



NORA & PIETER KALKMAN

In the early 1990's, the opening of former Eastern Block countries in Europe provided numerous opportunities to help and encourage struggling churches and Christian organizations in those areas. Nora and Pieter returned from their deputation year in 2005 to Prague, Czech Republic, which they use as a base for their ministry. From Prague, they travel extensively, meeting with partners throughout Europe, Middle East and West Asia to identify needs and to coordinate opportunities for American Baptist churches and individuals to engage in mission in Europe.

Dear Friends,

With thankfulness and prayer we write this letter to our many faithful supporters and new friends. We are currently in the United States telling the story of what God is doing among the churches in Europe and the privilege we have to serve Christ on your behalf and on behalf of the American Baptist churches. We want to share with you some of those stories as well as let you know about a great opportunity and need that is before us.

A 'seismic change' has occurred in regards to our support. The American Baptists have moved from denominational mission support to the need for individual missionaries to gain their own support. We now have a completely new challenge of learning how to raise and sustain funds.

Last year, in answer to prayer, we saw our support rise from 8% to about 80% within a few months for which we not only praised the Lord, but also saw our ministry confirmed by you and other donors. It occurred as part of a special matching funds campaign. More than 30% of that has been sustained support and we are clearly moving in the right direction. But we need your help and here is a unique opportunity.

This week, the '360 initiative' is being launched at International Ministries! With this matching grant fund you can pledge \$30 a month, or a Dollar a Day and the fund will add 50% to your gift (as long as the fund lasts, and your pledge is made over the web, before May 31st). This effort will "Turn a \$1 a day into an extra \$180 a year". Simply go on the website and make a pledge: www.internationalministries.org

With 100 donors pledging to help in the coming weeks, we will reach our target and can dedicate all our attention to ministry again. Then we can conclude this deputation time and return for a third term to Europe. We ask you to consider being one of the 100 donors that will help us to return to the mission field.

Here's the good news from Europe:

We have new openings for medical doctors and nurses to work and share God's love together with local churches and doctors in former Soviet states. We facilitate mission in nations that are against Christianity, and that are closed to Christian witness. We team up

with locals for door to door evangelism in such places. Your \$30 a month can make this possible and penetrate areas normally 'closed' to the Gospel

Over the past years we prayed and God helped us to place volunteers ages 16 to 86 in countries such as: Armenia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, and the Ukraine.

Volunteers followed God's call and used their holidays, vacations, semester off, or sabbaticals to be involved in ministries such as: Teaching English, VBS, camps, pastoral ministry, construction, renovation, radio and library work, teaching theology, maintenance, repairs, mentoring, evangelism, mercy ministries ,etc.

In Europe, decisions for Christ are usually not made on the spot, but after intensive consideration and contemplation. In the Czech Republic, it takes often 4 years for a person after first meeting a Christian, to then become a Christian. This is partly because during communism, being a Christian was presented as highly unpopular and being rather violent and retarded. With God's help, our volunteers show that it is exactly the opposite; and with our local partners, we have a lasting ministry and see fruit.

We had a volunteer setting up an English teaching program at a church. Working with sincere dedication, she did not see the fruit of conversions during the 8 months she was there, but in the years after she left, over 30 people (and still counting) came to Christ through the ministry she started. We praise God that He is calling her now to full time ministry! Volunteering has started life-time vocations!

We set up teams in Lithuania. After returning, they sent new teams themselves in the following years. We see both: Local churches that stay for follow up and for harvest and nurturing the seeds that were planted, and then witness the growth God grants. Also teams return, or send new teams or individuals by themselves after we got them started. Let your \$30 continue to make this multiplication possible.

We had a pastor go as a volunteer to the field, wanting to quit his church and conclude the ministry with that trip. Instead, God encouraged him through the perseverance and faith of the hosts at the work site. He went back to his church spurring growth in his own church.

Last month, I spoke in a church that had a team in Europe 5 years ago. A young man of about 21 years of age approached me and he told me, with so much enthusiasm, that he was on the team and that it seemed as if he had just returned yesterday. He still carried the blessings with him to spread around when he returned back in the US. US churches are blessed by returning volunteers. Let God use your \$30 a month pledge to bring rich and mutually blessings overseas and at home.

How much needs to be raised?

Our 100%-target is compared to an average US-pastors salary. The actual cost for serving on the mission field exceeds that amount due to the cost of overseas travel, higher currency rates in many countries, visa, and residence permit related expenses, schooling for kids overseas, etc.

What if you want to give more or less than \$30 a month?

In this fundraising letter we want to highlight the Dollar a Day, or \$30 a month steps to find a sustaining support basis for our ministry. To participate, you will need to go to the website. www.internationalministries.org

Otherwise, gifts of any amount can be sent at any time during the year.

- Individuals can send a gift directly to: International Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851 (Mark 'Target Kalkmans, on the memo line).
- Churches can send gifts through the normal reporting form.

Please pray and consider how the Lord leads you in giving and investing in our ministry. You are part of our Mission Partnership Network and we appreciate your support. Let us work together and be partners with this common goal to reach those in different European countries to come to faith in Christ, to grow in their relationship with God and to change their world through the power of the Spirit. Thank you so much!
May the Lord Bless you richly,

Pieter & Nora Kalkman, April 2010

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Here is a letter from our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Reid Trulson

Dear Friend of the Kalkmans,

April 2010

As the former International Ministries Representative to Europe, then Area Director for Europe and the Middle East and now Executive Director of International Ministries (IM), I am very familiar with the important work of Pieter and Nora Kalkman in Europe and highly recommend their ministry.

The Kalkmans have a proven, effective and sensitive ministry of connecting volunteers with the places in Europe that can benefit from the volunteers' particular experience and skills. Through their extensive network of relationships within the European Baptist

Federation, the Kalkmans work with church leaders to identify needs and to match volunteers who then partner with the local church to address those needs.

As you know, because of the continent's great cultural complexity, European Christians live in very diverse contexts – from highly secularized to nominally religious to largely Islamic. The Czech Republic, where I served with IM prior to the Kalkmans arrival, has a majority atheist/agnostic population.

Although the gospel was once widely known across the continent, Europe is now again in great need of the knowledge of Jesus that transforms lives and cultures. We have seen how volunteers can truly make a difference in helping people come to faith in Christ, grow in their relationship with God and change their world through the power of the Spirit. I am reminded of how Barnabas met with the church in Antioch and then helped create the link between Saul and that local church. Working in that kind of partnership, the church's needs were met and many came to faith (Acts 11:19-26). That is the kind of encouraging, advising and facilitating ministry to which the Lord has called Pieter and Nora Kalkman in Europe.

Without reservation I can say that the Kalkmans' ministry is deserving of your prayer and financial support. You can increase the impact of your gift to this ministry through the 360 Matching Fund at www.internationalministries.org. Your web-based commitment to support the Kalkmans for this next year with a "Dollar a Day" (\$30 a month) will be increased by a 50% match. This will provide sustaining support for the Kalkmans as they enable volunteers to minister throughout Europe. This matching opportunity is available until May 31 or until the Fund is exhausted.

Thank you for considering your help with this important ministry.

Yours together in Mission,
Rev. Dr. Reid Trulson,
Executive Director