

The Grotkes

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



Norway

January-February 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This new year has already begun with substantial blessings on my family and the ministry here in Norway. Of course, these do not go unnoticed by the adversary; Satan has made his pointed attacks.

Ministry

In January, we were invited to the local Lutheran Missionary Society (which used to be part of the state church) to give our testimony and calling to Norway. Around 45 were present, mostly older, curious neighbors. In my testimony, I was able to give a clear gospel witness that salvation is a relationship with the man Christ Jesus. I made it clear that salvation is not in religion or ritual. Holly was able to play the piano as they sang some hymns. Then we were questioned for an hour (all in Norwegian), which was quite stressful! Of course we are a weird curiosity as independent Baptists. They cannot understand that we are not a part of any existing Baptist community here- we just came on our own and are trying to start a church!

Holly also attended a local ladies' Bible study in our neighborhood as well. It is a great opportunity to learn the religious culture here in Norway. For instance, an elderly lady at the Bible study pulled a Chick tract out of her Bible that she had received in her mailbox over two years ago! We have distributed over 8,500 Chick tracts in the local communities, but have never had a response from them. These folks watch, consider a long time, and often do not respond to the seed sown for many years.

Church has continued as usual and has been a blessing. We were able to purchase a better piano to leave at the building. One of the ladies in church is a professional clarinetist and usually plays along. Occasionally the kids all bring their stringed instruments (2 cellos and 2 violins) and play as well. It is a blessing to be able to enjoy such good music even though we are small.

In addition to the wonderful New Year's meeting we had with Paul Robinson, the Lord supplied us with more guests and fellowship in February. It is a blessing to brainstorm with folks with a new perspective on ministry ideas to best reach Norwegians. It is so difficult to convince those who are "rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing" that they NEED Jesus Christ!

Family

Ethan and Gabriel celebrated birthdays in January turning 18 and 13. Holly observed that it's the only time we will have four teenagers all at once, until Susanna turns 20 in April. Ethan finally got his driver's license after six months of driving courses. Because of the training involved, it costs about \$3,500 to get a

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driver's license!

Throughout January and February I was able to complete a B1 Norwegian course and pass the exams. Like English, I struggle with sentence structure and grammar. It is a good milestone, but I have far to go. Pray for my teacher Antja, and fellow students Sylvia and Ninia (both Italian Catholics) who received tracts and a witness. (I gave them Norwegian tracts for "study material"!)

Please continue to uphold us in prayer for faithfulness and wisdom in our day to day decisions. We send you a sincere thanks for your faithful support, extra gifts at Christmas, and cards and emails of encouragement. Your investment for Christ is impacting thousands around us and directly helping my family and the folks God allows us to minister to every week. Thank you!

Love in Christ Jesus,

Brother Daniel and Family

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