



This is the second last time we are sending out our Newsletter A Hope in the Dark from the Maj-Lis Philanthropic Foundation, social work with a Christian basis. We have sent out the four-page newsletter every three months since the late nineties. Before that, we had sent letters with information about the work done ever since the revolution in Portugal in 1974. One of the reasons we are changing now is that we need to simplify our way of keeping in touch with you, saving time and making it less costly both locally and internationally.

If you have an email address, please send it to styrelsen@maj-lis.org

We do not want to lose contact with you.



Find previous Newsletters at www.maj-lis.org



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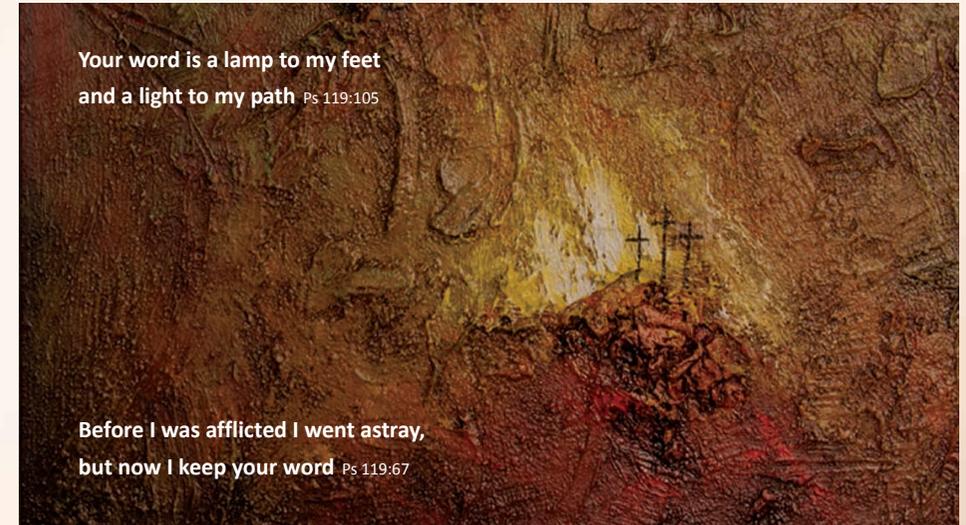


A Hope in the Dark

Newsletter

Maj-Lis Philanthropic Foundation

June - August 2018



Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path Ps 119:105

Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I keep your word Ps 119:67

This year, Maj-Lis celebrates 60 years since the event which transformed her life and self-image. Here is her story:

I have two birthdays: in 1939 I was born in Frösön and in 1958 born again in Karlskoga. 'To become spiritual' or 'be born again' have some similarities to erasing a computer hard drive, installing a new operating system and restarting. That I should need this, was unfortunate, but in a way, nothing new. Ever since the creation, God had wished that his living, newly created man and woman should live forever. When both failed God's law, their eyes opened and they understood the difference between good and evil and were thereby responsible for what they did with their lives. The spiritual union with God was broken.

One had to sacrifice animal to approach the LORD, the God of hosts, until Jesus came and said: Unless a man is born again, he cannot see [& understand] the kingdom of God. 1 John 2:11. I now see 22 August as the day when I was born again and I saw the light opened up for me and as it is written: He has (gets) the testimony in himself. 1 John 5: 10



(continuation)

60 years have passed since 22 August, 1958. From one day to the other I was changed. (I reflect how I was before.) Born in the middle of Sweden to believing parents, we moved to Årjäng when I was 5. Already when young I was interested in colors and shapes. I created and sewed my ideas with crepe paper as well as hessian. The interest continued. After finishing school and evening oil painting with the artist Lidén, I studied two years of sewing and fashion. My mother knew that a time of practice was on the way in Paris and New York, so she advised me to first go for a special week in Karlskoga Pentecost and even asked them to arrange a diet for me. I had been chronically ill for several years and my parents worried themselves about finding specialist care. I even needed an ambulance sometimes.

That week I met 'burning' youth and saw that I had to take a decision for life. Either or. What did I pray about? I said YES, I will. If you Lord have a plan for me, even if it is to sweep the streets, if you who were dead but live again care about me, then I am ready. Then I will stand up for you. And so I took a bite of the cake others had been eating. My brother Rune Olsson, Gävle, in 1999 at my 60th birthday party in Betania Årjäng, emotionally told us; "The day after Karlskoga both of us went hitch-hiking for a month in Europe. I as the oldest and responsible sneaked the medicines into the very bottom of the backpack. My concern had been unjustified. A miracle had happened! We had the pots with us but could throw them all away."

God made more miracles. I who almost only thought about me, "he cleaned and restarted". I was reminded, for instance, that I had lied to my teacher and classmates, that I had seen ripe berries. I had wished to be the best, but now I searched for the teacher and friends and told them the truth. I started to feel for everybody. I who had wanted to make them beautiful on the outside, now wanted to help them see Jesus, the man in the story book, who is here and now and reads our thoughts and sees all the invisible and who died to forgive us. The kingdom of God is so much more than we can imagine. I wanted to share it. Yes, and even more, I could not resist. I had been converted.

Continued →



News from Portugal



Camps!

Here in Portugal there is still concern and fear about more fires. The authorities force landowners to clear and prevent fires in all possible ways. For us as a Foundation, it is camps that matter. One for children and young people with song/music, in conjunction with Adonía, and another for younger children, with art together with Hari and Penka. A foundation has sent us a gift and wants it to be for the camps. And with your help, we hope to implement both, but we still do not have the resources for a second camp. By the way, more clothes, household items and furniture continue to come in. And a good idea has been started, where children, instead of presents, ask that everyone who is invited brings a bag of food that can make someone poor happy. Families have come with a whole collection of bags! Wonderful! The food goes to those who really need it.

According to the bible, God's 'system' (to be saved) means that my name is registered in the Book of Life. Now in 2018 the bible has become forbidden in country after country. The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel with each other, against the LORD. Ps 2: 2-3. Jesus said: For as in those days (of Noah), it will happen at the coming of the Son of Man. They knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away. Matt 24.37-39. Do I dare change my mind? Should I wait to see what happens before believing in God, before I dare to believe? Or if I put off my decision until I almost collapse in God's arms, it may be too late! Imagine being able to walk every day with the Lord! Hate the evil and love the good ... Let God give you also a new operating system and a new birthday!

