



# MARANATHA TRAVEL

Reis naar De Bekende



**Peter and Irene quit their jobs building RVs or Moterhomes - They share their inspiring journey and mission: "It's gigantic irresponsibility and yet I feel peace."**

Peter has always worked in engineering as an electrician and Irene worked as an outpatient counselor. In faith, they decided to quit their jobs to fully enter into what God had called them to, even though for a long time they had no idea

exactly what that was. Peter and Irene are an example in how they listen to God's Voice step by step. In this interview they talk about this exciting process and are also very honest: It is not always easy.

41-year-old Peter and 38-year-old Irene have been married for 16 years and have 3 children together. They did not have much with campers. Yet God was really calling them to do something with RVs. At the time, it had been a year since their baptism.

## **Turnaround**

Peter says: "We both had a Christian background, but when people from our previous church who had attended discipleship training explained the gospel to us one more time, we thought: Then we should be baptized. Our lives began to change a bit from that point on. We went from all nights Netflixing to all nights Bible reading. It was a very big turnaround."

## **Sudden conviction**

One day Peter became convinced that they should do something with RVs. "I really feel like God wants this," Peter said. It was a feeling he still can't put his finger on in retrospect; it was just suddenly there. Irene talks about the moment he expressed it: "I wasn't keen on it at all, because I really had nothing to do with it." And good to know: Peter sometimes has very nice wild ideas, but point blank they turn out to be not so realistic with a family with three children. So I often temper him in this respect. And this time I did that extra actively. I really didn't believe in it."

## **Dream**

Until Irene herself had a dream that they needed to go to Austria. They didn't have the right car or camping gear at the time, so Irene began to pray. Irene: "I got the answer that we should go by motor home, but we didn't have one. Then God said, 'Buy the first one you come across on the Marketplace on internet.'"

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### **Beginning of the adventure**

Both of them got - in their own words - "with big neon letters" in their heads: We have to do this. After prayer, this only became clearer to them. They then took the step of spending their last savings to buy a camper and picked it up in Assen. "That's when our adventure actually began," says Irene. "We don't have that camper anymore, but because of that the love but that did create a love for RVs."

### **'Just going to try'**

From then on, they continued to follow God's Voice step by step. They had built the first camper, starting from their family and also with that layout. Peter simply looked up on the Internet how to go about it. Besides his job at the time, he just started and started trying. At that time, not knowing exactly what to do with it.



### **Mission field**

During their first camping trip, more became clear. Immediately the first morning Peter got up with a gigantic headache. To regain a bit of himself he went for a walk by himself. Meanwhile he looked at all the luxury caravans that were there and at that moment God spoke very clearly, "This is your mission field."

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### **Going to rent in faith**

Again after a time of prayer, Peter got the idea that they needed to rent a shed. It became a huge one; the premises of an old factory that was moving. At first they still tried to rent the space together with someone else, because they thought it was really big, but eventually they started renting the shed in faith. Note: They had no more than just the idea that they needed to do something with RVs. Their then-current RV couldn't even stand there because the door wasn't high enough.

But as at every stage of this process, Peter and Irene sought God. They prayed at home and they prayed in the house church, and God gave them a picture. In that image, they saw an RV in that

shed. They asked God to confirm it with a bus and with money, and that too subsequently happened. So they were able to take the further steps.



### **Evangelism**

Although they knew what their mission field would be, it was still not clear to them what exactly the RVs were for. That only took more shape a few months ago. Both Peter and Irene had since quit their paid jobs and they wondered where to get income from. They had the camper ready and a second one under construction, and were wondering if they should sell them or rent them out. God clearly said no to both. Peter: "Then the whole business model was actually gone. After that, the feeling of: We are going to lend them to people who are going to evangelize." The camper was recently lent out for the first time and last weekend it was picked up for the first evangelization in Amsterdam.

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### **No more escape**

We asked the couple how they experience the exciting aspect of their adventure and how they deal with reactions from others: "We are not always understood. People assume things are going well, because Peter also quit his paying job. They then ask, "How many have you sold? Zero, is then my answer and there the conversation stops. People can't get their heads around it and I understand that. With us, it grew that way. I still sometimes think about whether there are still human ways to get income. At the same time, I also experience very much that God has just made it vague in my mind. To live as we do now is tremendously irresponsible. You have to make sure you have income and an appetite, because you have three children to take care of, right? I can mention it, but it's not an issue. I just have peace and feel that things will work out."

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## **Doubts**

Still, doubt, especially when hearing others' reactions, is their Goliath. Peter: "I can very well imagine now that Saul had already lit the sacrifice before Samuel came to sacrifice, when the army was in front of them. And I also recognize us in David, for example, facing Goliath. The thought: Now I really have to do it with God, because of myself I can't do it."

## **Speaking truth against feeling**

"Or like Sara who laughed like: I don't believe it anymore," Irene hooks up. "It's a very long wait sometimes. I really don't always have such a strong faith. The other day I just didn't know anymore and wanted to quit, but.... Then I kept going anyway. What really is God's grace is that Peter then has faith again and pulls me through, and vice versa. So we alternate. And we continue to speak God's truth, even if it is sometimes against our feelings. God has always shown in His Word that anyone who continues to seek Him, He does not disappoint. The whole Bible is full of the fact that God provides."

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## **Encouragements**

Meanwhile, God provides all kinds of encouragement. For example, Peter and Irene recently got in touch with a missionary couple who had received a vision of a lot of campers traveling one after another. And again someone in their area had had a similar vision. They got in touch with a web designer who was so impressed with their story that he provided a website for them at no cost. They also recently got a call that three women wanted to come over, because all three of them had been told to go out with an RV to evangelize. One of them even wanted to sell her house and live in it. "All these things are very encouraging. And to have these people coming our way even before we have advertised is very special."

## **The future**

When asked what they see as they look to the future, they respond: "We are praying that we may receive money to pay for a third bus. God has told us to build three of the same kind of motor homes before the end of the year. In fact, before the next summer vacation, we hope to have about 20 of them ready, with which people can travel for long or short periods of time. In addition, I think there will be more and more people looking for ways to do this. We just want to help people very practically, but also be able to equip them. We see a community emerging of people we can help."