

The Gospel in Scandinavia



May & June
2009 Report

Heath & Renee
Robertson

← **One** of the many
Americans we saw
during our visit to the
States. A strange
species indeed!



Attend. & Contrib. Averages

- Sunday AM: 4
- Tuesday PM: 3
- Contribution: 2118 Kr
(\$331)
*(We had some very
generous visitors in
Bergen in June.)*

The Window of Opportunity – Gary Henry

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15,16).

THERE NEEDS TO BE A HEALTHY SENSE OF URGENCY IN OUR LIVES. With regard to that which the Lord wants us to do in His work individually, there is not an unlimited amount of time in which to do that work. Each of us has a “window of opportunity,” and after that is gone, we will give account for our stewardship of the time given us. We urgently need to “redeem the time,” as Paul put it.

Granted, there is such a thing as an UNHEALTHY urgency. Most of us are familiar with what that's like. It's the driven, compulsive, frantic mentality of competitors in the “rat race.” But that is not the way to redeem the time. In fact, nothing is more unproductive.

Jesus showed that it is possible to be very busy and not fall into the “driven” way of thinking. At our busiest, few of us will match the Lord's activity, yet in the act of being busy, Jesus always had a calm, deliberate way about Him. He knew how to “hasten leisurely,” to work steadily, and even urgently, without losing the peace that was at the center of His being. Jesus knew that He

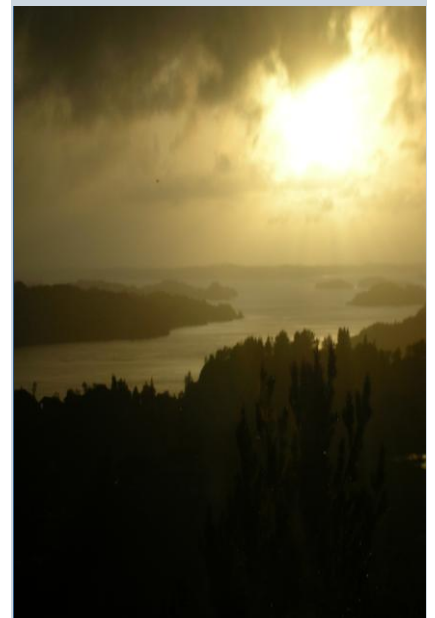
had a “schedule” to meet, and He met it. At the end, He could say, “It is finished” (John 19:30). As His disciples, we need to redeem the time and be able, one day, to say that we have finished our work.

A few days ago, I received an email from Ken Craig, a great friend who does full-time secular work but also manages to do as much work in the Lord as anybody I know. In an earlier email to him, I had mentioned being busy (forgetting to whom I was talking), and he wrote back, “I am in Shanghai, China right now on business, with meetings all day and three-hour Chinese dinners every evening. I had a glorious trip to India in April and had just recovered from that. . . . I should be back on Sunday . . . Keep on keeping on. We will rest on the other side.” Ken is not about to miss the window of opportunity that the Lord has given him.

As Gerry Sandusky, another great friend, says, “Heaven is pictured as a place of rest, and I intend to be tired when I get there...”

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**The Gospel was
“promised
beforehand through
His prophets in the
holy Scriptures”
(Rom. 1:2).**



This photo was taken around
11pm in May. You can see
why Norway is “the land of
the midnight sun!”



Rich and Connie Walker

Rich is one of the elders of the Kettering congregation near Dayton, OH. Kettering is just one of the congregations helping to bear fruit in Scandinavia.

Visitors and Other News

We have just returned from our May 18 – June 26 trip to the USA. I will tell you a little bit about the happenings in Norway as well as what we did in the States.

Summer always brings a large number of tourists to Bergen. This year, there has been visitors from the US and Scotland so far. This was great for the members here since we were gone. Also, the man from Scotland is not a member of the church and is interested in knowing more about the church. I have already written him an email and await his response.

Remember Thomas, the Norwegian man who has visited and with whom I have been having studies? I called him shortly after our return to Bergen. He has not been to a service since we left. However, we had a good long conversation. He said he is still very much interested in studying with us.

He acknowledged that he still disagreed with some of the teaching and practice but wanted to study more about it. We are so thankful for his honesty and willingness to talk about it. Please pray that we speak and act with wisdom in this matter.

It was so great to be "the visitors" among the congregations we visited in the States. We were able to visit with both of our families, including attending the Bunting family reunion. We drove about 4,000 miles on this trip, which is not so great for someone who is pregnant. But, Renee was a trooper and I was glad to have her by my side. Thank you to all who kept and fed us while we were in your town!

(Continues under Lessons & Studies)

May/June Lessons & Studies

Here is a list of the cities we went to: Memphis, TN, Akron, OH, Dayton, OH, Bloomington, IN, Owensboro, KY, Louisville, KY, Somerset, KY, Murfreesboro, TN, Manchester, TN, Banner Elk, NC, Hanceville, AL, Jonesboro, AR, Bowling Green, KY, and Clarksville, TN.

We mostly just visited our more northern supporters. However, we hope to visit all the others in early 2010. I gave a report about **the work in Norway** in most of those places. I also spoke on other topics. **A Tale of Two Kings** compared Ahaz and Hezekiah with the aim at showing the need for good spiritual leaders. **When the Church Grew** examines the instances in Acts that speaks of certain congregations growing and what the cause of that growth was. **What Can I Do** is a practical look at why we need to do something in our local congregation and I made some practical suggestions that everyone can do. Also, before we left Norway, I preached two lessons on **the Reality of Heaven and Hell** as well as the first part of a lesson on **Prayer**. I preached **part two** the last Sunday in June after our return.

We will continue **Acts** in our Sunday morning Bible study and have already begun **Ruth** on Tuesday evenings, and **Hebrews** on Thursday evenings.

Upcoming Gospel Meeting

Kristi Menighet I Bergen

holder evangeliske møter. Alle er hjertelig velkommen!

19-24 Juli

Ukens Tema: **Guds Profetiske Ord**

Taler: **Mr. Connie W. Adams**

Søndag – 11:30 & 12:30

Mandag-Fredag – 18:30

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www.churchofchrist.no

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

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Like Ken, Gerry understands that now is the time for work, a time to spend and be spent. There'll be time enough for rest later.

"We have all eternity to celebrate our victories, but only one short hour before sunset in which to win them" (Robert Moffat).

Gary Henry – Reaching Forward – July 3

As most of you know, I normally write my own small article for this report. However, I felt that Brother Henry's article is one that we all should take some to think about. There is a great need to reflect on how we are spending our days. How are you redeeming your time?! – H.R.

"After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, 'Hear and understand.'"

(Matt. 15:10)

Family Update

As most of you know by now, we are expecting our first child around November 20th. Renee had an ultrasound done on Monday, June 29th. The baby was growing on schedule and looked healthy. We were also told that day that the baby is a girl! Please continue to pray for Renee and the baby.

Also, you may remember that we needed \$150 more support as of our last report. The Ashley Heights congregation in the Charleston, SC area picked that up. God continues to provide for our every need. We are so thankful to Him for all of you who are interested in the spread of the gospel in this area.

As always, if there are any questions, comments, or concerns about us or the work here, please contact us using the information on the left side of this page.