

“ARCTIC HOPE IN GREENLAND”

Daniel & Solveig

Missionaries in Qasigiannuit, Greenland

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Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called **according to His purpose**.

2Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to his own purpose and grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

1Timothy 6:12 **Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called, and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear without a preacher?** **Romans 10:15** And how shall they preach, **except they be sent?**...

Hello Everyone, Greetings from Greenland,

We have returned from our northern trip, which was truly a learning experience for everyone involved. We returned safely experiencing several near disasters, but before we talk about the trip north, again we thank you all for the needed support that keeps His ministry moving forward no matter what. To us it's not numbers, it's souls, one by one, thank you Lord.

REJECTED IN OUR OWN TOWN:

Just before we left to go north we went to the fish processing plant to ask for a fish tub that the fishermen use to store their catch in on their boats. They're about 4X5X5 feet in size, a very hard plastic, double walled tub. We told them that we wanted it to be used for baptism. They said no they are only for the fishermen. Then I asked, if that's the case why do I see them all over town and that people are using them for storage and dog houses. Then they said yes. They gave us one that was broken on the outside but still could hold water. We put it on the back deck of the boat.

Now news travels fast, and you see, here in the state church you get baptized as a baby by sprinkling of holy water, then at 14 years of age you get confirmed in the church then have a drinking party afterwards. That's pretty much the norm here in Greenland.

*The baptism tub news spread quickly and now we are a different kind of Christian here in town. It was never a secret what we teach, and baptism (by emersion) was often talked about in our Bible studies. People that get baptized here in Greenland are often ostracized from others as if you denied your own country. Even Anda & Laila said we can't help you anymore because it makes them look bad and they will lose friends. **We have a whole new atmosphere here in town.***

John 15:19 *If you were of the world, the world would love his own: yet because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, **therefore the world hates you.***

OUR FIRST NORTHERN TRIP:

First let's focus on the goodness of God and the lessons learned. We are thankful that we had a safe return although it was ½ speed, about 5 knots or so. We had 2 young Greenlandic men in their early 20's, that didn't have any experience as seamen. I also didn't realize how immature these two young men were.

Another lesson was communication. I have also learned that just because a Greenlandic person says yes, I understand, that isn't necessarily true. You see, if a Greenlandic understands all the words except ONE WORD, that one word can make a difference between life and death.

Most of what I learned in Canada was about the Canadian waters which are much different than Greenland. We had two main issues with our anchoring. One was depth and the other was wind. Unlike Canada, our depth to anchor up in northern Greenland in some places can easily be 80 to 100 feet deep with an average wind of 15 to 25 knots. And that's just what we encountered in Niaqornat, which is the village we went to.

There are a few more issues that I learned about that will make a difference for our next trip north. I saw firsthand how treacherous the northern waters can be.

What happened on our trip that almost caused a complete disaster were the young men on watch that didn't pay attention to their duties. The first one let a big iceberg blow toward us and bump the side of the boat, (**he wasn't paying attention**) then the iceberg broke, rose up 30ft into the air and almost sunk us. It was a quick reaction on my part, jumping out of bed and starting the engines as fast as possible, pulling forward before the anchor was raised as the iceberg came down and only hit the rear wooden rail on one side, which broke. It could have easily sunk our boat in a moment's time. It happened at 2am

The second issue that arose was again a young man **on watch went to sleep**. He was told if the boat begins to drift wake me up so I could adjust or pull up the anchor and re-anchor. I was on watch all night the night before myself, and needed some rest. I was awakened by the sound of gravel on the bottom of the boat. The boat had drifted sideways to shore, NOT GOOD. Remember, the boat is about 30 tons 50ft long. Without going into details we damaged the propellers and had to leave right away to return home.

Solveig already went to the village of about 40 people, talked to a few people and put up a flyer on the bulletin board in town. We setup the place and time and that night we had planned to show "The Passion of the Christ" with a message. We had to call and cancel.

I didn't know the extent of the boat damage, so I thought it best to get back ASAP to inspect the boat, which I did when we got back home. I got a wetsuit and inspected the damage and found bent propellers and a rudder issue which I was able to fix while the boat was still in the water.

The boat now has to come out of the water and the propellers need to be sent to the UK for repairs. Winter comes quickly here in Greenland so unfortunately our summer season will be over by the time the propellers come back.

