



January - February 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Much has already happened in this new year to confirm our purpose and direction in the work here in Norway. I'm so thankful our Lord leads us in plain paths when we ask, seek, and knock for His will.

Work

In February, after completing a 7 month house renovation with my team, I was promoted to "bas" (foreman) position. I was given my own project to complete with a new young carpenter to train. This promotion came with my company knowing that I intend to resign after we become residents. For testimony's sake, I don't want to give my bosses or coworkers the impression that I only used them for 3 years to get into Norway, but I was surprised at the end of the year company meeting that I had worked the most hours for the company in 2021. I guess in any culture, a hard day's labor is appreciated!

Unfortunately, my new co-worker, Emil, is not interested in the gospel at this point. Pray for seeds sown! I was also able to give my first brief witness in Norwegian to my customers recently. That was a challenge, but also rewarding.

Feb. 7-9, Emil and I disassembled, moved, and erected over 4 tons of scaffolding. On the 9th, after about 6 good months, my back went out and was quite painful. On the 10th, I got Covid! Within days, my whole family had it. Thankfully, it was pretty mild for all of us (but still bad enough!) Though I was able to return to work after 7 days, it took over 18 to clear my head of congestion and return to somewhat normal energy.

Ministry

It was disappointing to everyone to miss a couple of Sundays because of sickness, but we had a very encouraging comeback. Two weeks ago, we were blessed to have missionary Russel Holland and his wife and daughter with us all weekend. They are Independent Baptist missionaries to Norway and are currently helping a church 8 hours from us in Stavanger. We all enjoyed the fellowship, and he preached for us on Sunday morning. We had 3 first time visitors! Karen (our kids' piano teacher), Annette (Jenny's mom), and Grunor (Annette's neighbor). Fifteen was a crowd and we enjoyed some great

The Grotkes

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



Norway

and fellowship. Pray that the Lord would add whom He wants to the small flock, in *His* time.

Norway

Norway recently adopted the “live with it” policy for Covid. Praise the Lord, the borders are open and all restrictions are gone! Coupled with the blessings are record high electricity and fuel prices. Our December electric bill went from the normal \$170/mo to \$450! My boss has a family of 4 and a Tesla, and his was \$1,500! I knew it had become ridiculous when I filled my Hilux yesterday with 75 liters (19.8 gallons) of diesel for \$170! (That is more than filling our 80 gallon RV tank on deputation 3 years ago!)

Family

We are all thankful to be in good health again. Susanna has been substituting as a piano teacher for her teacher throughout the month of February. Please pray for her as she searches for the Lord’s will in the next steps of her life. She is considering either going to music school in Oslo, or moving back to the states to attend Bible school. We will definitely miss her, but know this is a part of growing up. We are so thankful for her. In addition to the other routine duties, the boys and I have gotten a project building a small log building with a floor and roof (it’s called a gapahuk if you want to google images). It’s a great way for me to teach them carpentry skills and let them earn money.

Thank You

Thank you all for being vessels of blessing and prayer to your fellow missionaries around the world. The gleanings are almost finished and soon we will with rapture “Come up hither!” Tarry by the stuff! It *will* be worth it all.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Brother Daniel and family

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