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If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statues you have set up. Daniel 3: 17-18

Dear friends close by and far away,

I have been contemplating these verses from Daniel for a while now. How often do we say that we love God, but we are not willing to submit our lives to Him. To „serve“ God, as slaves used to serve, means unconditional obedience. These men had one rule: “The God we serve”. They knew God, they had a close relationship with Him, they probably talked to Him daily, despite their circumstances. They were living in Babylon at the time. They would have had every reason to fault God for being far away from home in captivity..... but within this relationship of trust and submission, they were able to say „this God we serve, the one that we know and talk to every day... can save us from the blazing furnace (do something humanly impossible.)

The most important decisions are made at the furnace's door!!!

The miracle of salvation was not **the main thing** for those three men, but **their determination!** And that is why they added a sentence: “And even if He doesn't” = not a lack of faith, but **leaving the decision up to God!!!**

Most of us have been through blazing furnaces and were saved. This difficult test and the wonderful experience must have left deep traces in the lives of the 3 men = they experienced God's closeness and faithfulness in a tangible way.

As a family we are doing pretty well. Over time we have experienced more rest, although there is still a lot to do – but less stress (more inner peace). But we still have our challenges with Filip = in shock situations (when someone grumbles or shows angry reactions = even when it does not concern him) he gets aggressive. But he calms down faster and asks for forgiveness as well.

Misch enjoys **to ride** or teach others horseback riding during his down time – but even working with the horses (even taking horse dung out to the fields as a fertilizer or **making cheese** out of milk from our two cows (the younger one gave birth to a bull) – brings him joy.

Senta loves to plant and clean the flower bed and her weekly lessons for adults (Roma) who cannot read and write.

Our church organized a wonderful conference together with our filial church in Rosenau for the very first time. Our guest speakers were Christiane and Axel Weber (a pastor couple from Zwickau) and Francois Botes (a well know prophet from South Africa). We were surprised by the many guests from other churches that followed our invitation (some of them from Misch's pastor prayer group). The conference topic was “The works of the Holy Spirit”.

We love the fellowship **in our homegroups** and the new members. Last Wednesday a man in Felmer told me that he has not been drinking for a month – starting from the time he decided to attend church (his wife has been praying for him for a long time. There had been much struggle and conflict in their home despite their 6 children).



The children group we are having in Felmer in a young family's courtyard – they are living “la Grajduri” (at the stables) is under attack as well. We had furnished an empty room with a woodstove and two benches (made of wood) and were meeting there. But suddenly, at the beginning of the year, the children told us that the orthodox priest talked against the “converts”. We really saw the children retreat. I sighed and called out to God.

And then a children's missionary from Kronstadt offered to visit our children group and brought winter jackets and sweets. This invitation brought 50 children to our meeting on Saturday. I was amazed when 20 children returned and came to the next meeting, even without promises of gifts.



Our youth group is growing as well. They organize their own meetings (independently) and want to start personal discipleship as well. The picture shows an evangelistic stage play at Fogarash castle = crucifixion of Jesus.



We are having the 4th meeting in **our discipleship school** this year. (we are planning an outreach after the fifth. We are still asking God how to continue next year.



Discipleship school Team



Prayer requests:

- **Beatrice**, a six year old girl in our church is facing a difficult operation in April. A growth between her kidney and a main blood vessel must be removed urgently. They do not know if it is benign or malign. This dangerous operation must be performed in a private hospital and will cost €6000. Doctors in the public hospital in Bucharest seemed pretty insecure. If some of you would like to support her, please mark your donation “for Beatrice’s Operation”
- **Misch** needs prayer for new energy. Sometimes he feels tired and exhausted.
- Please pray for **Filip** and our challenges concerning him, sometimes even during the children’s meeting in Felmer
- **Our cars** (one of our church buses as well as our Seat) have been at the garage for repairs for several weeks now. We took them to Kronstadt this week, as our garages here couldn’t find a solution. Please pray for God’s wisdom. If some of you would like to give towards the repair costs, please mark your donation “church bus repair”.
- Please pray for our **discipleship school**. May we recognize the disciples for our next school year (if God blesses us with connections to other churches

Thank you so much for your prayers and material support!!!
God will repay you!!!

Connected by His love,

Misch and Senta with Philippus



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