

# The Christian Fellowship Banner



"Come with me by yourselves  
to a quiet place and  
get some rest."  
- Mark 6:31 b

## *Learning to Rest*

For the most part Americans don't value rest. We brag about how busy we are as if our hectic schedules are what give us self worth. Of all the countries in the world, Japan is the only one that takes less time for rest than America.

Believe it or not, God is very interested in our rest. To Him, rest is not wasted time, time when we could be doing something useful and productive. No. Rest, biblically understood, has value and worth and purpose. In fact, it's essential to our physical and spiritual well-being. Rest is the time when He can have our undivided, undistracted attention so that He might speak to and with us.

Lets rid ourselves of this idea that rest is somehow a waste of time by remembering God himself rests. If God rested then it is by definition a good thing. No one would accuse God of being lazy or unproductive. Yet the Bible tells us clearly that both God the Father and God the Son took time for rest. In Genesis, the story of creation we read,

***"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." – Genesis 2:2-3***

Hauge Foreign Mission, Inc..

*"Work for the night is coming"*

Serving Christ in: Hungary - Mongolia - Ethiopia - Japan - Peru -  
Bolivia - Kenya - Tanzania - ***In Partnership with NLM & EKE***

Why does the Bible tell us this? ***Because in the balance of work and rest is God's example for us.*** It shows that we should follow a habit of ceasing from work and resting with the Lord.

Jesus said in Mark 6:31 – “Come away ***with Me...***” (emphasis added) It is one of the greatest benefits of rest that it allows us to have uninterrupted, time with Jesus apart from all the distractions of daily life. Notice also that Jesus and the disciples went away for a period of rest during a very busy time of ministry, physical, spiritual and emotional rest was deemed necessary by Jesus so that He and the disciples might return to the kingdom's work with renewed energy and focus.

One of the astonishing things about this passage is the fact that Jesus withdrew from the crowds just when he was most in demand. There were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people waiting for Jesus to heal them, to teach them, to bless them. They were seeking. They were open. And yet, Jesus took some time to rest.

How un-American! Wasn't that irresponsible, to take a day off when there were so many people needing his help? Wasn't that a bit selfish? No, not at all. Jesus understood that there would always be those with needs. But in order to accomplish the purpose for which God had sent Him, he had to remain spiritually strong. And that required regular times of prayer and meditation, regular times of rest and recuperation.

Jesus does not demand, nor desire, that his children work to the point of exhaustion and burn-out. He knew that we need periods of rest with Him in order to remain focused and productive.

One of the most important functions of rest is to allow us to listen to God. Often, we get so caught up in the busy-ness of daily life that we can no longer hear the still, small voice of God. We become so busy doing things ***for Christ*** that we forget to simply be ***with Christ***.

Have you learned the importance of rest in your Christian life? Do you regularly take time away from the relentless busy-ness of life to get away with Jesus, just sit down and talk to Him listen to Him and REST?

# **NEWS FROM EKE**

(Lutherans for the Gospel)  
in Hungary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in HFM,

In the name of EKE, I would like to say thank you for all of the financial and spiritual blessings we received from you in the past few years. Hauge Foreign Mission co-partners for the financial backing of EKE's ministries each year, last year the total was 895,327.00 HUF / 3.987.00 USD given to us,

which greatly facilitated our work.



*Herkely, Janos and Melinda and Janos jr. share at the HFM family retreat*

In the same year we experienced the life-changing power of God's words, especially among young people. It is very important to have

people, who share the love for God's word, and people who help carry on this ministry and who listen in your prayers of your own free will. Thank you that we could count on you in these ministries too and that our brothers and sisters in the USA besides, their own churches, carry the ministries of EKE in their hearts. Last summer was a very special time for me and my family also, because my wife, my son and I enjoyed the hospitality of HFM for almost 3 weeks. While we were there our hosts made everything that we did a good experience. We are very grateful for the wholeheartedness and love which we were surrounded.

The meetings meant a lot to us. It was very good to see those people whom we had met in our visit 12 years ago, who are just as committed to God as earlier, and the kids, who grew up and are already studying at the Bible school, or at the university to prepare for their adult lives and service. It was lovely to meet the people who went Hungary before, and who served alongside us in our EKE programs. It was great to see them again and meet with their families. We are grateful for the new acquaintances we made with the people we met in the US. The Bible studies meant a lot to us, when we heard Jesus Christ speak to us just like He does when we are here in Hungary. We happily experienced at the Bible studies and the Camp the same Spirit that is at present and at work in EKE.

It was encouraging to see the interest of the American brothers and sisters for EKE's ministry and mission to build God's kingdom. Thank you so much the opportunities and we are looking forward to the next year in 2016, when hopefully we can serve here in Hungary alongside the missionaries of the HFM.

In the end I would like to wish you a very blessed Easter.

***The ministry of EKE is prayed for by Pastor Jerry Nelson at the outdoor worship service of Christ Is Lord Free Lutheran church on August 24, 2014 during the Herkelys visit to the USA and HFM.***



# News from the Halversons

in Papua, New Guinea  
with Wycliffe Bible Translators

Thank you for your prayers supporting us. We greatly appreciate your part in the work of Bible translation here in Papua New Guinea.

In April, Jamie had the privilege of flying for and attending the Kandawo New Testament dedication. He flew three loads of people into the airstrip on Tuesday morning. Wednesday was the dedication, and then he flew three loads of people out of the airstrip on Thursday morning. The flying had to be done the day before and day after, as the airstrip often clouds in around noon--and even before then the winds become too strong to be able to

*Some of the Kandawo people in traditional celebration dress bringing the Kandawo New Testament into the dedication celebration.*



It was great to be able to see people receiving the Word of God after 33 years of hard work by the translation couple, Mack and Doris Graham. Mack and Doris faced many challenges over the past 33 years and up until a year ago, they didn't even know if the Kandawo people would use the Kandawo New Testament. But over the past year, God has done some amazing things in the hearts of the Kandawo people and many of them are now showing great interest in the New Testament. Praise God!



*Kandawo men  
holding their  
Kandawo New  
Testaments.*

Jamie Halverson

*Jamie and Lisa Halverson serve through aviation with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea with their three children Thad, Thea, and Zeke .*

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Would you like to support HAUGE FOREIGN MISSIONS!

Donating to the work of Hauge Foreign Mission is now even easier!

We have added a Donation button to our web page at [www.haugemissions.org](http://www.haugemissions.org) If you click on the tab you will be able to select any of the missions that HFM supports and have your donation given immediately.

**Update from David Olson - Missionary to Mongolia**

‘A lot has happened the past several months with my work in Mongolia with Norwegian Lutheran Mission. But there is always one thing that is the same and that is grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I finished my first two full years serving in Mongolia in September of 2014 and then had the opportunity to travel back to North Dakota to be with my family for a few months. It was a welcomed time of rest and I was also able to spend time with my family which is always enjoyable. I then traveled back to Mongolia for November and December where I worked with our administration on different tasks related to our projects. At this time I was placed in Khovd, which is the western city in Mongolia where NLM has an office.

My busy winter was not done as I made another trip back and forth from North Dakota to Mongolia after Christmas. It has been a little different type of year for me as I have worked some in Mongolia and some in North Dakota. NLM is currently making plans to start another office in another location in western Mongolia where we have project work and a lot of my work and travel has been because of this. A final decision was made in March to start a new office in western Mongolia and I will have the exciting task to help open the new office starting this summer. It will be a challenge but we pray the Lord will be with us and will help open doors for our work in this new region.

***In traditional Mongolian garb - David Olson points out the region of his work with NLM in Mongolia, during the HFM family retreat.***



Through this whole process I have been praying about what the Lord has in store for me regarding my work with NLM. I was reminded from a Norwegian colleague of a wonderful verse from Psalm 32:8. It states, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye." It is so important to put ones trust in the Lord as He will guide us in our daily lives. That includes all the difficult decisions that we face such as moving to a new location in Mongolia to help start new work for the Lord.

I often wonder if I am making the right decisions but I always need to first put my trust and hope in the Lord and I know He will direct my paths. That is my prayer for everyone, that they daily put their trust in the Lord to let Him guide you."

- David Olson - NLM Missionary to Mongolia



***David Olson and some of the children at the  
2014 HFM family retreat in traditional  
Mongolian garb***



# Religious Freedom Under Attack in America- May 10, 2015

Religious freedom advocates are flagging a mostly-missed moment from last week's Supreme Court arguments over the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, calling it a warning sign.

They point to an exchange between Justice Samuel Alito and the administration's top lawyer, Solicitor General Donald Verrilli. Alito asked if, in the event the Supreme Court holds that there is a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, would religious colleges risk losing their tax-exempt status if they continued to advocate for traditional marriage only. Verrilli responded, "I don't deny that ... It is going to be an issue."

Travis Weber, director of the Family Research Council's Center for Religious Liberty, said he believed Verrilli's logic would eventually extend to churches and just about "anyone holding a traditional view of marriage."

Weber warned that if the current trend continues, those who refuse to endorse same-sex marriage could face "fines, potentially imprisonment."

Just days ago, speaking at the Women in the World Summit 2016, Democratic contender **Hillary Clinton said, "Deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed."**

The statement sparked concern among those who believe the federal government should not be in the business of using its significant leverage to coerce others to adhere to any specific viewpoint.

-by Shannon Bream, a Washington-based correspondent covering the Supreme Court. [emphasis added]

## Psalm 12:6-8 (NIV)

**<sup>6</sup> And the Words of the Lord are flawless,  
like silver purified in a crucible,  
like gold refined seven times.**

**<sup>7</sup> You, Lord, will keep the needy safe  
and will protect us forever from the wicked,**

**<sup>8</sup> who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by  
the human race.**

# 2015 LABOR DAY WEEKEND

## FAMILY RETREAT

Sponsored by Hauge Foreign Mission | Friday, September 4th - Monday,  
September 7th

**“Wash me and I shall be Whiter than Snow.”**

*-Psalm 51:7b*

### EVANGELIST



Pastor Michael Brandt and his wife Colleen live in Rapid City, South Dakota where he is the Director for Shepherding the Shepherds Ministry. He served as Senior Pastor of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church from 1991-2007. Pastor Brandt has traveled extensively as an evangelist, conducting crusades and seminars across the United States.

[www.shepherdingtheshepherds.com](http://www.shepherdingtheshepherds.com)

### ADULT BIBLE TEACHER



Pastor Ron Wik of Colfax, WI is the new Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church. He served Bethel Ridge in Faribault, MN for the previous 29 years. He has a grown daughter, Sarah.

[www.bethanylbchurch.org](http://www.bethanylbchurch.org)

### MISSIONARY

The missionary from Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Norway is not confirmed at this time.

[www.nlm.org](http://www.nlm.org)



## Receipts

### January 2015

G. Fund	280.00
Hungary	10.00
NLM G.F.	50.00
NLM - D. Olson	700.00
Retreat Scholarship	10.00

**Jan. '15 Total     1,050.00**

### February 2015

G.Fund	1460.50
Hungary	38.00
NLM	350.00
NLM - D. Olson	3,460.00
Retreat Scholarship	20.00

**Feb. '15 Total     5,318.50**

### March 2015

General Fund	170.00
Hungary	222.00
NLM	300.00
NLM-D. Olson	200.00
Retreat Scholarship	20.00

**March '15 Total     912.00**

### Totals for Fiscal year 2015(beginning Oct. 1, 2014)

Mission Gifts	Jan.,Feb.,Mar.	Total Fiscal Year 2015
General Fund	1,910.50	5,007.50
Retreat Scholarships	40.00	70.00
EKE- Hungary	270.00	1,575.40
NLM	5,060.00	7,395.00
	<b>7,280.50</b>	<b>14,047.90</b>

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BANNER

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*"Blest be the tie that binds"*

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