



## I Press Toward the Mark

I AM THE NEW YEAR.

I am unused, unspotted, without blemish.

I stretch before you three hundred  
and sixty-five days long.

I will present each day in its turn,  
a new leaf in the Book of Life,  
for you to place upon it your imprint.

I AM THE NEW YEAR.

Each hour of every day I will give you sixty minutes  
that have never know the use of man.

White and pure I present them.

It remains to you to fill them with sixty jeweled  
seconds of love, hope, endeavor,  
patience, and TRUST IN GOD.

I AM THE NEW YEAR.

I am coming, but once past,  
I can never be recalled.

Make me your best!

“Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk, for I lift up my  
soul unto Thee” (Psalm 143:8).

## Norway Christmas Greeting

### Christmas Greetings 2009

We have entered the advent season and much around us reminds us that Christmas is approaching. At this season we look forward to a lot of things, one of them is receiving Christmas letters from near and far. We also want to reach you with a greeting. We appreciate the contact even if it is only this one time a year.

Once again we can look back on a year which is about coming to an end. Many joys and blessing we remember with thanks. Else is reminded of her osteoprosis, especially if she strains too much, and some health problems are felt now and then. But we have reason to be thankful for the fact that we are getting along alright and so take part in many activities.

After January 1st all the property here at the farm will be transferred to Marte-Marie, who together with Sigmund take over the management of it. But of course we will continue to stay in the house where we are and which we enjoy.

Marte-Marie and Sigmund continue in their occupations, and the grandchildren grow and mature to adulthood. Jon-Magnus is now in the third year of senior high school, and Ellen-Marie will this coming summer finish junior high and enter senior high school. She was confirmed May 10th, an important mile stone in her life, and it was a day of celebration and joy for us all. The confirmation ceremony in the church was fine and after that we had a joyful and blessed party here at Haug together with relatives and friends.

The end of May we enjoyed having relatives from USA here. They seemed to enjoy celebrating May 17th as did

#### November, December Receipts

November 2009 Receipts	
General Fund	\$325.00
Hungary	\$220.00
Undesignated Missions	\$100.00
Tanzania	\$40.00
<b>November 2009 Total</b>	<b>\$685.00</b>

December 2009 Receipts	
General Fund	\$1650.00
Hungary	\$360.00
Undesignated Missions	\$85.00
<b>December 2009 Total</b>	<b>\$2095.00</b>

### CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BANNER

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comforting words from Lamentations 3:22-26: "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

Let us of Hauge Foreign Mission set forth to serve the Lord in every way we can this next year, that all men might be given the choice to receive and accept this great salvation and wonderful new life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A prosperous and happy new year to you all!

~ Alvin Larson,  
Previously printed in the January, 1981 Banner

we. And then we went to Vats to the place our common fore-fathers came from, which they also seemed to enjoy. Another relative came in June. We have through the years enjoyed the contact with our many relatives in the USA.

Another highlight for Else and me was attending the General Assembly of our Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Bergen in July. In our local mission groups we are usually not so many, but when we gather from all over the country 3000-4000 were gathered under our motto, "*The World for Christ*". The motto of the Convention was "*To Freedom*". Even if we are weak and unworthy in ourselves, but through faith in our crucified and risen Lord who atoned for our sins we are partakers in God's salvation and have hope for life and eternity. That we want to share with every tribe and nation.

The end of August we made our traditional trip to Vats. We enjoy having contact with relatives and friends there.

In October we enjoyed having two friends and co-workers from Japan, a couple on honeymoon, on visit here. In Germany they visited the famous places of the Lutheran reformation. In Norway they wanted to see the roots of those who brought the gospel of Jesus to them. Special to us was that they came from the congregation we started in 1957.

We are thankful that we still have health and strength to partake in the local work of the Mission, and also in the Vestfold area. And we always have something to do both inside and outside, In summer Magnus use a lot of time behind the lawn mower and fight the weeds. And we are both busy with harvesting different kinds of berries and fruits, and Else always has some needlework at hand.

Now we look forward to once again celebrate Christmas with loved ones here in Haug. We remember our Lord Jesus Christ who was rich, yet for our sake became poor, so that we by His poverty might become rich, believing in Him. II Cor. 8:9.

We wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Warm greetings from Else and Magnus Sørhus



### Joy to the world!

#### Dear Friends,

We are thankful to God that he has been graceful and cared for us also these last two years. Last Christmas we did not manage to send our Christmas letter except a few cards to our closest relatives. So that means we have to sum up some “happenings” in our family the last two years.



Also last Christmas was celebrated at Hornnes (350 km from Oslo) where both Åshild and I come from. We were all of us this time – including our grandchildren Martin and Vegard. (The sons of Anne Marie and Nils Ragnar –see photo) Also this year we will be there, but Anne Marie with family will remain here to be with the parents of Nils Ragnar. As you, we had a lot of cold and snowy weather this year – but also beautiful (see enclosed photo)

Having celebrated Easter last year (2008) Åshild had a cancer surgery. We were very anxious because of this frightening diagnosis, but all tests so far show no signs of cancer. Our thanks go to the Lord of life and death – and also to clever doctors and nurses. I myself had a successful hip surgery some weeks ago, and will be on sick leave up to mid- January.

In August 2008 Åshild and I had been married for 40 years. We had a small celebration by having dinner together with our children. We are thankful both to God and to each other for all those blessed years together!! Since Åshilds mother was not well - 90 years old - we went to Hornnes one week before Christmas. We had planned to send the rest of our Christmas greetings from there, but unfortunately our laptop refused to function so we could neither print nor send e-mails. So therefore this great delay.

By this, we wish you all a blessed and merry Christmas and a happy new year! “- and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ~ Matt. 1. 21.

Yours, Åshild and Gunnar

### A Call to Remembrance

“I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings” (Ps. 77:10-12).

It should thrill our hearts as we recall the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon each of us and remember the love that He has for each one of us. For those of us who have experienced what is to be born unto the family of God and who know the mercy and love that He has bestowed upon us, there should be heartfelt praise and thanksgiving rendered daily. If we fail to remember, perhaps we should pray as the Psalmist in 136:6: “If I do not remember Thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth.” Yes, it is good for us to remember the darkness we were in and how by God’s grace and the leading of the Holy Spirit we were brought into His marvelous light and truth. We have been set free from the power and bondage of living a life in sin. It is, of course, not good to look back in such a way that we become depressed or dwell on past glories and are no good for the present of the future. Yet we read in II Peter 1:9 that he that forgets is “blind, and cannot see afar, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” In remembrance there should be humility and thanksgiving. What we have been set free from should cause our hearts to give thanks and praise for such a great salvation which is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us also remember the present. God in His Word assures us that He is ever present to watch over us, to comfort us, and to strengthen us from day to day as we go with Him into this year.

What is our future? For the unsaved it is indeed a sorry lot. They do not care to look into the future, for they have no hope of eternity. They live for this life alone, and when man lives for self, then he also will be alone in eternity – without God and without hope. But for the Christian who has put his trust in the Lord Jesus there is the assurance of not being alone in this life, not in death, nor in eternity, for Jesus will be with us *all the way*. All our needs for time and for eternity are met in Jesus Christ our Lord. We have a great future as His children. Let me close with the

*hungary testimony continued from previous page*

serve Him, even though several times I have been about to stop teaching at all. Two years ago, at a conference held in Piliscsaba, I understood from Isaiah 40 the importance of the person making the way in the wilderness, for “the Lord God will come with might.” I felt, and still feel that the place where I work is a spiritual wilderness. Two colleagues and I regularly get together to pray for the school, and for the conversion of teachers and students. The last such crisis I lived was in September 2009; however, He showed me that I had to lead young people to Him here. He assured me of this by making several students come to the youth conference of EKE due to my call, and regularly turning to me with their greatest issues, and I try to ask God in prayer for the answers. Budapest, 2009. december 30.

## Hungary Christmas Greeting



After the big celebration we wish you blessed days in this year and blessed New Year by the Lord to you!

Before Christmas we were in two prisons and we give a Christmas service to the prisoners. My brothers who helped me were the Waked up Gypsies from Nyírtelek-Görögszállítás.

I send a Christmas pictures about our family. One boy in the pictures he came from Michigan he is a volunteer from Reformed Church he working between Gypsies! God bless you! ~ Misi

Hungary Summer Team dates are set—June 24-July 12. If you are interested in going, email Pastor Jonathan at [millpondguy@centurytel.net](mailto:millpondguy@centurytel.net).



## Hungary Testimony

My name is Gergely Kósa. I was born in the summer of 1981, and grew up in Balatonfüred, one of the most beautiful places in the world. My parents are Lutherans, so was I. My mother and I attended a local Lutheran church and a small home group. The church that had planted this group is in Budapest, had Lutheran roots, but later became a Free Church; its name is “Free Evangelical Ecclesia” (SZEE), its pastor was then Ferenc Sréter, but several other people also served in various mission branches. Two or three of them came regularly to Balatonfüred. As a child, I felt a strange difference between the local Lutheran church and the house group. At the age of 12, I received Jesus Christ into my heart in a child camp of SZEE; afterwards I slowly got to understand why the church atmosphere was different. It may have been strange — in fact, I did not understand it, either — that I often wanted to help the local pastor. I always wanted changes, but I hardly let this be seen; this kind of restlessness was rather inside me. Having graduated from secondary school, I spent two years trying to find my way. I liked geography and physical education, so I wanted to become a teacher. However, my preparedness turned out to be insufficient, and I was not admitted. I obtained a triathlon coach qualification those years, but I never really meant I would do that for a living. I began dental technician’s studies, for my brother is also a dental technician, but I soon had to realize I could not do that. This school was in Budapest, and I was accommodated in the parsonage of SZEE. There I got several impulses making it clear to me that God had made a ministry to me. Ministries such as “Preaching fellow worker” or “evangelism fellow worker” filled me with joy whenever they came to my mind. I stopped my studies as a dental technician, and applied for the Lutheran Theology. All this happened in 2002. There were warm-hearted believers among my fellow students. It was Mária Adámi, already a member of EKE, who first told me about EKE. I got to know several EKE ministers, participated youth camps and weekend conferences. I soon got into good relationship with them, but I was still far from the end of my theological studies. The difficult material and the various non-Christian doctrines weakened me very much. It was in those years I got to know a domestic



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mission ministry called “Hungarian Domestic Missions Biatorbágy”, where I found spiritual support during the sometimes painful, sometimes beautiful years of theology studies. I have been doing youth ministry in this mission since 2004.

I finished theological studies in 2008, but I did not yet start serving as a pastor. I had got married in the summer of 2007, my wife was doing the fourth year of the University of Medical Sciences. On the one hand, I wanted to wait for her; on the other, my bishop could only offer me places where the so-called “new liturgy” had been introduced, which I did not wish to be involved in. These were the reasons motivating our decision with my wife to stay in Budapest. We looked for a flat to rent, which was not easy, but thanks to God, we found one on time. Perhaps it was even harder to find a job. Finally, after one and a half months spent with searching, I got a job as a mass mail receiver in the Logistics Center of the Hungarian Postal Services. It soon turned out that I was in the right place. God gave me a lot of work. I worked among people who would not have gone to church for love of for money. Then I thought, “It is for me to come to you.” At work, I got opportunities to talk to many people, to teach them about Jesus. Some asked for a Bible, some got Christian books, some got help to find a church. As spring came, I had to make a hard choice. My manager offered me a very good position. Then I had to consider what my real task was, and to think whether I could still serve Jesus in my new job. I came to see that I couldn’t accept the better position; instead, I had to start to serve in a church.

So we moved to Bokod, a village with 2200 people, on July 4, 2009. It was hard again for the bishop, for my wife, doing her sixth year at the university, has to work in a hospital that can conduct her practical training—so we had to find a church close to one of such hospitals. And Bokod was such a church. Under many difficult circumstances, we had to make many hard decisions to accept this church from God’s hand. It is interesting that I had been there two years before, for the church of Bokod and the school nearby have been accommodating the “western” child camp of EKE for years.

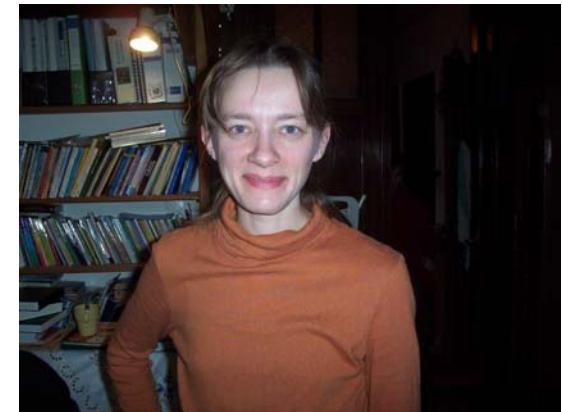
Six months have passed, spent with getting to know the church and the opportunities to serve. This fall I decided to join and serve in EKE, and I asked to be admitted.

May God bless those who read these words. Let them rejoice with us, since it turned out just before Christmas that if the Lord wills, we will live and also have a child in the summer of 2010.

Soli Deo Gloria!

## Hungary Testimony

I am Katalin Antal, I was born in 1977. I currently work as a teacher of biology and geography in the “Fasor” Lutheran secondary school. The family I grew up in was religious, but not believing. I have been belonging to the Lutheran Church in Deák tér, Budapest since I was born. I was baptized and confirmed there. I spent six years



abroad as a child; then, returning to Hungary, I became a student of the “Fasor” Lutheran school. It was then that I joined the youth group of the church, where the way Pastor Károly Pintér explained the Word of God greatly influenced me. It was the same at Sunday services. I remember that whenever we took the Lord’s Supper, when he said, “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow in the blood of Christ,” I burst out in crying under the pressure of my sins by which I had often caused pain to God and to people.

As a university student, I joined the Lutherania Choir, where I still sing. Bach’s Cantatas and Passions, as well as our choir leader’s comments, each worth a testimony, raised many questions in me related to the Word of God. I discussed there issues with an older person in the choir, a believer. Though I also tried reading the Bible (using our Bible Reading Guide), these attempts, as well as my daily prayers, failed one after the other.

I cannot tell the exact date of my conversion. It was during a period of seven months when I worked in Britain. There I took part in the lives of English Christian families and fellowships, and by the special grace of God, it was there I first heard the preachings of Pastor Kálmán Cseri. Then I felt that in every decision to make, I had to follow the Word of Christ, Who had been standing and knocking at my door for several years.

When I returned to Hungary, I first taught in a Reformed school, but later God led me back to my former school, where I work today. Here, the Lord made it clear again and again that this was the place for me to