



## Pieter & Nora Kalkman International Ministries

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



### January 2009 Newsnotes – The Mouse and the Kingdom, the Palace, and the Slope

Dear friends,

#### *Christmas in January*

That the seminary students arrived back to Prague mid-January is related to the Eastern European Orthodox Christmas calendar, with celebrations well into January. We stepped aside from our familiar traditions, and followed the local customs for a change: Carp for Christmas dinner, and putting the tree up at December 24 (Czech –Western- calendar). We did not foresee ending up having the Christmas tree nearly all of January, rather than enjoying it the usual all of December.

#### *Jesus' presence*

Traditions may vary in different countries, but the essence of the celebrations: Christ among us is universal! We want to wish all of you Christ's visible presence in you, with you, and through you, and ourselves, for the year 2009! Blessings for 2009!

#### *An uninvited visitor*

We often try to keep our ministry vehicle - tiny house on wheels - ready for all circumstances; So at unusual cold days this month, its features helped us to keep going, when our house was without water (due to frozen pipes). We also keep a small supply of non-perishable foods in the car, items that allow us to survive unexpected circumstances on long trips. However, a week into January, we noticed some sealed instant coffee portions, as well as edges of road-maps were gnawed at, providing nest-insulation and food to an uninvited visitor. We put a trap out, and the next day we had caught a mouse.

#### *Right choices*

It crossed my mind that if we are not effective working in the Kingdom of God, or falling short in our giving and dedication to God's work, we are like little mice: gnawing, damaging and taking away the edges and content of the Kingdom, leaving traces of damage and harm behind. I was thinking of warnings, the severity but also the beauty of the Gospel, Jesus' words for us, and His help and will for us to live our lives in full. Let the current times of economic challenges still help us to make the right choices, to (re-) focus on what matters for our souls, and seek His Kingdom first. We also want to extend special thanks to you who keep supporting us to do God's work here in Europe in these difficult times.

#### *Father & daughter cooking*

Norita and Pieter practiced cooking skills two Saturdays, when activities of the church kept Nora away from home. First there was the many-years-overdue women's retreat weekend, held in a chateau southeast of Prague, with a good speaker challenging 54 ladies for discipleship. Second, some ladies of Nora's Bible-study group invited her for a downhill ski class on the slopes north of Prague. It introduced Nora for the first time ever to skiing. Apart from some strained muscles, she enjoyed this un-Mexican activity. Please join us to pray that this year again, seeking women may find Christ through the ministry of the Wednesday morning Bible studies that Nora leads.

Greetings and Blessings,  
Pieter & Nora Kalkman