



NEWS From EKE in Hungary

**“Delight yourself in the Lord;
and He will give you the desires of your heart.”
(Psalms 37:4)**

It is not a fairytale that Jesus died for us on the cross. He died because our relationship with God had been broken due to sin. He died to cleanse my soul with His innocent blood. Yes, mine. He knows me personally; He even keeps count of the hairs of my head. He is holding me on His hand in this very moment, too. He knows when I sit down or stand up. Only He, God, knows me fully; He knows me more than I know myself. He formed me in my mother’s womb.

This is Him. The holy God, who loves me so much. And what can I do?

It was in a youth camp I was amazed to understand how much Jesus Christ loves me. It was a Christian event, similar to those I had rejected in previous years. I accepted this call; it was part of the perfect plan of God.

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www.haugemissions.org**

On one of the evening devotions, I felt huge stress. I would not like you to misunderstand; I was fully conscious. It was not just a feeling striking me, it was the recognition of the fact that it is God speaking to me through the pastor. I did not understand this immediately indeed; I realized it later, when we went to our rooms. I was crying while walking those few meters; when we got there, I began to sob. A girl, my roommate, already a child of God, was sitting by my side. I remember big burdens suddenly weighing me. I felt the pressure of my sins. I felt them weigh me. Why was this? Because I met the Lord Jesus. I became guilty in His presence. It was no kind of vision. Let me repeat, it was no euphoric feeling, just the new knowledge of being lost, and knowing it cannot continue. There and then, I confessed my sins pressing me in prayer to God, and received Jesus' death for me on the cross. I received His forgiveness. But wherever the Spirit of God begins to work, the evil does not sleep, either. That night, thoughts came to me that I do not really want it. I don't want to give up anything; I want to live my life as I had done before. Unfortunately, I fell asleep peacefully with that thought. The following day, in a group talk, we were asked the question, "Have you turned away from sin, and turned to God?" When it was my turn to answer, I gibbered I did not know what about me, or what I should feel, but something had happened to me the previous day, certainly not by chance. God did not let me be resigned to the old situation. The Satan is a defeated enemy; He has power on us humans, but not on our powerful God! That's what

gives peace to the children of God. The leaders of the group did not leave me in doubt; they sent me to a counseling conversation. The Spirit of God did not let me rest, so I asked one of the helpers for an opportunity to settle this. During the talk, I got convinced that I can have eternal life in heaven by receiving the perfect forgiveness for my sins from Jesus Christ.

In just a few weeks after going home, I returned to a sin I had loved to do. I slowly accepted I would never be free from it; that's what I am, I will not change. Then, in a similar weekend youth camp, I confessed this sin to God, and asked Him to free me, because I did not want to go on that way. He set me free. Only He can free you, too. What about you; has He set you free?

“He delivers them... because they take refuge in Him.” (Psalms 37:40b)

- Virág Soltész

Challenging Thoughts:

**We don't change the message,
the message changes us.**

**Christians: keep the faith . . .
but not from others!**

From the Editor

Missionary or Mission Field?

“But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.” (Acts 9:15)

These are the words that the Lord spoke to Ananias concerning Saul. Saul who in the past had done much evil unto the children of God (the true believers), had met with Jesus on the road to Damascus and as a result had become a follower of Jesus Christ. It is after sauls’s conversion that he became a “chosen vessel.” A vessel is made for a purpose, and that is to be useful to its owner. This is true of everyone who gives his life to Jesus Christ. Romans 12:1 tells us that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. We are to be the vessels and Jesus is to be our Captain. In II Timothy 2:21 we read that if we purge ourselves as believers from the cares and evils of this world, we will become vessels sanctified and meet for the Masters use.

I once heard a speaker say that a person is either a missionary or a mission field, and this is surely true. Some time ago I was asked to present the work of the mission (Hauge Foreign Mission) for a Sunday evening service. It was a beautiful spring day, and i I drove to the church, I saw almost every farmer out working his field. Then I realized that here was a mission field instead of a place to share about foreign mission work. Now there are certain jobs that have to be done on Sunday, and working on Sunday does not determine whether you are saved or not, but if the job does not require work on Sunday, it surely does reveal where your heart is.

As a rule no one gets too interested in the spreading of the gospel and the salvation of souls until he himself has experienced the conviction of sin and has found forgiveness for his sin in the cleansing blood Jesus.

May God give us a burden and a concern for lost souls not only on our foreign mission fields but amongst our neighbors and our friends. God expects each of His children to be givers so that the Word may go forth. In our own area we are to give of our time to witness to others, and to invite others to the meetings where the Word of God is preached in such a way that souls are lead to Jesus Christ for salvation through repentance.

When it comes to foreign missions, we are not all called to go, but we are called to do our part to send those whom God does call. It is good to hear from the mission fields that there are those who respond to the preaching of God's Word. They experience salvation in Jesus Christ and have a new life to live. May God bless each one of you who give and pray for our missionaries. Let us continue to be faithful in this.

Are you a mission field or a missionary?

You know the answer, and I trust and pray that if you not are a child of God you will seek Him while while He may be found. Today is still the day of grace and the door is open, waiting for you to enter.

-Pastor Alvin Larson - originally published September 1980

News from Norway **To work for Norwegian Lutheran Mission is to work for Mongolia**

By Karen Colban Hoe

Bauka outside of NLM's new branch office in Bayan-Ulgii. Photo: Karen Colban Hoel



Many articles have been written about how it is for missionaries to work abroad for a mission organization. But how is it to work for a mission organization such as NLM (Norwegian Lutheran Mission) for a national employee? Here comes a short interview with one of NLM's many skilled employees, the new administrative coordinator

Bauka.

New office, new employee

Even though NLM's new branch office has not yet had its official opening with speeches and cakes, a lot has already come in place. And NLM can give thanks to one person in particular for that – Bauka. Bauka is 28 years old, he's from Khovd province, and might have the biggest smile of all in the city. He started to work as the Administrative Coordinator for NLM in Bayan-Ulgii November 2015.

There were many good qualified applicants for this position, but the choice was easy. Bauka's CV and personal qualities fits like a hand in a glove for the task that awaits a coordinator in the establishment of a new branch in Western Mongolia. And he's not only the coordinator; he's also a translator in one of the projects NLM is running in Mongolia. There is no doubt about NLM's expat being very pleased with the work Bauka is doing. But how is it for him to work for NLM. Let's ask him some questions:

Hi Bauka. What is the reason for you to apply for a work in NLM?

There are many reasons why I want to work for NLM. The most important reason is to work for people in need who live in difficult circumstances and for people with health issues. Another important reason is that with NLM I can use my qualifications in Human Resource Management, where I have specialized in training and development. One of the things NLM does is to organize activities for officials to increase their knowledge and skills. I'm a part of this job. A third reason is that NLM respects its employees and works according to the Labor Law of the country. NLM does not reduce your salary or expect you to work many extra hours without being paid and so on. NLM also supports its employees to increase their knowledge and skills. This gives more opportunities. Further more NLM offers social benefits, as being allowed to go to the doctor when you are sick without reduction in your salary.

I'm very grateful for my work at NLM. I will do all my best to be trustworthy and loyal to NLM. Through my work I wish to not only contribute to NLM, but also to my country.

Because I love NLM and my country.

How is it to be the Administrative Coordinator in the work of establishing a new branch?

I'm very excited about this work, and work with eagerness. I'm excited to use my knowledge and skills for this position in NLM, for my supervisor and coworkers. I also like to face challenges; it sharpens me and gives me opportunity to improve. One of the challenges I face in my work is to keep the balance between administrative work and translation work.

Does NLM stand out compared to other organizations in Mongolia?

NLM is a different organization compared to others because of the focus on people in need. NLM also tells about the good word of Jesus to the people, which helps them to find the right way in life.

What do you really think about our new Country Director, David Olson?

You know, I've been working for 3-4 different organizations and had nice supervisors. But my current leader is more open towards people. I like that he always gives a positive energy. And I like that he supports me in my work. He doesn't look for mistakes, but corrects me if anything can be done in a better way.

And how about the project consultant that you share office with? Since she is the writer of this article, you can't do anything other than saying nice things...

To be honest, I felt that she is an open person with positive energy. But when she talks on the phone, she speaks loudly and as if she was home and not at the office with me...

ANNOUNCING A Summer Missions Team to Hungary

Hauge Foreign Missions is once again sending a missions team to assist EKE with some of their youth camps in July of 2016.

The team will be going to Hungary from July 14th - 31st.

You can support them on their mission in several ways:

- * Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel
- * Pray for hearts that are eager to hear the Gospel
- * Pray for good travels and little jet lag for the team.
- * You can send financial support to help the team go and to give a gift of a flannel graph to one of the EKE churches for their teaching ministry.
- * You can send financial gifts to the HFM treasurer: Marked "Summer Missions Team" and you can also donate online on the HFM webpage.
www.haugemissions.org
- * It will cost around \$1100 per team member and the gift will be around \$400 - If you'd like to contribute.

We hope to have more information on the team members in the April Issue of the BANNER.

News from The Halversons

As you may remember, Lisa, the kids and I returned in October to have our 4th child and also visit my dad, Dennis, who was fighting cancer (died Jan 26, 2016). Uzziah was born on Nov 30th and everything seemed fine, but shortly after his birth we found out that he might have some liver function issues. Further tests were completed at the University of Minnesota and revealed that he has bile duct paucity which means he does not have all of the bile ducts in his liver that he should have. Uzziah's liver doctor is recommending that we remain in the US for the next year and also stay close to some very specialized medical care that is only offered in specific places in the US. This precaution is being taken so that Uzziah could receive care if complications arise.

We are beginning communication with Wycliffe Bible Translators to see what work assignment Jamie could do in the US that would be close enough to the medical care required, a valuable contribution to Wycliffe Bible Translators, and that would be a good fit for Jamie's skills and abilities.

Thank you for praying for Uzziah and our family during this time.

Jamie, Lisa, Thad, Thea, Zeke, and Ziah Halverson

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Receipts

October 2015

G. Fund	320.00
Hungary	120.00
NLM G.F.	100.00
NLM - D. Olson	850.00
Retreat Scholarship	20.00

Oct. '15 **Total 1,360.00**

November 2015

G.Fund	200.50
NLM - D. Olson	60.00
NLM - Bolivia	300.00

November Total **560.50**

December 2015

General Fund	310.00
Hungary	10.00
NLM	225.00
Retreat Scholarship	10.00

December Total **555.00**

Totals for Fiscal year 2016 (Ending Sept. 30, 2016)

Mission Gifts	Oct-Nov-Dec -	Total Fiscal Year 2016
General Fund	830.50	830.50
Retreat Scholarships	30.00	30.00
EKE- Hungary	130.00	1 30.00
NLM	1,485.00	1,485.00
	2,475.50	2,475.50

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