

Heath Aaron Robertson

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Cell (901)652 -5236

May 14, 2008

To My Family In Christ,

I am writing this letter to tell you of my plans to preach the gospel in Scandinavia and ask your assistance in carrying out this work. I have just received my work permit from Norway. We are ready to go but are lacking some support. I am including a brief history of the work in Scandinavia and also of myself. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions.

My name is Heath Aaron Robertson and I married Renee Marie Bunting this past December 15th. I gave my life to Christ in the summer of 1998 and have been preaching, seriously, since 2003. I have preached part-time, full-time, and itinerantly for congregations in Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, and Florida. In 2006, I spent three weeks in Colombia, South America preaching and encouraging the brethren there. That was also the year that I met Renee. After considering it for some time, I knew after my experience in Colombia that I wanted to engage in foreign work.

Renee was born and raised in Bergen, Norway as her father, Terrell, and grandfather, Tom, have preached there collectively for over 40 years. I had known about the work in Norway for some time as the Bartlett, TN congregation (where I grew up) has supported Terrell for many years. Renee told me much about the work in Norway and we had the opportunity to be in Bergen for two weeks together last May. Terrell returned to the US in 2006 to take care of personal family needs. Renee and I discussed with the Bergen congregation and decided that we would continue the work there. Renee speaks the language fluently, knows the people and culture, and feels most at home there. Renee's unique upbringing opens many doors for us and she is zealous about continuing to spread God's Word throughout Scandinavia.

While we are living in Bergen, we will be working with the Bergen congregation, teaching home studies, taking classes at the University of Bergen (Norway offers basically free education) to develop evangelistic prospects, and evangelize areas of Norway where the gospel has not been taught in modern times. After discussions with Terrell, one of my goals in working with the Bergen congregation is to encourage the congregation to advance their leadership and evangelistic abilities. This will enable us to spend more time in other areas of Norway and Scandinavia.

There are two congregations of the Lord's church, as far as we know, in all of Scandinavia. There is a group in Bergen and in Oslo. There is also one family in Stavanger and a couple in Sandefjord. They are all in Norway and yet Bergen is about five hours from Stavanger and Sandefjord and over seven from Oslo. Also, these are all in Southern Norway. The gospel is not being preached in the other 75% of Norway nor in any of the other Scandinavian countries. "How shall they believe in whom they have not heard" (Rom. 10:14)? The Norwegian language is so similar to Danish and Swedish that it is very easy to communicate with one another. Also, in Finland, most can speak Swedish or English. Therefore, the opportunities are great for those who would go to this area.

I spent three weeks in Norway in October and November to encourage the group and become more acquainted with the work there. I spent much time with Borgar Andersen while I was there. Borgar, who has been a member in Bergen congregation the longest, has been trying to handle most (and many times all) of the responsibilities in the church since Terrell left. Bryan Moody and his wife

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Stephanie worked with them for a year after Terrell left, but are now back in the States. Borgar had heart surgery on January 16th. This has greatly inhibited his ability to do many things. He will be finished with rehabilitation soon and hopefully back to normal. When I first spoke to Terrell about the work there, he said there is one thing that anyone who considers this work must remember. It is not like third world countries. There are no amazing stories of 50-500 people obeying the gospel at once. Their worldly, wealthy situation causes success to be much slower. However, while the results may not be visible every moment, the dedication that faithful Christians have put into this work for over fifty years shows results as there are now 25 or more Christians in Norway. Renee and I must move as soon as it is feasible so that we do not lose the progress that has been made.

I have been in Manchester, TN since May of 2007 working with Terrell and the Manchester congregation to prepare for this work. I have been studying the language for over a year now. I am conversational now but not quite fluent. In my personal study time I have focused on evidences (belief in God, Jesus, and the Resurrection and the inspiration, validity, and accuracy of the Scriptures). Evidences was the focus of NT Preaching (Acts 2, 7, 8, 17; Rom. 1 etc...) and I believe that will be the best way to evangelize to this worldly immoral society.

Norway is the wealthiest or 2nd wealthiest country in the world. In many cases, items cost 3x more than in the USA. The drop of the Dollar also made things worse. Terrell and I have compiled a list of estimated expenses for Renee and I in Norway. It adds up to \$4215 per month. We now have \$2400 committed monthly support. Now that I have received my work permit from Norway, we will move as soon as the remaining \$1700 is committed to. Terrell has been renting out his house in Norway so that he could keep it for us to move into. Our moving expenses are minimal since we are moving into a furnished home. We need approximately \$6000 for plane tickets, shipping a few personal items, and some fees once we arrive in Norway. A detailed list of the monthly expenses and my current support is attached. Please, feel free to ask any questions.

Any assistance that your congregation can provide would be greatly appreciated. We hope to move by July or August; so we will need to purchase the tickets soon. Thank you very much for your time in reading this letter and your interest in the spread of the gospel. Let us know if you would like us to come and speak to your congregation about our work and plans. We want more and more people to become aware of the work there.

We are also hoping to find another couple, dedicated to evangelism, to work with us. If you know of others that might be interested in doing something like this please let us know. Please keep us and the brethren in Norway in your prayers as that is more powerful than anything else you can do for us.

Your Brother,

Heath Robertson
(901)652-5236
(931)723-6735

Here is a list of brethren who know me that may be contacted for reference matters.

1. Terrell Bunting – (931)723-6735
2. Tom Bunting – (615)494-1264
3. C.G. “Colly” Caldwell – (813)982-0010
Gospel Preacher and President of Florida College
4. Royce Chandler – (813)784-8387
Gospel preacher with the North Terrace church of Christ in Tampa, FL
I have traveled with Royce to Colombia, South America.
5. Johnie Edwards - (812)336-2085
Gospel preacher with the Ellettsville, IN church of Christ
I have been through the Ellettsville Preacher Training Program twice.
6. Randy Dunahoo – (901)388-2166
Elder with the Rocky Point congregation (Cordova, TN)
I formerly attended the Rocky Point congregation and my mother continues to attend there.
The elders have known me since my childhood.
7. Allan McNabb – (813)245-9221
Gospel preacher I worked with in Tampa, FL January-May, 2007.
8. Earl Robertson – (270)678-3508
Gospel Preacher who knows me.

Supporting Congregations

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Support Amount</u>
South Bumby Church of Christ	David Duncan (Elder) dave@duncanproductions.com	\$300 per month (Present and In Norway)
Kettering Church of Christ	Rich Walker (Elder) rwalker8@woh.rr.com	\$300 per month (Present and In Norway)
Riverview Church of Christ	Jim Mays Barbarajim1@juno.com	\$300 per month (Present and In Norway)
Northside Church of Christ	Ross Ward ruwardsr@cs.com	\$500 per month (Present and In Norway)
South Livingston Church of Christ	Dennis Trask (813)960-1373	\$500 per month (In Norway)
Westside Church of Christ	Glenn Williams (270)764-1991	\$500 per month (In Norway)
Archer Church of Christ	Jim Willingham (352)495-1845	One Check Per Year of No Set Amount. This year: \$2400
	Total:	Present: \$1400 per month In Norway: \$2400 per month

Average Cost of Some Common Items in Norway

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Small Can of Vegetables	\$3
12 Eggs	\$6
Small Chicken	\$22
4 Rolls of Toilet Paper	\$10-13
Gasoline	\$10.92 per gallon
Average Rent for 2 BR 1 Bath Apartment	\$1,500

Monthly Expenses In Norway

House	1000
Utilities	400
Food & Household Needs	775
Bus Cards	250
House Insurance	75
House Maintenance	50
Phone	100
Internet	65
Clothing, Toiletries, Etc...	150
Office Supplies	50
Health Related	150
Savings	200
Miscellaneous (Including One Trip Home Per Year)	350
Taxes	400
School Loans	200
TOTAL:	\$4215