

The Gospel in Scandinavia



March & April
2009 Report

Heath & Renee
Robertson

← **Spring** has come
and brought the
beauty of God's
Creation with it!



Attend. & Contrib. Averages

- Sunday AM: 6
- Tuesday PM: 3
- Contribution: 1238 Kr
(\$190)

**"He is God, the
faithful God, who
keeps His
covenant... with a
thousandth
generation"
(Deut. 7:9).**

The Need for You and Your Child to Know God's Glory

"Joshua said to the sons of Israel, 'When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' then you shall inform your children, saying, 'Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground'" (Josh. 4:21-22).

It is always fun to see a child's response to some sort of new information they have learned or a good story. It is also helpful for us to remember how truly amazing or instructive that information or story was to us when we first heard it. As we get older, even if the story is a true history of great significance, we often forget or become so familiar with it that it loses meaning and any effect it might have had on us. That can be very dangerous. The world suffers even today in this economic crisis because events like The Great Depression became just a story that will "never" happen to us! Thus, we became careless with our finances and lovers of credit. I want to share with you two ways this can be dangerous spiritually and then a solution to both of them.

1) **"Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all** (Mar 10:15)." When children learn something that really excites them it is obvious. If learning about dolphins excites them

then they want dolphin toys, books, and lunch boxes and they seem to find an endless amount of things to ask and say about them. Jesus wants us to realize that unless we lose the adult mindset and allow the truths of God's power, glory, and love to remain meaningful and exciting to us, we'll never have the faith, zeal, courage, or even desire to make it to Heaven.

2) After Joshua died, stories like the crossing of the Jordan became just old fairy-tales to God's people. **"All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel. Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals"** (Judges 2:10-13). Because Israel became unaffected by the stories of how the Lord had rescued them and provided for them, they failed to teach their children about Him. The Scriptures teach that all can learn of God through the natural world and are therefore "without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). However, Satan can more easily make the benefits of faith in God less appealing to children when the accounts of God's great faithfulness have never been told to them.

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In the last few months of the school year, high school seniors are referred to as "Russ." They wear red, blue, or black overalls depending on their academic path.



Bianca (left) is a Christian from Switzerland who is studying 3 hours north of Oslo.

Visitors and Other News

We had some good things happen these last two months.

In March, Renee and I traveled to Tromso, Norway. We were there a few days visiting a friend who is studying there. We also wanted to get a feel for how we might prepare to evangelize other places in Norway. We will hopefully travel to some other cities to evangelize this summer.

March ended with some sad news for us. Claudio, the Romanian man who had been worshipping with us since October and had just moved his wife and child to Bergen as well, told us he was moving. Although he and Gabriel are Pentecostals, they were much more conservative scripturally than any other Pentecostal I have ever met. We just hope that his time with us will prove to be profitable for the Lord in the future. The good news is that Gabriel, another Romanian, is

still in Bergen. However, he has not come as often since Claudio left. Please pray for these two.

April was a busy month. It began with our weekend meeting with Gert-Jan Van Zanten from the Netherlands. He and I stuffed many mail boxes around the church building with flyers. We had one visitor. Right after he left, we had a Christian from Switzerland (but studying in Norway), Bianca Studer, visit with us on her Easter break. It was good to meet her. She was very encouraging to be with.

Ken Cosby, from Athens, AL, vacationed here for a few days in April. While at his hotel, he met a Norwegian named Thomas. He and Thomas discussed the Bible for a good while and then Ken invited him to services. He came on Sunday and the following Tuesday. He is very interested in Bible study. Please pray for us and him.

March/April Lessons & Studies

We have had some good studies the last two months. We started the book of **Revelation** on Sunday mornings a few weeks ago. However, since the book can be quite difficult for those who are unfamiliar with deep Bible study, we decided to move Revelation to our Thursday members-only study. Now, we have begun to Study **Acts** on Sundays. One week in between Revelation and Acts we did a quick study of **Philemon**. We continue to study the **Proverbs** on Tuesday evenings.

I began March with lesson on being able to tell the difference between good and bad **Opportunities**. I also had two more lessons on the **Holy Spirit** in March: **His Work** and **the Immersion of the Holy Spirit**. I spoke about what it means to **Do All in the Name of the Lord** (Col. 3:17). I emphasized the fact that we cannot separate our physical and spiritual lives. I also preached on **Psalm 119** in March.

The first weekend in April was a real treat. **Gert-Jan Van Zanten from the Netherlands** preached for us on Saturday and Sunday. In one of April's sermons, I challenged us all to examine ourselves and the Scriptures and ask **Am I Really A Christian?** The next Lord 's Day I asked **Is the Gospel Real to You?** If so, **How Will You Respond?** The last Sunday in April, I spoke about **The Fool from Luke 12** and our need to be prepared for judgment at all times. I will follow up this lesson with lessons on the reality of Heaven and Hell.

Some Items of Interest

I thought I would use this space in this report to tell you about some things that don't always come up in the reports. Although this is a slow work, there are blips of activity every now and then. Here is some things that have happened since September 2008:

- **Two Extensive E-mail Contacts** – The majority of our contacts are through our website. I was engaged in a lengthy email conversation with men from Haugesund and Aalesund. Although those conversations have not produced any results yet, I do hope to visit one of those cities while Connie Adams is here this summer.
- **Many Corr. Course and Tract Requests** – While we have had quite a few requests from other nations, we have had at least 5 corr. course students within Norway. Unfortunately, none finished the courses.
- **Sporadic Questions** – We have had opportunities presented before us as friends and acquaintances have asked specific questions about the Bible and Christ's church. At least there are wheels turning and that gives us hope.

**Heath & Renee
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**"The Aim of Our
Charge Is Love"
- 1 Tim. 1:5**

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So, what can we do to keep our own excitement alive and be able to pass that flaming torch on to the next generation?

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deu 6:4-7).

Not only does God command us to teach our children (Eph. 6:4), but doing so is the very thing that will keep these stories alive and real to us. Teaching children about our God is one of the most uplifting, faith strengthening activities I have ever participated in. Not only do I get to be a part of laying that spiritual foundation for them, but I am enriched and recharged spiritually as well! Everyone who has been a Christian for a little while needs to be involved in teaching in some way. One of the best ways to start is with children.

Why does teaching children help you grow? Like I mentioned earlier, they help to bring out that child-like awe that we tend to allow the cares of the world to suppress as we grow older. When we teach children, we don't analyze every word looking for deep theological doctrines. We just simply tell the story. Children remind us how impressive these very TRUE accounts about the nature and power of our Creator really are.

This is not limited to teaching a children's Bible class. Learning about the Bible at home is just as or even more profitable. Did you ever consider picking a Bible story and reading it to your children, grandchildren, or younger siblings? I think you will be surprised at how much you take away from the experience as well as the children!

Special News

Some of you already know what prompted me to write about children this time. We are looking forward to telling Bible stories to **OUR FIRST CHILD** who, Lord willing, will be born into this world late November. Please pray for Renee's and the baby's health. And please thank God for giving us this wonderful gift.

**"Blessed is the Lord who
has not left you without a
redeemer today, and
may His name become
famous in Israel."
(Rev. 21:23).**

In Need of \$150 Support

Some of you know that Renee and I decided to purchase a car. We have used the public transportation since moving to Norway. However, public transportation can be quite difficult with a child and it is not always punctual (which is extremely important for worship services and meeting contacts). Sometimes the busses can miss their scheduled time all together. Also, a car will enable us to evangelize more areas in less time.

Those who received an email concerning this know that I was originally in need of \$350 more support per month. However, because we were able to adjust some things around in our budget and pay cash for the car out of our savings (avoiding interest), we no longer need that much. \$150 more support per month will allow us to pay for all the new vehicle expenses, slowly replenish our savings account, and cover costs arising with our first child.

If your congregation or any that you know of might be able to help, please put us in contact with them.

USA Trip

Just a reminder, Renee and I will be in the States reporting to several congregations and visiting our families from May 18-June 26. Our schedule is set and is pretty tight now. However, let us know if you'd really like us to stop by while we are in the States. We will try to work it out. Look forward to seeing many of you REAL SOON!