a group leader. I felt I could not meet the demands, but now I know that they were just my own demands to myself. God primarily expects us to obey Him, and He does not give a burden too heavy for us to carry.

I am grateful to God that He wants to use me, too, in building His kingdom, also making me know His power and His infinite love better.

- Anett Flaskár -

Dear Brothers and Sisters in HFM,

As the end of year 2013 is approaching, we look back to it with great joy and with thanksgiving.

We give thanks because we experienced our Lord's blessings and His work in all the events organized and held by our fellowship this year. During the year, we held 3 child camps, 4 weekend conferences for youth, 2 youth camps, 2 family weekend conferences, 1 family camp, 1 faith deepening week and a week end, 1 weekend conference for church elders, 11 Bible School days



Article continued on Page 7

David Olson article continued from page 3

Christmas season, which is realizing why we celebrate Christmas. And that is because of the birth of Jesus Christ who came to earth to be a Savior for all mankind.

Many of Norwegian Lutheran Mission Mongolia employees are actually not Christians. Our projects are funded by the Norwegian Government and are based on development and humanitarian needs of the country. Thus our hiring policy is based on the most qualified for the position. Our church work and christian work is considered separate from our project work because of regulations put in place by the Mongolian Government.

So when I was asked this year to give a greeting and introduction at our Christmas party my first thought was to speak about the birth of Jesus Christ and why He came to earth. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." This is the most important message to convey whether it is within our office, project activities or church work.

I was very happy to share the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus and the reason He came to earth. I shared the traditional passage from Luke chapter 2 and especially verse 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." I shared of the hope, peace, and love that came to earth that beautiful day over two thousand years ago. And what it means to know that He humbled Himself and came to earth to pay the ultimate price for our salvation. Philippians 2:5-11.

How exactly the Mongolian NLM employees received these words is difficult to know. But I also rest on the fact that I know it is not what I do but what the Holy Spirit does in their hearts that makes the difference. I Corinthians 2:10-11 proclaims, "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."

Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of the Mongolian people and that Gods great love for us will be revealed.

- David Olson, NLM missionary to Mongolia

Janos Herkely Greeting continued from Page 5

and a one-week course, as well as 2 one-day conferences, apart from the EKE fellowship meetings. The most special part of the year was the time the SYT(Summer Youth Team), led by Jonathan Unverzagt, was staying in Hungary. We remember with great joy the ministry we did together, the conversations cheerful or serious, the time spent together, the team always ready to serve and never getting tired, the profound teaching given to the youth, the testimonies of the young ones coming to faith, the sermons of our brother Jonathan in four local churches... and we could mention even more. Thank you for all we received through the team. We are grateful to all our brothers and sisters in HFM who remembers in prayer the ministry of EKE in Hungary – we believe that the many blessings we receive are due to this support. Also thanks for
(Article Continued on page 7)

financial support, contributing to the provision of the background of our ministry. We received 3,000 USD (653,715 HUF) from HFM in 2013.

On behalf of the full fellowship of EKE, I would like to wish the leaders and the members of HFM a blessed Christmas celebration, and a peaceful New Year richly blessed by our Lord. We send you the Bible verses below.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men. Titus 2:11

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. John 1:12

With love,
János Herkely

*** Editors note: Speaking for the whole SYT I can tell you what a blessed time was had as we partnered with EKE at the youth camps. Many of the team are praying that Lord willing they can go again in summer of 2016! We would love to have you join us.**

News from The Halversons

As Lisa and I reflect on the past year, we feel incredibly blessed by all of the people who have been faithfully supporting and praying for us, and for those new partners who have joined with us as we return to Papua New Guinea [PNG] fully supported on January 8th. We simply could not continue to provide aviation transportation to those doing Bible translation in PNG without our prayer and financial partners. We also feel blessed that God has given us the grace to get through the past 7 months of furlough. We love being able to spend time with family, friends, and partners. But the constant change that is a part of furlough definitely leaves us with a desire to be back in PNG, where we can minister in roles that we feel more gifted in, and in a setting that allows for a little more stability and routine for our family. (Can I just say that switching a 3-year-old's sleeping location over 40 times in 6 months makes for some long bedside events :).) No doubt, 2014 will bring a whole new set of unexpected changes. In light of that, it is good to remember that Jesus doesn't change!

We just wanted to let you all know that our support "fuel tank" is FULL. Thank you so much to all of you who have committed to support us or increase your giving. And thank you so much to all of you who have been praying for the additional support. You have all had a part in enabling us to return to Papua New Guinea on Jan 8th as planned, fully support. THANK YOU!



Jamie & Lisa Halverson

Thad, Thea, & Zeke

*Serving through mission aviation with Wycliffe Bible
Translators in Papua New Guinea*



P.S. if you don't have a photo/prayer card that looks like this and you'd like one, let us know and we'd be happy to stick one in the mail for you!

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EDITORS NOTE: Because of our publishing dates we receive the Christmas greeting in-between BANNER issues. I hope that you enjoy them and that you have a blessed New Year in Christ Jesus!

BELOW: Enjoy some bonus pictures from the 2013 EKE/Hungary Missions trip. **TOP:** one of the last of the Lutheran “nuns” **MIDDLE:** Pastor Gergely Kosa and family with Janos Herkley & My Translator Katalin Antal. **BOTTOM:** BANNER Editor Pastor Jonathan Unverzagt with Gergely Fejos who translates all EKE testimonies into english for the BANNER.



Receipts

October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
General Fund 160.00	G.Fund 2,793.17	General Fund 360.00
Hungary 10.00	Hungary 60.00	Hungary 10.00
NIM-Mongolia 200.00	NLM 20.00	NLM 300.00
NLM-Tanzania 20.00	Mongolia 525.00	NLM Mongolia 260.00
Retreat	Retreat	NLM Tanzania 20.00
Scholarships 10.00	Scholarships 10.00	Retreat
October Total 400.00	November Total	Scholarships 10.00
	3,408.17	December Total
		960.00

Totals for Fiscal year 2014 (beginning Oct. 1, 2013)

Mission Gifts	Oct., Nov., Dec.	Total Fiscal Year 2014
General Fund	3,313.17	3,313.17
Retreat Scholarships	30.00	30.00
EKE- Hungary	80.00	80.00
NLM	1,345.00	1,345.00
4,768.17		4,768.17

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BANNER

FOUNDED BY EDWARD NELSON 1943 | PUBLISHED BY HAUGE FOREIGN MISSION, INC.

Founded at Toronto, South Dakota 1950

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE—\$6.50 PER YEAR

"Blest be the tie that binds"

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