

The Gospel in Scandinavia



November &
December 2008
Report

Heath & Renee
Robertson

← Part of Downtown
Bergen at Night
(which is a good part
of the day during
winter).



Attend. & Contrib. Averages

- Sunday AM: 5
- Tuesday PM: 3
- Contribution: 974,- Kr
(\$143)

A New Year Freshens Hope!

We welcome to 2009 with joy and thankfulness this week. How could one who is a Christian not embrace new opportunities with joy? We are looking forward to doing our best at telling others about Christ this year. We do not know what the results will be but we are thankful to have the opportunity to be here and try. This is our calling as Saints (Col. 1:28) and we can never feel really fulfilled until evangelism is a part of our daily lives.

I must admit that moving to Norway has been more difficult than I imagined. My admiration for those who engage in foreign work has increased significantly since moving here. However, the Lord has carried me thus far and I know He will continue to carry me here or wherever I may be. He has blessed me with a loving wife and good brethren that are a great encouragement. God is truly the giver of "good and perfect" gifts (Jms. 1:17).

Renee and I are planning on being back in the States from around May 19–June 23. We will be visiting with our families some but we would also like to visit some of our supporting congregations. I know we did not have an opportunity to visit with some of our more recent supporters before we left.

We will also be trying to replace some support that we will be losing in August (more details about that in our financial report that is included in this newsletter). If the congregation you attend would like us to visit while we are in the U.S. in 2009, please let us know. The only time that we are not available during our visit is June 7-12 in which we will be attending a family reunion of Renee's side of the family. Visiting with my family is flexible. Let us know and we'll be looking forward to it!

Nov/Dec Lessons and Studies

We have had profitable studies the past two months. In November, we continued studying through the Gospel of John on Sunday mornings and Proverbs on Tuesday evenings. However, since Borgar and Sana have been out of town the entire month of December, we studied other topics. We studied "How to Study the Epistles" and followed up on that with a quick study of I & II Tim. and Titus. We have one lesson left in our first principle study on Thursday evenings. My sermon topics for Nov/Dec were as follows: The Collection of the Church, The Backwards Beattitudes (Matt. 23), The Church that Christ Built, OT Books Most Used In Revelation Parts 1 and 2, Walk In Love, Steps Away from God, The Solution to Sin, and You Have Not Passed This Way Before.

*"...long for the
pure spiritual milk,
that by it you may
grow up into
salvation" (1 Pet.
2:2).*



Several times throughout the year someone will put up some kind of artistic structure in the city center.



(From Left to Right)
 Claudio, Gabriel, Borgar,
 Renee, Heath

Visitors and Other News

Our two Romanian visitors (pictured at left) have continued to worship with us. Since they first showed up in October, they have only missed one Sunday because of work. We found out more of their religious background as well. They are members of a Pentecostal church in Romania. However, when they visited the Pentecostal churches here in Bergen they were quite disgusted to find that coffee, smoke breaks, and dancing was a regular part of their services. They were seeking a more biblical church. They have expressed that they have found that in us. Their seriousness concerning the Scriptures was obvious to us early on as their comments and answers in Bible classes were always biblically based. I hope to study with them concerning the important differences between Christ's church

and the Pentecostal church when they return from their holiday trip in Romania. Please pray for that!

A Polish family that also moved to Bergen for temporary work found us through the website and visited with us one Sunday. Although they asked if we were like "the church of Christ in America," some of the things that they said and did indicated that they might have been seeking the United Church of Christ. However, we hope that they will continue to worship with us when they return from their holiday travels.

We were also delighted to have Renee's sister Erika and her husband Thayne visit with us for a week. It was nice to have family here for the holidays.

The Coastlands Are Hoping for You

"My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever and my righteousness will never be dismayed" (Isa. 51:5, 6).

There are some things that we need to take note of in this passage. First, God's salvation "has gone out." That is the message of His salvation has been preached. Although Jesus had not yet come when this was written, the gospel had been preached in that God said He would bring a great blessing upon "those of faith" through Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:8, 9). Since the text says this salvation is part of His "righteousness" drawing near, it is fitting that His next statement is that He will "judge the peoples." Of course, we know Isaiah is preaching to Judah. And Judah, at this point, had forgotten the great worth of God's salvation and, it seemed, were just plain tired of always waiting on God and doing things His way. However, God says, "The coastlands hope for me." Although Israel and Judah were turning away from God, there were people in the world that were seeking Him. They were even waiting for, and accepting of, His arm of justice... (see right for more)



Left to Right: Renee, Eva, Erika, and Thayne after services.
 (12.28.08)

← "The Coastlands are Hoping for You" is an article that I wrote recently for www.EvangelismUpdate.com. You can go to that website and read the rest in the articles section. On EvangelismUpdate.com you will find information, reports, and needs of our brethren in many nations. Take time to read up on the work being done in different places. Write a preacher in a foreign nation and encourage he and his family. It's a good resource. I hope you'll check it out.

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2008 Financial Report

After being in Norway for four months, we are able to provide you with an accurate report as to how we are using our support. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. A listing of our current supporters will be provided upon request.

Current Monthly Support: \$4370

Summary of Monthly Expenses:

House Rent - \$800
Utilities - \$150
Food & Household - \$700
Bus Cards - \$250
House Insurance - \$50
House Maintenance - \$50
TV License - \$30
Phone/Internet - \$200
Clothing/Toiletries - \$100
Office Supplies - \$40
Health Related - \$200
Traveling & Evangelism - \$150
Miscellaneous (Incl. Contribution) - \$500
Taxes - \$400
School Loans - \$200
One Trip to US per Year - \$300
Savings/Emergency - \$200
Total - \$4370

**“The saying is trustworthy,
for: If we have died with
Him, we will also live with
Him.”
(2Ti 2:11)**

To Our Supporters: We are continually thankful for those who support us. Your interest in spreading the gospel, willingness to sacrifice, and confidence in us is an important part of this work. No matter the amount, any fruit produced in this work is a testament to the glory of God and your love for Him.

We are only aware of one supporter that will be decreasing support this year. However, I do remember that some of you mentioned before we moved of the possibility at some point in 2009 of a decrease or total loss of support. If you do know that you will have to make an adjustment to our support, please let us know when that will take place and the amount of the decrease (even if you think you are the one that has already contacted me). This will enable us to be aware of our future needs and plan our trip in the U.S. more efficiently. Thank you very much for your help.

**“The Aim of Our
Charge Is Love”
- 1 Tim. 1:5**