



Pieter & Nora Kalkman International Ministries

*Life-changing missions in Europe through partnerships
with European Baptist Federation*



April 2009 Newsnotes – What when Obama wept? & Extra time for volunteers

The first weekend of April a celebrity came to town, streets were lined for many hours, with people wanting to see a glimpse and welcome the leader of the free world. Too bad for them, but somewhat lucky for us, he was several hours late. We had worked in our office all Saturday, went home late, knowing the streets from the airport to downtown must have been blocked, and we must have missed him; but when we finally had our light supper, on our deck besides our house at 6:30 pm, then Air Force One passed by our dining table, at only about 400 yards distance above us.

The next day on our way to church, we stopped and parked near the square where Obama was preaching or rather speaking, and we listened a few minutes into his speech, before continuing our way to church. It was Palm Sunday, and the parallels with Obama, leader of the free world, triumphal entry to Prague, the (rotating) capital of Europe, and the visit of Jesus, the Lord who freed the world, triumphal entry to Jerusalem, provided strong imaginary experiences for a life time.

When Jesus approached the city, (Luke 19:41,42), He began to weep. He said: 'How, I wish today, that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes'. I wonder what Obama thought approaching Prague, about to announce the controversial installation of nuclear rocket interception system radars. What if Obama had stopped the motorcade, went on his knees and would have cried out to God, why this city had not seek and found true peace in Jesus, still 20 years after communism. How long would Gods patience last with this world, how long would we have time to turn to Him. How long would we as missionaries have time to bring, and help to bring the good news? We pray that the economical crises will not pre-maturely shorten this time of our and other missionaries' service. Please, if you are able to support our ministry here, use the information on giving on the website.

Fulfilling the mission call

A teacher English in Pennsylvania had heard the Lord's call to go for mission work to Slovakia in the early 90s, circumstances had postponed the option to follow up on this until last Fall when we received her application and could link her with a Slovakian Church. This church focuses on serving the community, and inviting kids to summer camps, where many find the Lord. By teaching English at local high-schools the teacher helped the church to reach out to the schools and invite the kids for the camps. After 15 years a dream came true of following up on what God had put in this teachers heart, a call to do short term mission work in the former East-block. When Kathy completed this ministry in April, and due to the cancellation of other volunteer commitments to Europe, we entered a week without any volunteers.

More time for volunteering

I was talking after church with a businessman, sharing that in the current economic climate, we are noticing a volunteer decline compared to last year. The businessman was surprised meaning that when there is less work, people should have more time to volunteer!!
- We admire and adopt that perspective and I talked with some Baptist Leaders in Europe to find places to volunteer where room and board cost are lower than in the US.

Please pray if God wants to use you for His work, so that these hard times for many, may bear more fruit for the Kingdom. Visit our IM or MPT website, or contact us directly, for options that fit your situation.

Greetings and Blessings,

Pieter & Nora