



2013 Family Retreat Report

Gathered under of the theme of: **“SO SEND I YOU”** we met at the ARC in Osecola, WI over the Labor day weekend. It was a time of great fellowship and great encouragement in our service to and walk with the Lord. Each of the main speakers, Dr. Craig Jennings, Hjalmar Bo and Pastor Earl Korhonen challenged us on different aspects of our theme and yet there was a unifying message that wove throughout their messages and the weekend. During the adult class Pastor Korhonen lead us in a study of “King Nebuchadnezzar: The King God Pursued.” This focused on his pride and our pride which is often the greatest hinderance to salvation and to letting God have full control and leadership in our lives. He pointed out that there were times, (the firey furnace) where he wanted God on HIS side but was not willing to repent. He was covering his bases with no surrender or submission. This study tied in beautifully with Dr. Jennings



News From Norway

Fall 2013 Article by David S. Olson

I have been blessed the past three months to be able to travel around Mongolia and experience the beauty of this amazing country. It has been a wonderful reminder of God’s creation and His awesome power. For in Nehemiah 9:6 it is proclaimed, “thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”

My first trip was during the summer with three Mongolian friends. We traveled 2,000 miles around some of the most beautiful country I have seen. Then in August my father, Pastor Terry Olson, sister, Sarah Tennesen, and Pastor Craig Johnson traveled to Mongolia and we visited the Gobi Desert. Finally in October, my two brothers, Matthew and Nathaniel, and a good friend, Derek Blestrud, traveled to Mongolia and we flew to western Mongolia. The following bible verses with pictures presents a unique insight into my trip.

The heavens
declare the glory of
God; and the
firmament sheweth
His handywork.
~Psalm 19:1



He causeth the
vapours to ascend
from the ends of
the earth; he
maketh lightnings
for the rain; he
bringeth the wind
out of his
treasuries. Psalm
135:7



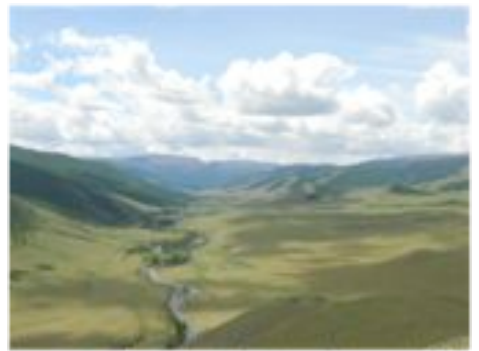
He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing. Job 26:7



The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. Ecclesiastes 1:5



For, lo, he formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of host, is his name. Amos 4:13



He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. Psalm 104:10



For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.

Psalm 107:25

News From Hungary

Our young brothers and sisters were in youth camps in the summer. Three of them gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

Richárd Tóth

I took part in the camp held in Lucfalva. I really enjoyed it, and I learned a lot of new things. Especially the group talks were useful to me. We talked of patience, and we said that we must make use of all good opportunities. If we have a chance to turn to God, we must make use of it, because we cannot be sure the Lord will call us again later, in a year or two.

After one group talk, I stayed there to talk to the leader. There I had an opportunity to give my life to Jesus. This is an important change in one's life; however, I feared that as a believer, I still could not lead a righteous life. During this conversation, I put down my sins, we prayed, and I gave my heart to Jesus.

I also feared of temptations; feared of leaving this path because of my sins. I asked for the help of God to save me from temptations. He has helped me so far, and I believe He will. There is an important difference between joy and happiness. Joy is a short-term thing, it lasts for a day or even less. Happiness is a long-term thing. Now I am happy with the Lord.

Áron Horányi

I am twenty. On July 26, 2013, I made the most important decision of my life in the youth camp in Piliscsaba, where I spent a blessed week. The Bible verse calling me to start to walk God's way was John 8:12, "I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." This verse is important to me because I had experienced more and more that it was very difficult to fight sin; indeed, it was impossible on my own. God reaches out His hand to help and take us out of the darkness. It is wonderful to know I am never alone, but I can always find my peace in Him. I hope many young brothers and sisters of mine will experience God's wonderful grace.

Nikolett Kucsera

I was at the summer youth camp in Piliscsaba. Here we talked of grace. We were told that grace was an open door to Jesus Christ, and that the only important purpose in our lives is to turn to Him.

We must recognize our sins and repent from them so that we could give our lives to the Lord. Without God, we are dead state, led by the devil, who shows us sin as something bright and attractive, so



we burn ourselves; then we want to change a bit, but he tempts us again and kills us. However, we have a Savior Jesus Christ, who died for us. It is Him who has given us His grace so that we, who live in this evil and disobedient world led and driven by flesh towards condemnation, could have a chance to decide for our Heavenly Father. We can enter God's kingdom only by His grace.

During this week, I thought a lot, and I was bitter, because I knew I wanted to belong to the Lord, but I did not get any Bible verse to confirm me. On the last day of the camp, the Lord caused me suffer: it was terribly painful to see others turn to God and to know I have not. I was overwhelmed with my feelings, and I could not deal with them. Then, after the closing service, one of the ministers came to me. I told him what hurt me, and he showed me I did not have to wait until I get a particular Bible verse; rather, I had received enough during this week to help me decide for the Lord Jesus. — Dear brother or sister, it is not for God, it is for you to decide that you receive Him into your heart as the Lord of your life; only then can you be free from the chains of sin. God will not judge you. He gives you His grace. This day is still the day of grace, so give your life to the Lord, for is it Him who gives you real happiness.

I would like to close with a Bible verse.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel.
(Matthew 5:14-15a)

Editorial - contined from page page 1



challenge on “Worship.” Many things will no longer be necessary when Jesus comes again and there is a new heaven and a new earth BUT Worship will always remain forever. We were challenged on why we do and what we do when we gather in our churches. “What drives your services” - challenged Dr. Jennings? He pointed out some of principles of true worship. Worship is not a program or a service but a chance GIVE Worship to the ONE. (*emphasis mine*) Being engaged in continual worship gives the believer confidence in how things will turn out. Further more he pointed out that worship is God-centered exuberance and a call to

God-centered reverance and that worship with out obedience is a sham.

This not only flowed seamlessly with the dangers of pride but lead right into Hjalmar Bo (Norwegian Lutheran Missions - International Director) who reminded us that “missions starts with God because He sent His Son.” And further that “Jesus sends us because He



loves the world.” He shared that while NLM started as a china mission it has always been their desire to “be on the move to new areas and unreached people groups.” This is especially seen in the most recent endeavors of NLM. In 2009 at their Tri-

Annual Confernce they passed a resolution: NLM 2020 To Reach the least reached nations and people groups. Historically Hauge Foriegn



Mission was started to help fund a mission work in Japan that at the time NLM could not, it was very encouraging to hear from Hjalmar that he has actually visited the very spot in Kobe, Japan where that first trailer home was shipped over by frieghter to Japan by supporters of HFM. These first missionaries were Gabriel Eikli and his wife and just a short time later the Arne and Elsa Gronning came in contact with HFM and were also sent to Japan. So it was very humbling and encouraging to hear a first hand account from Hjalmar how the work continues in Japan.

Besides our great regular speakers we were blessed to have Jamie and Lisa Halverson home on furlough this year as they awaited the birth of their child and they too shared a session at the retreat on their ongoing ministry with Wycliffe in New Guinea. (See an update from them here in the BANNER) HFM was founded on a passions for missions to see the gospel spread throughout the earth. This year's retreat saw that theme emphasized as we also were blessed to have a team of youth and adults sent under HFM to our brothers and sisters in EKE in Hungary to come alongside them in the teaching of 3 camps. The team members also gave a great report on their ministry time in Hungary.(see pictures of the missions team in this issue.)

A new board for HFM was elected at the Annual meeting held at the Retreat and new members Kenny Spence of Story City, IA and Joel Adams of Bangor, WI were elected to the board as well as Joel Unverzagt being re-elected. The officers for the coming year are President - Joel Unverzagt, Vice-President - Don Hanson, Treasurer - Pastor Earl Korhonen, Secretary - Austin Ross additional board members are Pastor Tim Johnson, Joel Adams & Kenny Spence.

Pastor Jonathan Unverzagt was reappointed retreat dean.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the Banner. I am now 96 years old and living in assisted living. I just got through reading the Banner and enjoyed reading about Norway as my late husband was born there. So I thank you again.

In Christian Love,

Mrs. T.S. - Forest City, IA

We always love to hear from our readers. Thanks for your support of missions. - BANNER editor

Update from Jamie Halverson

We are blessed to be able to announce the birth of our 3rd child Hezekiah David "Zeke" on September 19th. He is a healthy little boy who weighed in at 8lbs 2oz. and was 19.5in long. Lisa and Zeke are both doing well.

It was a great blessing to be able to be with many of you at camp this past Labor Day Weekend. We really enjoyed our time and were challenged and reminded by the teaching that worship is

to be part of every aspect of our lives as we go through the daily activities of life.

We will be traveling to Washington state in mid October and plan to spend most of the remainder of our furlough there.

We are making some good progress towards being able to return to Papua New Guinea on Jan 8th, 2014. We are now only lacking \$655 in monthly support as of early October 2013.







Receipts

| <u>July 2013</u> | <u>August 2013</u> | <u>September 2013</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| General Fund 260.50 | General Fund 2102.09 | General Fund 60.00 |
| Hungary 260.00 | Hungary 180.00 | Hungary 35.00 |
| NLM 50.00 | NLM 300.00 | NLM 2924.50 |
| NLM Mongolia 1350.00 | NLM Tanzania 20.00 | NLM Mongolia 200.00 |
| NLM-Ethiopia 100.00 | Retreat Scholarship 540.00 | Retreat Scholarship 10.00 |
| NLM Tanzania 20.00 | Aug. '13 Total \$3142.09 | Sept. '13 Total \$3,229.50 |
| Retreat Scholarships 10.00 | | |
| July '13 Total \$2050.50 | | |

Year end report Fiscal year 2013. (2013 Fiscal began in October 2012)

| <u>Mission Gifts:</u> | <u>July, Aug., Sept. '13</u> | <u>TOTAL Fiscal Year 2013</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$2,422.59 | \$5,909.09 |
| Retreat Scholarships | \$560.00 | \$660.00 |
| EKE-Hungary | \$475.00 | \$2,215.00 |
| NLM | \$4,964.50 | \$29,347.80 |

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Camp Dean—Pastor Jonathan Unverzagt

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