

The Gospel in Scandinavia



September &
October
2009 Report

Heath & Renee
Robertson

← Simon and Simon
David Harris found
out they had
Norwegian ancestry!

Attend. & Contrib. Averages

- Sunday AM: 4
- Tuesday PM: 3
- Contribution: 974Kr
(\$173)

The Dangers of Liberalism Realized

Heath Robertson

I have had many opportunities in the past to speak with brethren who experienced the climax of the division over institutionalism in the 1950's and 60's. It is always horrifying to hear of those congregations who split after worshipping and serving together for many years. For the most part, my generation will only know what happened through sermons and stories. While those sermons and stories need to be taught, unfortunately, they just can't have the same effect as experiencing the tragedy of division.

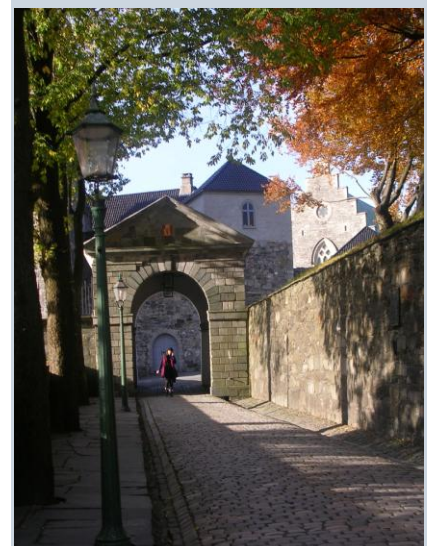
While the lines of fellowship are pretty clearly drawn in the Americas, they are not as clear among the European and Asian churches. I don't believe it is because of negligence on the part of any teachers but rather because the entrance and effects of institutionalism in Europe and Asia have been very different from what has happened in the States. Several congregations in Europe and Asia have had to fight and still are fighting many smaller battles. I

regret to inform you that the church in Bergen is currently engaged in one of those battles.

One of our members, Sana, is originally from Thailand where the liberal churches have a stronghold. Although she has received solid teaching in the Bergen congregation for over 14 years, she has never accepted the error of liberalism/institutionalism. In August, she was displeased as certain activities the Thai churches are involved in were shown to be unscriptural (although the sermon was not directed to anyone nor mentioned any specific places). She said that she had to "be away" for awhile to consider these things. During this period she has refused to study with us about these things even though we told her that we stood ready to change what we teach if she could help us see our error. Throughout the following two months, we gave her space to study. She was also in Thailand for some of that time.

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***"I know that it will be well for those who fear God, for those who fear Him openly."
(Ecc. 8:12).***



This is the entrance into the Bergenhus Fortress. Its oldest sections date back to 1240A.D.



By the next time you receive a report from us, Lord willing, our first child will be born.
(Due: 11/20/09)

Visitors and Other News

It has been a somewhat eventful two months but, unfortunately, not with contacts.

We had **one young man** stay with us for two nights. He was on his way to Pepperdine's Germany school for this year. We also had **a Ghanaian** who lives in Italy visit our midweek study. He could not contact the people he was supposed to meet in Norway. Renee and I helped him as much as we could. **A man**, often seen roaming the streets of Bergen, visited on one Sunday. With a rough look and mumbling half Swedish half Norwegian, he seemed a little confused. He actually tried to play the recorder during our singing. We explained to him why he could not do that during worship. After services

concluded, he brushed his teeth, spit out the front door, and prepared to leave. We welcomed him back.

We had thought that we would not see **Thomas** again. We did see him but, unfortunately, it was not at services or to study. We met him on the street as he was leaving a bar and restaurant. We encouraged him to study with us more. However, it seems he is basically waiting on the Holy Spirit to come upon him. He believes he is "a chosen one of God." Please lift up a prayer on his behalf. I hope he quits allowing Satan to deceive him.

We have **one man from Norway** and **one man from Canada** currently taking correspondence courses.

Sept/Oct Lessons & Studies

In September and October, my sermons were **Have You Not Read the Scriptures / I Can / When Two Lions Met / Walk In Love: As Christ Loved / Is Bible Authority Important / Establishing Authority / Authority Principles** / and **What About Those Who Won't Submit to God's Authority**. I also continued teaching **Acts** on Sundays, **Deuteronomy** on Wednesdays, and **Hebrews** on Thursdays.

We should be done with Acts by the end of the year. We are finished with Deuteronomy and Hebrews now. We have begun a **fast-paced reading through the Old Testament** on Wednesday evenings. We will read through the entire Old Testament and make brief comments as we go along. This should take us about one year. Although we are finished with Hebrews, we will not begin a new study at our house. We will most likely pick it up again a few months after the baby is born.

Simon Harris, who preaches for one of our supporting congregations, and his son visited with us for a little over a week. He preached a Sun-Wed meeting about the **characteristics of God**. Although we advertised the meeting, only one man came and left after five minutes. However, it was an excellent study for us.

The Creation Tells of God's Glory



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

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Sana has concluded that these liberal/institutional practices are fine. She has not returned to worship with us and has stated that she has no intention to do so.

We did have the opportunity to study with her husband, Borgar. He seemed to stand for the truth at first, but her influence seems to be prevailing at the moment. I deemed it necessary to thoroughly discuss Bible Authority and our responsibility to those who reject God's authority in the following sermons. Although it was clear we were not in agreement, Borgar continues to attend every service and does not press the issue.

A small struggling church is not free from the wiles of the Devil. The baseless arguments of liberalism are mindboggling. Its destructive capabilities are great. Please pray for our situation. Please do not underestimate the seriousness of thinking God's way just isn't good enough (the path to liberalism).

Totally Revamped Websites

I have totally revamped both of the congregation's websites and switched design programs. This actually provided us with better sites while saving us around \$900 per year. After only being up for about 1.5 months, we have had over 300 hits on the Norwegian site and almost 300 on the English site.

New Correspondence Course

Correspondence courses are one of our primary evangelism tools here. Home studies are always better, but those are few and far between when working with the Norwegian personality. We have taken Ken Craig's book: *The Big Picture of the Bible* and converted the material into a course. Participants can learn the simple gospel message through postal mail or online. The course is offered in both English and Norwegian.

**"Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say."
(Philemon 1:21)**

Family Update

Renee continues to have a healthy pregnancy. She grows tired easier in these past days. So, she has had to put up with me making dinner sometimes! We have pretty much all we need. It can happen anytime now! Please keep us in your prayers.

I will complete a six week Norwegian course on Thursday, November 12th. It was good for increasing my knowledge of Norwegian as well as meeting people. Renee and I had coffee (ok, and a pastry!) with one of my classmates and her husband. She is from Scotland and he is Norwegian. They are a nice couple and we hope that we can spend more time with them. Please pray that God will help us to be good examples and to have wisdom to serve him best in all we do!

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.