



Pieter & Nora Kalkman International Ministries

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



February 2009 Newsnotes --Explosive growth, and a missy for missies

Dear friends,

The winter season naturally limits travel options, and in February we tried to build on this seasonal tide, by networking with visitors to the intensive courses and conferences at IBTS (International Baptist Theological Seminary). These events were attended by Baptist leaders from all over Europe and the middle East, we had a chance to talk with many of them between the sessions. We were happy to meet with a number of our partners visiting us in Prague, that we had visited before in their own churches. We were able to discuss and to get updates. We rejoiced about what God is doing in their places.

We had invited the General Secretary of the Baptist Union in Armenia, over to our house for a meal, and recalled memories from when we visited him in Armenia. We rejoiced over the revival God is causing in Armenia. With only 3 Baptist churches at the end of Communism there are now more than 150 churches now as well as a remarkable seminary. Congregations are being helped to build their own church building, which can be done for less than \$50,000 per building. There are several construction projects where volunteers can participate, as well as volunteers for seminary teaching or other outreach are needed. Also, helping construction for Iranian Christian conferences or helping Iranian Muslims crossing the border daily or helping Armenians for business are each a volunteer option. There is a need too for a retired pastor volunteer, who could help to set up an international church for the international community in Yerevan, Armenia.

We worshipped one Sunday at the Baptist Church in Bratislava, Slovakia. One of the ways for them to reach their community is to be transparent, and honest about their struggles. They do not pretend that 'everything is just fine', rather they try to be a witness by showing what God means for them in everyday life struggles. We were impressed by two handicapped members of the church, who did not sit back due to their handicap, but they tried to reach their community through sending encouraging scripture text-messages from their cell phone.

We met with the General Secretary from the Baptist Union in Slovakia, whose son struggles with cancer. We shared with him that we were on our way to Budapest Hungary, for a couple of days of workshops with a missionary for missionaries, whose call it is to provide professional support to missionaries on the field.

Greetings & Blessings,

Pieter & Nora