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gathering in
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▷ Blessings
in Estonia

▷ Powerful
testimonies

**Remember LW's
Summertime: July 8-12, 2009.
(More information on the last page.)**

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From darkness to light...

We are already 4 months into 2009 and a lot has happened this year. We are happy to share some encouraging stories and experiences with you through this Living Water edition. As I write this editorial we are still in India. The last weeks have been intensive but blessed as the Word of God has entered into neglected areas of this country and impacted lives for eternity. Please join us on our journey and read about the power of God to move precious souls out of darkness and into the marvelous light of the gospel (1 Pt 2:9).

May you also be blessed as you read about the work moving forward in Europe despite of difficult circumstances of an increasingly secular society. This edition is somewhat special as it contains several fascinating testimonies of people we have become acquainted with over the past years. These men and women come from different parts of the world but all have something in common. They love God and have accepted His transforming Word to impact and change their lives. We have often published experiences of people accepting the Advent message but we thought it would be inspirational to let some of these precious souls share with you what they experienced and went through as the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts convicting them of the message for this time. It is our prayer that these dynamic testimonies may stir your heart and motivate you to serve the Lord wherever He may call you.

Daniel Pel

INDIA

Showers of blessings...

By Daniel Pel

Rain, rain, and more rain! I have seldom seen so much water coming down at once. It seemed like the heavens had been opened. We had just arrived at our destination – Churachandpur, a town in Manipur, a province tucked away in the very corner of the North East of India. For five months the farmers have been struggling as there had been no rain at all. Now they rejoiced as the water drops pounded on the earth splashing everywhere and penetrating the dry cracked ground forming it into a muddy pool. This is what they needed! Without water there are no crops and without crops there is no harvest and without harvest there is no food. Many people of Churachandpur and surrounding villages had been praying for rain and now the rain had come. It came the very moment we arrived. The Adventists in the town had also prayed for rain but not just when the meetings were to begin! The rain kept the people from coming on the opening night of our revival/evangelistic series Hope for the Future. Still we agreed that the rain was a blessing and we gathered together and prayed for another type of rain to fall during the following 10 days we would spend in Churachandpur. We all longed for the showers of blessing, the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

We had been told that this is the very first time that foreigners preach the 3 angels message in Churachandpur. Churachandpur lies about 60 Km from the capital city of this province which is Imphal. When you see the people here you would not think they are from India as they look much more Asian. Even though the North East of India belongs to India and is connected by a small stroke of land North of Bangladesh it has quite a different culture and way of life. Several provinces in the North East have fought for independence over the years. At this very time there are still several provinces where fighting is taking place and these areas have become protected areas with a restriction for foreigners to enter. One of these troubled areas is Manipur. We were able to gain a permit to enter this province for 10 days. There is a heavy presence of the Indian army in the town we stayed in and the tensions were recognizable. But the 4 angels are still holding back the winds of strife so that the final message may go into the entire world with great power.

The Lord blessed the evangelistic effort that was made and rewarded us with dear souls seeking for truth. We are grateful for the showers of blessing we could experience in Manipur. Many of those that came to the meetings were Baptists as this is one of the main denominations in this area. The Sabbath truth was particularly something new for them. There are very few Adventists in Churachandpur and only one small church. Many people in the town had a misunderstanding of what the Adventists believe and teach. Some thought they only believed the Old Testament while others meant they did not preach about Jesus. The first pioneers of the work in Churachandpur faced many challenges. But three lay men have begun three schools that are running very well. Some gather at the schools on Sabbath and have worship services. The schools also function as a wonderful way to reach out to the students as hundreds and hundreds of children attend these schools. Many of the students attended the evening meetings and quite a number are requesting Bible studies and have expressed their desire to be baptized. With the students and the town people coming to the meetings we had a crowd of about 500 people during most evenings. During the day we would visit some of the people in their

We enjoyed this work as we could see that the people highly appreciated the visits and several had important things they wanted to discuss with us. One dear lady that we visited lived in a very simple home with her children and they hardly had any furniture. But what lacked in earthly wealth was richly supplied in spiritual wealth. She told us that after the presentation on the Sabbath she had gone home but could not sleep the entire night as she was thinking how she could practically follow this message. She was anxious to see how her family and friends would respond. She related how some years back she had ridiculed her husband because he had shared something about the Sabbath with her. Now she felt bad because of this and anticipated that the people in her village would treat her the same way. But despite of these fears she was determined to live for Jesus and follow His commandments. She had a big smile on her face which testified to the joy she felt over her new found faith. We also visited some homes of more influential people in the town. When we came to the home of the chief of a certain area of town he said that he had believed the Sabbath all along but had never found a support for this truth in his church. He was very happy to attend the meetings. Another Baptist elder felt heavily convicted by the messages. One of the Bible workers asked what he thought about the studies so far. He replied that the people including himself either had to make a decision for that which was presented or stop going to the meetings! "We can't just sit here" he said. The Holy Spirit was truly convicting the hearts and doing a work that none of us could possibly do. We prayed for rain and it rained!

We could realize that the enemy was not pleased with the work that was carried out. A spiritual battle was taking place. From the very beginning we saw how we were almost hindered from even going to Manipur. It began with our visas. We had sent our passports to the Indian Embassy but after a delay received them back without visas issued. We had to drive into Oslo twice to get everything sorted out and we finally got our visas on Friday just before Sabbath. We left for India early Sunday morning. Because of our visa delay we also had a delay getting our special permit to enter Manipur. We ended up getting it the evening before we were scheduled to fly to Manipur! It all happened last minute. During the meeting series we could also sense a spiritual battle. Both Silvia and I felt weak and a little sick but God raised us up each time we needed to speak to the people. One night just before the meeting I had a heavy nose bleed due to the warm weather. The workers prayed and eventually it stopped and the evening meeting was carried out. One evening we had heavy rain but the people did not want to leave and so they pressed together under the canopy. Others found a place of shelter close to the meetings and followed along carefully.

On the 4th of April we had our final meetings. It was a Sabbath and so we had a special day with those that had attended the meetings during the week. In the afternoon 73 precious souls were baptized and added to the newly established church. It was very impressive to see the work that had been put into leading these individuals to this step. Quite some time before we arrived Bible workers



Snap shots



The prelude to the India trip happened during a camp-meeting in Kenya in 2007. The Union president of North East India was also a speaker. He invited us to come and do an evangelistic meeting series in his district.



We were appointed the province Manipur. This is a turbulent area with recognised terrorist groups. It is termed a 'restricted area', where few foreigners enter. While waiting for our permit, we visited ATS - an Adventist Seminary in the province of Assam.



The evening before the series in Manipur would start, we got a 10 day permit. In the afternoon we reached the town Churachandpur, where the meetings would be held. Three lay Adventists run 3 schools with more than 2000 students in total. The schools have broken down much prejudice.



The little group of Adventists in Churachandpur had done a wonderful preparation work. For the first time they would get missionary visitors from abroad. They were so thankful! The campaign was borne on the wings of prayer.

the Future Meeting

Venue : Greenwood Academy
B. Vengnuom, Churachandpur

March - April 20

from India

In the evening Daniel led the congregation through exciting Biblical studies. Silvia shared the health message. During the day we got the opportunity to visit several of the attendees in their homes. The message had reached many hearts.



The congregation grew from evening to evening, and we had to extend the tent. We were told that upto 90 % of the congregation were 'visitors'. Many responded to the appeal to receive the truth of Christ and enter into covenant with Him. The closing Sabbath 73 precious souls entered the waters of baptism.



From Manipur we flew South. In the province Tamil Nadu we visited a school called Green Pastures Academy. It is beautifully situated in the mountains.

It is focusing on the ABCs of education - Bible, health and agriculture. We are thankful that we could get to know these dear youth and take part in equipping them for service.



The closing week-end we spent in New Delhi. We were invited to have a seminar for the english-speaking church in the capital. Praise God - the messages brought revival and we also appreciated the time counselling with some of the youth in the church.



were doing ground work and studying the Bible with people from the town. We are convinced that the preparation work has a lot to say as to the success of a series like this. The follow up of the contacts is of great importance as well and we are so happy to know that there is a dedicated team of workers committed to establish a vibrant church fellowship and lead the newly baptized into a deeper experience with Christ.

About half a year ago I did not know that there existed a province tucked away in the corner of the North East of India called Manipur, neither did I know of a town called Churachandpur, and neither did I know of a group of committed brothers and sisters that love the Lord and were willing to risk all in order to reach out with the three angels message. Now Manipur is a place that we will not forget. Now our brothers and sisters in Churachandpur have a place in our hearts. And though this is a place known to be dangerous and troublesome we will remember the smiles and love of the people. Their open homes and hearts reveal hope for something better. They are looking forward to the Kingdom of God where there is no suffering, pain, and death. They are looking forward to a world where there is no corruption and where the gates shall not be shut for there is no night there (Rev 21:25). This kingdom is already present in their hearts by faith. The principles of this kingdom find expression in their lives as they seek to shine the good news of Jesus Christ through out Manipur. Please join us in prayer for this newly established church and its members and workers. Pray for rain and showers of blessings!

'Green Pastures' in Tamil Nadu

After our stay in Manipur we travelled from the North East all the way to the south of India. In Tamil Nadu province we visited a school called Green Pastures. This school is beautifully located in a rural part of the province surrounded by fields, trees, and mountains. We spent about two weeks teaching the Bible and principles of health. We made friends with the students and enjoyed our time with them. Some of the students could not speak English so well which made it a challenge to teach but God sent a translator just at the right time. All in all we were blessed to be a part of training eager young people to go out and share the three angel's messages in India!

Revival week-end in New Delhi

From Green Pastures School in the south of India we flew to the capital of India which is New Delhi. We had been invited to conduct a weekend seminar in the international SDA church. The meetings went well that weekend and we also had a wonderful time with the youth of the church. We spent all of Sunday afternoon counseling and discussing relevant issues that faced the youth. It was an informal gathering in which the young people poured out their hearts and we could sense the Holy Spirit guiding us to answers from His Word. We continue to pray for these dear souls and the decisions and challenges they are facing as Adventists in a heathen environment.



Meetings in Slagelse

By Stine Gro Struksnæs

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." (Ecc. 11:1)
As a church we had worked towards the meeting-series 'Prophecy Unlocked' for weeks. Invitations were shared out both in the postboxes and on the street. Now the first evening had come. It was encouraging to see that some of the guests were people we had met on the street. It showed us the importance of meeting the people where they are. We had a varied congregation in age and background. This first evening we followed an exciting and convincing presentation, emphasising the authenticity of the Bible.

Evening after evening new truths were presented in a logic and appealing manner. But we knew that these meetings were just a part of the campaign. The preparations was done, the meetings drew towards an end, and now we soon would begin the follow up work. Some people wanted to continue with Bible studies, and now an exciting part of the campaign commenced, with rich possibilities for personal contact and to develop as Bible workers. Our pastor wanted to involve the members in this blessing, and so far five of the church members and the pastor have led out in Bible studies. The studies are held in a small hall in the library. We have established good contact with a middle aged man, who has attended almost all the follow up studies. It is such a blessing for us to have him as a friend, and a joy to see him take part in the studies and share good thoughts. We have booked the hall in the library until the summer, and several of the church members are willing to continue with the studies.

After the series we have also made a small survey, which we have used from door to door. We ask people if they have seen the invitation flyer, how they received it, and what they thought when they received it. Then we proceed to spiritual questions related to the topic of the meeting series. Eventually the people are offered the prophecy course and a book where they can read more. During the short time we were out one Sunday, we were able to give out several books and one person also accepted to join the Bible course.

Let us ask God to water the seeds sown with the Holy Spirit, and thank Him for the blessing of partaking in the work in His vineyard.

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it." (Is. 55:10-11)

"I have learnt a lot from the meeting series and the follow up studies. I had never held a Bible study for others before, but by Gods grace I came through the first study, and now I find it interesting to lead the studies and I learn a lot myself. It is also very encouraging to follow the growth of the contacts in their understanding of the Advent message."

-Benjamin Greisen (picture under, right)

“ Praise God for His wondrous work! His name be exalted all the time! God has blessed the “Hope for the Future” revival meeting at our Academy Campus. At the end of the ten day series 73 precious souls accepted the Lord by baptism. Praise God! The Lord has really used Ev. Daniel Peter Pel and his gracious wife Mrs. Sylvia S. Pel. Still many are struggling to accept the truth. Please pray for such souls so that they may have the courage to accept Gods word and accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour.
The 4th of April (Sabbath day) was a historic day for the Manipur section of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Never so many souls accepted the Lord and manifested their faith by baptism in a single effort. It was a momentous day for the district. This was the first time an effort was conducted in the district; this day will be long remembered. Oh, praise and honour to His Holy name! The Seventh-day Adventists in this town and district, once considered as a sect or a cult, is looked upon as bearers of the Gospel truth. Praise God! Our message, once considered not worth listening to, is secretly sought after now. A while ago a frail lady just stepped into my office and told me that a particular church elder is in trouble after listening to Daniel’s message. “He will come and meet you tomorrow”, she said. Many more will be in trouble unable to decide which way to go. Please pray for such souls. I also appeal to you to pray for the completion of the church which is under construction. The foundation is laid where the meeting-tent stood. We need this church soon. People have to have a place to gather. At present we are worshiping in one of the class rooms at our school.

”

-Richard Haokip,
Principal of Greenwood Academy,
Churachandpur, North East India

If you feel impressed to help your brothers and sisters in India to complete the church building, please send your donation to Living Water Ministry, marked ‘Church building in Manipur’.



Youth Conference in Denmark

By Silvia Pel



As announced in the previous edition of Living Water-news, the Youth Conference EYE (End-time Youth Evangelism) was held in Denmark during New Year. More than 100 young people were gathered to gain knowledge and inspiration, enjoy a spiritual fellowship and be equipped for service.

Early in the morning youth could be seen on their knees in the meeting hall. During the day we had the opportunity to listen to several inspiring, challenging and touching messages from the speakers invited. In the afternoon all who desired had the possibility to put the theory into practise. The attendants were organised in groups and sent out to the surrounding villages to invite people to join the evening meetings, which were especially adapted to a public audience.

The conference also gave room for establishing new friendships, and to meet other young people with a common goal. Our physical as well as spiritual needs were met, and I think we all agreed that vegan food can be delicious, varied and healthy. The last day of the old year in many ways became the highlight of the conference. As 2008 passed into history, young and old stood forward with praise and testimonies about Gods leading in their lives.

We pray that this conference will be like a sprout, growing and causing a greater revival among the youth in Scandinavia – a revival that will lead to a deep reformation in our own personal lives and kindle a fire in us to reach out with the beautiful Advent message to the world.



Teaching, Biblestudies and Themesabbath in Skotselvi

By Silvia Pel

From the beginning of 2009 we have been back at the European Bible School in Skotselvi as teachers. We were happy to see the students again, and listen to their experiences from the mission trips to Honduras and Tanzania, which they had just come back from.

This year Daniel has had classes on the 'Spirit of Prophecy' and 'True Education', while I have covered the field of Nutrition. Theory and practise have gone hand in hand, and we have had much fun in the kitchen.

Another highlight during the time in Skotselvi has been weekly Biblestudy-groups. Last year I got to know some of the neighbours of the Bible School as we were doing door-to-door work. We began regular Bible-studies, and last year several of the students also joined some of the evenings. We have had some blessed times together. The lady who has opened her home for the study-evenings, is a elderly, God-fearing lady. The first time I came to her door, she told me that she missed a spiritual fellowship. I suggested that we could start to study the Bible together, and she responded positively.

Later she has told me that she is convinced that God lead us



together, and that these Bible-classes, as she calls them, has enriched her life. She has a great respect for the Word of God, and as long as she can see that something is according to the Bible, she desires to follow in love for her Saviour. She is so enthusiastic that she is not able to keep it all for herself. Whether it is on the phone with her family, or at gatherings in the village, she will tell about the Bible-course and encourage others to join. The closest neighbour has also become a faithful participant during the study-evenings.

The 21st of February Skotselv Church arranged a theme-sabbath about endtime events. Ziemek opened by giving a overview, drawn by the prophetic word, of the events which will take place from our day until the coming of Jesus. Daniel held the divine service, and his topic was the 144.000. By cracking the code of the names of the tribes in Revelation chapter 7, he emphasised the importance of the experience which is needed in order to be a part of this special group that will be sealed and never taste death.

After the divine service a lady came up to me. She and her friend were visiting from the State Church and the Pentecostal Church. Actually she had refused the invitation to join the theme-Sabbath. She expected some advanced, theological explanations with little practical relevance. But the message had impressed her and come home to her heart, and she eagerly accepted the offer for further studies through the Prophecy course.

After lunch Esther Femsteinevik had a study on the three angel's messages. She inspired us to live out and share the last message of warning and grace. Pastor Widar Urset then spoke on the shaking. He emphasised that this message relates to us personally. How we accept the counsel of the faithful witness to the church of Laodicea will determine whether we will be shaken out or into the everlasting kingdom of God. Lastly I spoke on the latter rain and how we can prepare to receive the showers of blessing. The evening was closed off with a panel debate, where all had the possibility to participate, ask questions to the speakers and make comments.

Several commented that the theme-Sabbath had been a blessing and enrichment. Many are longing for a forum where relevant and important topics can be discussed and where they can receive firm spiritual meat. We know that there is a desire to continue with the concept of theme-Sabbaths, and we wish the organisers Gods blessings. The prophetic word reveals that just such gatherings are occasions where the Lord would love to pour out His showers of blessings.

SWITZER

Mission gathering

By Silvia Pel

Bright sun, dark blue sky, snow-capped Alps and Swiss wooden houses... We could not have had a better frame for the mission-conference, which was held in Switzerland from the 27th of February till the 1st of March, 2009. A group of enthusiastic workers were gathered at a Youth Hostel, surrounded by Swiss nature at its best, to gather inspiration and new ideas. This was the second so-called 'knuspe' (sprout) – gathering. The intention of the organisers were to create a forum for laypeople interested in mission-work, and give the possibility for networking to be more effective in the service for the Master.

It was an intense week-end filled with blessings. Daniel was invited to share in the main meetings, which also reflected the aim of the gathering: How we can be equipped for service. We spent the week-end in Bible-studies and prayer-fellowship. Everyone that already was involved in different types of ministry work had the possibility to share their concept. We had open discussion groups on relevant topics and shared ideas for future mission projects.

It was a blessing to get a glimpse into the burden other laypeople had for different branches of the work, and how they by Gods grace had been able to realise their visions and dreams. A wide range of activities were presented, from health-work and restaurant ministry, to child- and youth-work, Bible school and media-evangelism.

After the conference had ended, we joined one of the initiative-takers home. The next day he had invited some of his friends from the village for Bible-study and prayer-meeting. Here we got to know godly people from different religious and cultural backgrounds. Daniel introduced with a Bible-study and afterwards all had the possibility to get to know each other on a more personal level. It was really a blessed evening. A pastor from the Pentecostal Church who was present was so enthused that he invited Daniel to preach in his church on the next occasion. It is no doubt that Jesus is working on gathering His people under the banner of truth. Let us pray that we may be sanctified in the truth, that we always may be pure and open channels for His grace and truth to flow through.

LAND

ing...



Meetings in Gran

The last years we have received many calls from abroad. Since we have been travelling a lot, we have to admit that we have not been able to follow up the work in our home district as well as we would like. We therefore were very happy when our local church, Hadeland, asked if we would have a meeting series in Gran. From experience we know that it is not easy to gather people to meetings like this. Especially in sparsely populated areas in a close village environment, people generally are a bit sceptical to everything new, and it may be hard to break through. But we agreed to give it a try, and as we look back I think none of us regret.

In March we began the meetings. The members of the church put heart and soul into the effort. The meetings were held at the library, and every evening we got acquainted with new people from the village. Hadeland church has a membership of scarcely 15 people, and with a handful of visitors every evening we kept a homely atmosphere. All in all we had 10-15 visitors, and some of them formed a faithful group coming back each evening.

The topics presented seemed to interest the audience. Several expressed that they had learnt many new things through the meetings and that the studies had enriched their lives. After the series the visitors were offered Bible-correspondence courses or Bible-studies, books or hand-outs from the meetings. We look forward to visit several of them, and pray that the seeds sown will spring up and bear fruit in its time.



By Siliva Pel



ESTONIA

There's still c

By Stine Gro Struksnaes

I am very thankful to God that we could meet again with our dear sister Stine. We were waiting with great excitement for her coming to Estonia. We were convinced that God had a special message to deliver to His people through Stine just now in this situation of economic meltdown.

I was personally touched by all topics.

They were all very lively, and at the same time with deep spiritual meaning. Especially I liked the story about Elijah and the widow woman, who was in a deep economic crisis and had to give away her

LAST food to a stranger.

It made me cry to God: Send me where you want me to go! There are different jobs God can give depending on every person abilities.

On Sabbath we experienced a miracle from God. When I looked out the window in the morning, I wanted to shout for joy: The view was amazing – branches heavy with snow.

All day was very blessed. The magnificent nature picture fitted exactly with the topic of the sermon: „Is there somebody who cares, when it is hard to believe that there is still somebody who cares?“

We are grateful to God and to our dear sister Stine. We wish all readers in Norway and other countries Gods rich blessings as they reach out to people around the world who are in need of salvation.

-Malle



In the end of February I had the opportunity to go for a ten day mission trip to Estonia. What a blessing to be back again! I had so many good memories from last year, and looked forward to meet good friends, new people and share Gods Word.

During my last visit I had mostly been in one place – in the village of Elva. This time my friend Riina and the church pastor had arranged a varied and exciting program. During the 10 days I was there, I would preach in 6 different churches.

The topic this time was: “Is there still One who cares when...?” Through examples from relevant situations in life I illustrated how God cares and has a solution. In Estonia the worldwide economical crises has hit hard, and one of the topics was how God can help us in such situations. I experienced how God used this sermon to touch the hearts. One morning I wanted to reassure myself what was the topic for the evening, and I asked Riina who had our program. “It’s the meeting about the economic crisis”, she said. After the meeting a lady came up to me. She and her husband were in a deep economic crisis, and the message had spoken to her. We had a touching season of prayer together. About the same time I heard that Riina had made a mistake regarding the program – I was actually supposed to speak on another topic. Sometimes God closes our eyes to reach a soul in need with a special message!

It was also a great experience to meet with the young people. Both in the capital Tallinn and in Tartu youth meetings were arranged. The topics were adjusted to something that many young people can relate to, which causes a lot of heartache and problems because many of us do not take time to seek God and accept His solution: “Is there still One who cares when I seek for a life companion and can’t find one?” (This meeting you can find at the Estonian Adventist web page: <http://live.advent.ee/h264/stine.html>) After

one of these youth meetings, a young person wrote me the following: “Great thanks to the Father who allowed us to meet. All what you told was exactly what I needed.” Another watching the meeting through the Internet wrote: “I watched this video... with one of my friend and it was so-so good... These things which you were talking about are so necessary for us young people.” Praise God – He has counsels for all areas and situations in life! “Where-

MIA

One who cares...

withal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word." (Ps. 119:9)

It also happened that I was in Estonia on their national day – a day when the village gathers for celebration, with much song and music. In the afternoon the villagers were invited to a public hall where an Advent Choir would sing. Afterwards I was scheduled to speak. The previous day Riinas friend from school had visited us and got a small private course in vegan cooking, and it was a blessing to see that she had also accepted the invitation to the meeting in the evening. She had even brought a friend. Other people from the village came as well. After the meeting the church gave "national day gifts" in the form of books like the Great Controversy and Steps to Christ. Several brought the books back home with them. Let us pray that God will work upon their hearts and that the books will be read.

There are so many things that could be mentioned from this ten day mission trip. Once more we visited some of the children at the orphanage in Elva. Once more we had a out-reach Sunday with blessed experiences on the street and from door to door. But one of the things that made the strongest impression on me this time was my meeting with Kaja. You can read her testimony beside. When I visited Elva Adventist Church a year ago, she was not there, but during this year God had done wonderful things in her life. It was a blessing for me to hear about Gods mighty works and see her enthusiasm. Let us pray for her and all the other precious friends in this little country, that they – as Kaja expresses it "may grow in His Spirit, in truth and in love." "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also must I bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be no fold, and one shepherd." (John 10:16) "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth." (John 17:17)

I received Jesus into my heart in May 1990 when I was 17 years old. In June I got baptized by immersion in "Word of Life". I can say that my heart was really burning for God at that time, and He also used me quiet a lot. But after about two years I got confused - I wondered why the preachers spoke badly about the other confessions. I wasn't theologically strong, my parents and relatives didn't support my faith, I also didn't get the answers from my pastor and I left church and fell back into the world. I believed in the existence of God, but lived as I pleased, sometimes praying "Our Father" for my two daughters.

My marriage was in a deep crisis. Five years ago, in 2004, I believe God caught me in the Lutheran Church at Tartu. I was attending a funeral, and the preacher's speech was very touching. Later I contacted him, and I finally decided to become a member of this church. I live in Elva, 30 km from Tartu, but I regularly attended the Sunday services, and even visited the church 2-3 times every week. I also decided to read The Bible regularly.

In the autumn of 2004 I started to work for an electronic company in Elva. I was successful. During a period of three years I went from being the Warehouse Team Leader to become Warehouse Supervisor, and finally the ITO Project Manager. We had often stock-takings on Saturdays and Sundays. I was tired, exhausted.

In the spring of 2007, while reading the Old Testament, it was like the words jumped up from the book in front of me: "Keep the Sabbath".

This happened many times. I wondered why the Churches teach about Sunday celebration, as I was not able to find it anywhere in the Bible. (At that time I did not know about Adventists.) I asked the teacher in my church about it. The answer was "round", but I had respect for my teacher and thought he had to be right.

About two months later I got in touch with one "lost sheep" from the Adventist church, and through her I heard about the Adventists - that they keep the Sabbath and don't eat everything etc. It was presented in a negative tone, but I decided to get to know the Adventists in Elva, as I wanted to love all people that look unto Christ. I was warmly received. For some time I believed it doesn't matter what day we celebrate the Sabbath - on Saturday or on Sunday. But I believe God didn't let me go further until I admitted HIS SABBATH. It happened in the end of last November - I still had doubts, but in January this year I decided to get more knowledge about Adventists and decided to keep Sabbath. Since February 2008 I have worked in an ecumenical Christian radio. Just before Stine coming to Elva I was invited twice to work on Saturdays. But I decided to prove God, even though I was in a pressed economical situation. (I was also fighting with the thought: "This is a Christian radio...") I didn't tell about my situation to anybody, only to God. Some days later I got the same sum as I would have earned by working on the two Sabbaths in the radio - even a little more and without taxes. I received it as a gift from a dear sister in Christ. I didn't ask, she just gave the money to me... That's Our God!!

I can say that during this quite short time I have kept the Sabbath I've got more peace into my heart, even in very difficult situations. One reason is that I have loving and supporting members and pastor in Elva Adventist Church.

Let's pray for all believers - that we all may grow in His Spirit, Truth and Love.

*With Christian love from the little Estonian town, Elva
- Kaja Tartu*

GERMANY

A new creation...

During the winter of 2006 everything in my life seemed to fall apart. My marriage was at its worst, and my work required so much of my time that there seemed to be no time left for nurturing more important values.

One day I came back home after a long day at work, and a flyer lay on the table. "Look at this", my husband exclaimed. "This sounds interesting. Maybe we should try to visit some of these meetings."

I was surprised. He always used to throw all the advertisements directly in the bin, and now I held an invitation from the Adventist Church in Möckern in my hands. A prophecy seminar held by Daniel Pel with the title: "What does the future hold?" was announced.

It truly seemed interesting, and on the 2nd of March 2006 at 7 pm we went to the first presentation in Möckern. The meeting was well attended, and I had the idea that most of the visitors already knew about many of the things the lecturer spoke about. For our sake the presentation on "Prophetic symbols and the future of this world" made a great impression, and we were in deep thoughts. For my sake it regularly brought tears and confessions. Everything seemed so logic and convincing. I had grown up in a Catholic family and had never before heard about these things. I couldn't believe it! During the meeting-series I started studying the Bible myself. I had so many questions, but did not have enough courage to ask them publicly. After the meetings, those who were interested were offered further Bible-studies from the Adventist church, and I immediately accepted the offer. My husband warned me, though, and said that if I would accept it I would eventually become an Adventist. "No", said I, "I just want to know what the Bible actually teaches, and these people know the truth."

From May 2006 I regularly received Bible-studies from Ingo and Natalie Lebeda once a week. Later brother Hartlapp also came into the picture. It was a very blessed time. "And the truth shall set you free..." – There were so many things in my life which changed, and I did not even have to make an effort for it to happen. Suddenly I realised why the world is like it is.

The Lebeda family has not only explained the Word of God for me, but they have also given me an example to follow by their way of living. They embraced me from the very beginning. Even the health message was not a sacrifice to accept. It was worth it all and I was happy to show my thankfulness to the Creator by taking care of the body He has given me. From the autumn of 2006 I regularly visited the church in Möckern and took part in the divine service. We prayed together, studied the Bible, listened to the Word of God, sang and now and then we even ate lunch together. From this time on a desire started to grow in me to be a part of Gods church.

The 19th of October 2007, as the Sabbath began, I had eventually come so far that I wanted to be baptised and with full assurance give my life without reserve to the Lord. It was a wonderful day. My brothers and sisters from the Adventist church in Möckern had prepared the day in such a lovely way. The whole room was filled with love and the presence of the Lord was tangible. I was so overwhelmed; I could not speak a word. This continued a couple of days. Every time I would open my mouth to speak, tears started to run down my cheeks. I experienced and still experience a deep thankfulness to my Lord and brothers and sisters in the faith. I am far from the goal. I still have a lot of faults to struggle with, but the Lord has started working with me, and this makes me very happy. A freedom has come into my life, a confidence and security, which I never knew before. Even when sorrow and trials meet us, we are never alone.

-Irmgard Kuhlmeiy



KENYA

A powerful testimony...

By Joshua Oloo

Greetings to you all in Jesus Christ. I take this privilege to write down a brief history on how I came to learn and accept the true and everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ in these last days before the close of Earth's history.

I am a male Kenyan Citizen, aged 27 years. By names, I'm Joshua Oloo. I'm married to Irene Barasa and God has blessed us with two children, namely Cuthbert Natasha (First born daughter aged 4 years) and Emmanuel Oloo (Last born son aged 1 year).

MY LIFE BEFORE BECOMING AN ADVENTIST

I come from a very poor background in a Kenyan village and life during my early years of growth was not easy at all. My parents were all jobless and poor thus I had to be engaged, at early stages of my life, in activities that would enable us as a family to get the finance needed for our upbringing and also meet educational expenses. My parents were not members of any particular church and this made us move from one church to another as my parents would see fit then. During these days I can still remember well, that we attended Catholic Church and Apostolic Church (of which I stayed longer until I joined High School).

Through tough times I joined High School (Catholic Sponsored) and it was mandatory that all students were to attend Sunday mass and many other masses that were there, so I became well aware of how they conduct their church services. Upon completing high school, I was to join higher institutions of learning but it was at this point that things proved much tougher for myself than ever before. After much prayer God finally opened my ways to pursue a career in Aeronautics.

The following morning I headed for the college and enrolled for the course. Here, I truly acknowledge God's mighty hands in all that happened. I am happy for what God did at this point in my life. I started my studies and before long I became popular in the college and at the end of my first semester, a student union leadership election was due and I was surprisingly elected the student's leader. As I started out in the student leadership, I was always given an opportunity to address new students. At this point something happened that amazed me a lot. There was this new intake which had different students and from then whenever I called out any meetings students would not attend and they behaved rebelliously.

One day as I was asleep in my hostel room I had a dream that startled me a lot. I dreamt of a young girl from college telling me that she needs me for an intimate relationship, further telling me that she has waited for me to come to her. I could see her plainly in the dream as she told me all these things. My response in the dream was that I do not want a relationship, but she affirmed that she meant her words. I woke up as one in a horror kind of dream would, and shared this horror with my room mate who could not give me a comforting answer.

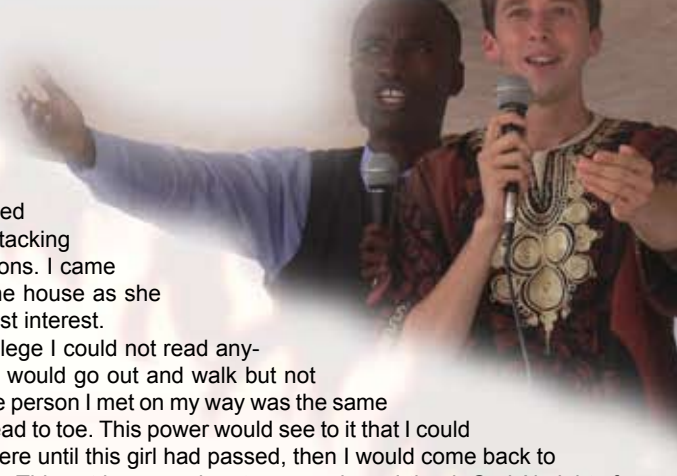
I was for sure at this point that something was wrong and I took it upon myself to watch the movement of the girl in question and do an undercover investigation to know her full name and background for I was sure she had some supernatural powers.

After this act, very unusual and strange experiences started happening to me. I could no longer hold meetings with the students as previously I would. To my surprise one fine morning I received a letter that terrified my whole life ever since and also confirmed the many questions that were running through my mind, on who actually this woman was. It was a card. On the printed pages were congratulatory remarks on the career that I was pursuing and my abilities and strengths and the success that lied ahead for me. But the scribbled words on the card were the words I was eager to know as here is where I would know who wrote the card. But upon reading, some words couldn't be read as plainly as it should, so I had to turn the card upside down, center, right to read the words written there correctly. It read: "We are an organization worshipping our god (the god's name written) and interested in blood. We want you to join our membership and promise you all the wealth in the world. I know you will be surprised but I'm the girl who came to you in a dream."

I banged the table I was at so hard that the attention of those around me realized something was wrong. I became so terrified that I couldn't move from where I sat. All I can remember at that moment is asking God why the devil is congratulating me on my efforts and if it was God who took me to this college? If it is wealth, why would the devil dare promise me wealth based on other people's blood? I remember clearly praying to Almighty God that if it is wealth, I know for sure that He is able to give me clean wealth that's not based on the sacrifice of other people's blood. I prayed that if my training in Aeronautical Engineering will be that I maintain Aircrafts that are going to kill people then He should not allow me to complete my course.

As I was still there motionless, a classmate asked me what was wrong and I explained. I then proceeded to the dean of students, and I still remember him and other lecturers conducting a short prayer with me.

Things did not get better, and as I went home that evening I sought someone's help to get a pastor to pray during these hard times so that God could save me from the dirty hands of the devil. A catholic priest was brought to my residence. To my surprise he didn't have much comfort to offer, but referred me to a Sister that could handle such matters.



The following day I went as promised and met Sister Juliana from Nigeria working in Kenya. After briefing her on my plight, she touched my forehead with a ring she informed me constitutes her powers, then prayed with me. After this she gave me Psalms 91 to read and wrote two prayers for me to be used daily at a specific time so that we can be praying together. With these, she gave me incense to burn as well as a cross to be used while praying. I was to point the cross to the four corners of the room I was in. She ended up telling me that suppose I'm praying and some demons started attacking me I should spray the holy water she gave me to destroy the demons. I came back home with these things and started to burn the incense in the house as she directed that it might drive away the bad spirits but after a while I lost interest. For quite some time I forgot about the whole issue and back in college I could not read anymore as I used to because I was constantly having a headache. I would go out and walk but not know exactly where I was going. But once when I started walking the person I met on my way was the same girl I had dreamt of but some power would come all over me from head to toe. This power would see to it that I could not move any further to meet the very girl. I would be motionless there until this girl had passed, then I would come back to my normal senses and realize that I was actually heading nowhere. This act happened on ten occasions. I thank God Almighty for His divine power that was protecting me in a motionless state during those experiences and saw to it, that I didn't get in contact with the girl who was pursuing me.

Life proved horrible for me and I faced many dark moments without any realistic help coming along as to where I can get the True Spiritual direction and help. I faced spiritual darkness. I went to many churches in search for the truth but all I could find is fault in their set-up and how they conduct their services. Then I decided I would never go to church until God shows me the true church. Also during this time, life was tough and many problems came along especially financial. I consider it a miracle that I was able to complete my education.

THE DAYS BEFORE BAPTISM

After college, I started looking for a job in Nairobi the capital city of Kenya. It was not easy. I came from our village to the city and had to be accommodated by someone. Life proved hard on my part, in that, I would get job offers only to be let down in the first day I reported to work. Several things happened and this saw to it that I never got any job by August 2006. During this month something unusual happened. The person I was living with came home drunk one night and kicked me out of his house that night and I was left without anywhere to go. I picked my Bible read some texts, packed my belongings and very early at dawn went to a friend, lend some money for a bus fare and headed home.

On reaching home, after three days my cousin Jared Oreto came to my house and informed me that he has some Christian visitors from Europe to conduct an evangelistic meetings in our land and that it has been his prayer that the meetings be done within our village but an appropriate venue was not there so he has opted out to another venue away from our village. Upon hearing this I found myself offering him a venue within my land and before long we were there with other local Adventist believers praying at the site for a successful evangelistic meeting. As I went home, I was on my knees praying to God that if that meeting is for His rightful glory then he should let it happen but if not then He should see to it that it happens not. This was because of my experience as well as the growing numbers of such meetings within the village which had the elements of supernatural influence, of which I was worried about. I was requested by him (Jared) to assist in the preparation and before long the guests arrived on Sunday evening 11/09/2006.

That evening Mr. & Mrs. Daniel and Silvia Pel and Mrs. Ruth opened the meetings. It was good. The week continued with visitation all over every household in the village. People were given insightful advices and natural medicinal remedies for healing different kinds of sickness and were called upon to come to the evening meetings. I was always in the company of Mr. Pel and I was touched by the ways he was able to show compassion to different people in varying circumstances and how he humbled himself to the task he was doing. There was complete simplicity in whatever he did & I was able to see a lifestyle that was worth emulating.

The evening sermons and teachings were Bible centered and in every way I was drawn closer to listen to its messages which made a lot of sense to me considering my experience with the world. The prophecy sermons starting from Daniel Chapter 2 on the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar made a lot of sense to me and as this theme was developed further throughout the week I came to know the truth concerning Christianity and that the Catholic system as a church is leading many astray, but there were still many questions in my mind.

Even though I used to form the visitation team with Mr Pel, he took it upon himself & the team to visit me on Thursday that week in my house to pray with me and my family. It's here they offered me a personal question on why I haven't joined the baptism class, but at this point I was not so sure of joining this class reason being, I had other questions that were not answered until the Sabbath Sermon came. As I sat there on Sabbath listening to the sermon, Matthew 24 was much quoted and an insight on which is the true Church was revealed. I found myself crying to the amazing truths being preached and revealed. It was at this time that I took the decision to be baptized. It was on this day, 17/9/2006, that I got baptized and everything changed.

AFTER MY BAPTISM

Daniel and team left that evening but my life was a different one - a changed one. Many people could not believe it and many mocked my decision on whether I would manage the new state of life I had started. At this point I would like to affirm some points. I have come to believe in: There is Power in Resting on the Sabbath day according to the dictates and directives given by God. There is Power in Baptism by Immersion in water. This is the only one true baptism one can be rest assured. The existence of the Holy Spirit as

Seeking for truth...

I grew up in a Christian home, and after marrying my wife, Sylvia, we started going to a Protestant Church. As you grow older you tend to think more about why you actually believe and where faith comes from. You get a desire to investigate certain issues. We visited a couple of churches, both Evangelical and Pentecostal. But it was different – we were uncomfortable with the noisy music. They also had a healer and spoke in tongues. This was new to me and I remained doubting.

We also visited Jewish congregations, and I asked myself how they practised their faith in Israel. I found out that in Amsterdam orthodox Jews (accepting just the Old Testament) and messianic Jews (also believing in the New Testament) worshipped together. We visited the messianic Jews, and my sister joined us. We enjoyed worshipping with them, but there was a long way to drive. Later we found out that they worshipped on both Saturday and Sunday. I thought it strange to worship on Saturday, but wanted to know if other churches in the Netherlands (close to Hoogerveen) kept Sabbath.

A flyer we received in our post-box brought my wife and me to a meeting-series held by Daniel Pel in Noordsescht. There were some good presentations on the book of Daniel and Revelation. It caught my attention. This church, the Seventh Day Adventists, also kept Sabbath. 'Now I have found what I searched for', I thought. After all the presentations we joined the Sabbath program and signed up for further Bible-studies. It is so different to keep Sabbath. First we have a Sabbath-school – a kind of dialogue on different Biblical topics, where we learn a lot. Sometimes the topics are a bit difficult, and then it is important to show understanding and realise that everyone has not come as far. Other times you may be in danger of misunderstanding, and then it is important that you dare to ask. We must never forget to respect each other. But it is important to be grounded in the faith and keep on to the truths in Gods Word. After the Sabbath-school there is a divine service.

After one year with Bible-studies, lead by Pastor Thijs de Reus and Kenneth Koffy, I was baptised on the 22nd of November, 2008. This was a rich experience and a wonderful day for us both!

-Domingoes (Pico) Nahafahik

I actually grew up as a Protestant. I went to the Sunday-school, but also made confession and was taught the Catechism. Every Sunday I went to church. There I learnt the Ten Commandments, but they never emphasised or explained the fourth commandment on the Sabbath.

Among all the advertisements we one day got an invitation from the Seventh Day Adventist church in Noordsescht to join a series of presentations held by Daniel Pel. After these meetings I felt like a new person. The message was so clear and convincing. After the meeting-series was completed, we were offered further Bible-studies, which we both accepted.

During these Bible-studies we learnt many new things, and I thought to myself: "How can it be that I have never been made aware of these things before?" But everything was so clear. During all the years I have been a Protestant, I have never deepened myself in the Bible. I never brought my Bible to church. Through the Bible-studies we learnt many new things about the Sabbath, and I thought to myself: "That's true, why do we actually keep Sunday?" Fortunately we had some good teachers that could explain it all to us.

The 22nd of November 2008 I was baptised. My old life is buried, and a new life has begun – a life closer to God. It is wonderful to be a Seventh Day Adventist and keep the Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday, as the Bible teaches us.

-Sylvia Nahafahik



promised by our Lord Jesus Christ, to teach us all things is true if your conversion is from the heart and true to your God. The Bible is the true word of God. It should be read daily as the true guide to life in all its ways. What the spirit of God has manifested in the prophetic messages found therein, is a test and proof to that fact among many others.

Believe me, all the dirty things that I used to think about were gone from my mind one after another. As I read the Bible and the pamphlets Mr Pel's team left me with I was blessed greatly. On this, I want to thank all who saw to it that this team had Bibles to give out because it was a big blessing in my life. On my first reading the spirit lead me to Deuteronomy 13:1-4 and Isaiah 8:19 and I saw God's Mighty hands clearly saving me from all I had gone through. I thank God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit for saving my life as I sing His "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me" and To Him be the Glory in all ages, "To God Be the Glory great things He has done".

After baptism I had four months of the Holy Spirit led Bible study both at Church and on a personal level and read various spiritual writings from Ellen G. White and other writers and I came to learn much of the truths that I wished to know. It was during this point that one evening as I was doing my usual studies that I got a call from our National Airline - Kenya Airways offering me a job which I had applied for some 2 years ago and after two months I was employed with Kenya Airways our national carrier. God has helped me greatly and I have seen His mighty and loving hands shaping up my life to His glory. My prayer is, that I remain in Him who holds all things together. My wife too was baptized into the faith and currently we are an Adventist family.



LW's Summercamp



Guest-speaker: Hal Mayer, director for 'Keep the Faith Ministry', America.

Hal has extensive experience in different braches of the Lords work. He is a sought after preacher internationally. Hal has a special burden for true education and equipping young people, and has worked at Hartland College for more than 20 years. He is a professor in Church history, but is also passionate about the prophetic Word. He shares a relevant and practical message, with his eyes open to the developments in society. With his broad knowledge and experience, deep insights and love for Gods Word he is a dynamic and inspiring preacher. Hal not only seeks to convey knowledge, but endeavours to be a tool to bring true revival and reformation. Take this opportunity to renew your spiritual life - in a good fellowship, surrounded by the beautiful nature of Norway!

Time: July 8 - 12, 2009

Place: The camp ground 'Vatnar' (Reshjemvn. 711, 3800 Bø i Telemark), beautifully situated in the heart of Norway (about 80 miles from Oslo).

Price: 700 NOK (85 euro) per person for room, 450 NOK (55 euro) per person for tent. Children under the age of 12: Half price. Accomodation and food included.

Childrens meetings: Stine Gro Struksnæs and Silvia Pel are responsible for meetings and activities for the children.

Contact us for more information / sign up: (Please sign up before July 1, 2009!)

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E-mail: danielsilvia@livingwater.no / stinegro78@hotmail.com



| Wednesday: | Thursday: | Friday: | Sabbath: | Sunday: |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 16.00-> Arrival | 07.00: Worship | 07.00: Worship | 07.00: Worship | 07.00: Worship |
| 18.00: Supper | 07.30: Breakfast | 07.30: Breakfast | 07.30: Breakfast | 07.30: Breakfast |
| 19.30: Meeting, Hal | 09.30: Meeting, Abel | 09.30: Meeting, Daniel | 09.30: Biblestudy | 09.30: Meeting, Abel |
| | 11.00: Meeting, Hal | 11.00: Meeting, Hal | 11.00: Meeting, Hal | 11.00: Meeting, Hal |
| | 13.00: Lunch | 13.00: Lunch | 13.00: Lunch | 13.00: Lunch |
| | 14.00: Outreach | 14.00: Departure, mountainwalk | 14.00: Walk | 14.00: Departure... |
| | 18.00: Supper | 18.00: Supper | 16.00: Meetng, Daniel | |
| | 19:30 Meeting, Hal | 19:30 Public meeting, Hal | 18.00: Supper | |
| | | | 19:30 Music, testimonies | |