

NEWS FROM ANNA



I AM VERY HOPEFUL FOR 2014. I BELIEVE IT IS A YEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS AND FRUITFULNESS!

It has been too long since you last heard from me!

Being a Daughter: Last year ended up being a difficult year with the illness and loss of my dear father. I found myself so lost in the process and feeling like the ground had been removed from under my feet after experiencing the months of caring for my dad and losing him and seeing my how mom was grieving and suffering. Many events in our family in 2013.

Being an aunt: The wedding of my niece Fernanda to Roy, from Holland. I

got to perform their wedding in the midst of dad's illness.

The birth of Daniel, Pete and Renata's first son and the gift of joy to our family. The difficulties with Gabriel, my 19 year old nephew, who has struggled with drug addiction and was enrolled in a rehab center in December.

Being family and a friend: I went to the USA to spend Christmas. It was such a special time with family and friends. Quality times of sharing from

the heart, processing grief and getting help. I came back with such hope for 2014 and for being back in Sweden.

Being a Student: I am learning so much through this 3 year Masters course on Discipleship and Christian Formation. What a "set up" from God this has been for me to experience renewal, to learn afresh, to grow and be able to give to others.

Being a Missionary: I want to obey Jesus and live like he did in the world.



PETE, RENATA & DANIEL



ROY AND FERNANDA



PRAY FOR GABRIEL

Encountering the unfolding of daily life with expectation!

I was recently teaching a class for 9th grade teens in Gothenburg. Students are from Muslim families and others are not Christians. I asked them to write down what they thought a christian was. We wrote their answers on the board and they read something like this: Do not drink, goes to church, read bible, prays... Later I asked them to talk in groups and describe what they thought of Jesus, what did he do and say and what picture they had of him. The board was full of answers. He loved, forgave, spoke the truth, cared for people, had compassion, mercy, patience, knew what he believed, friends with bad people, preached, did miracles, etc.

As we talked more that day in class, I realised, the picture the world has of us does not reflect Jesus at all. We should have had the same words and characteristics as Jesus had on that board. What has happened to us? Many people don't like Christians and church but they like Jesus.

Jesus last words to the disciples were: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." (Mat.28:18 - 20)

I realized the Gospel has not always been taught in the Spirit of Jesus and missionaries have not always carried

out what Jesus commanded us, to love one another, and to love is to lay one's life down for his friends. History shows that Christianity has a bloody past and it took lives instead of giving life in this kind of love. History shows we are full of divisions, not living a message of unity and oneness with God, but of division, competition, judgment, exclusion, rejection, making it very hard for people to want God.

I realized how we need to re-learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, to love and live like him, not in imitation but in participation with Him through the Holy Spirit. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to help us live as sons and daughters of God, like Jesus was on earth, to learn to be human from the way Jesus was.

Jesus said: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. The way because the way he lived his life as a human being is the way for us to live our lives, free from sin and its power, present in the everyday life amongst community; He is the truth of what a human being is to be like and look like, just as God intended for us to be before sin entered the picture; We need to contrast what we believe with the truth of his life and align ourselves with Him. He is the life, because through his life, death, resurrection and ascension he gives us life, through his grace enabling us to live in the new reality, transformed into the new man that is available to us through his life.

What would Jesus do if he was me?

FAMILY EVENTS



PERFORMED WEDDING



LOST MY FATHER



DANIEL WAS BORN

Thank you and stay in touch, let me know how you are!!!

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