

The Grotkes

Daniel, Holly, Susanna, Ethan, Molly, Gabriel & Else



Norway

MAY-JUNE 2026

Dear Saints,

Greetings from Norway. Summer has arrived here with 24 hour daylight and balmy winds from the south. Such a sweet relief from months of dark and cold! Much has transpired over these months.

Having been informed of my dad's deteriorating health mid winter, I decided to find the time and resources to make the trip and see him in late April. (Other than a very short visit with him at my grandmother's funeral in March 2023, I had not seen either of my parents in eight years.) On this trip to NY in April, Dad was very weak in the body and it was very sad to see how long it would take him to shuffle around from place to place. His mind remained clear, and we were able to have some meaningful conversations about our relationship, forgiveness, the journey of growth in our family, and relationship with God. I am especially grateful to my Uncle Richard (dad's older brother) for initiating a time of prayer where the three of us sat in a triangle, held hands and poured out our parting prayers to our Heavenly Father.

While I had hoped to have more time together, I am thankful that we were able to experience a measure of connection before I returned to Norway. As I tearfully said goodbye on April 22, I sensed it was likely the last time I would see him here on earth. I had hoped to return later and continue deepening our connection, but I am grateful for the grace God gave us in the final days together.

It was also very good to visit with my mom and her husband, as well as my aunt, sister, and brother-in-law. We packed as much fellowship as possible into the one week trip. It was a great blessing to spend time with my mom and her husband. Seeing her happy and doing well brought great comfort to my heart. I returned to Norway grateful for the peace God gave me through those precious days with both of my parents.

In early May, we had Sawyer from Michigan who came to visit with us. Despite the busyness of early summer, we had good fellowship in the evenings and he was able to see Oslo and do some evangelism. We enjoyed a Saturday morning of Norwegian Bible distribution in our local neighborhoods. May 17 is Norway's Independence Day, and is celebrated with the finest national costumes and parades in every town and city. Sawyer was introduced into this culture, and then were invited to fellowship with some believers that afternoon. During the ride home that evening, I got the call from my uncle Richard that my dad had passed away from a heart attack. While his passing came sooner than we had hoped, I am grateful that his wish to remain at home until the end was granted. A week later, my family was able to fly to New York to attend dad's funeral and visit with family. It was a fast trip that proved very needful and healing to us in many ways.

June was filled with work and finishing several projects here in Norway. We have also had some very edifying fellowship with friends, old and new this month. It is a blessing to fellowship with believers who love the Lord Jesus and and seek to follow him with integrity, authenticity, and grace. It was a

Support and Correspondence
Bible Baptist Mission
PO Box 17615 • Pensacola FL 32522
(850) 474-6790

Sending Church: Northstar Baptist Church
Pastor Ron Robinson
PO Box 74521 • Fairbanks, AK 99707
(907) 374-8775

Personal Correspondence
truth4norway@gmail.com
(907) 888-2875
www.truth4norway.com

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joy to be invited to attend the wedding of Dawn and Benjamin. They spent time with our church last summer, and we were thankful for the opportunity to get to know them and walk with them as they sought counsel on marriage. Although the two hour drive made it difficult for them to continue attending regularly, we are grateful that they found a church family closer to home. We are happy to remain friends and look forward to continuing to encourage them from a distance.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to serving him here in Norway. We believe that success is defined by faithfully living as representatives of Christ's Kingdom no matter where he places us. When we first came to Norway, our goal was to establish a local church, and that remains a desire, if there are believers who want to join in that work. Starting a ministry in a new culture without any local support and guidance can be a lonely endeavor. This season has been a valuable time to reflect and seek the Lord's direction. We plan to resume our Sunday gatherings again in September, when the few are back from their summer travels. We are also praying about ways we can encourage and support other believers and ministries around us.

We are grateful for those who have faithfully supported us through the years. We have learned that ministry does not always follow the same predetermined patterns, and we are thankful for those who have continued to support us as we seek the Lord's leading. We are thankful for the ways God has worked in hearts and families through this ministry, and we give him all the glory. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. We pray you have a blessed summer.

In Christ Jesus,

Daniel Grotke and Family

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