

The Grotkes

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



Norway

November -December 2025

Dear Saints,

Happy New Year from Norway! In spite of all the problems in the world, I think my verse for the year will be John 3:30; simple yet profound. In the past, I somehow always read this in the opposite order that it was written, “I must decrease so he can increase.” But God said, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” It’s not about YOU working to eliminate, eradicate or annihilate the human being God created, but YOKING together into His infinite power, wisdom, and liberty. Instead of being overwhelmed at the hopelessness of the world system this year, I choose to focus on the day by day details that His power can work out through me. Through whatever Christlike means possible, “Make me a blessing to someone today.”

Church/Ministry

It’s been a relatively quiet time over the holidays, starting with Thanksgiving. We are a small group of believers, so when one or several leave to be with family, there can be only one or two more attending. Nevertheless, we enjoyed quality time together in songs, fellowship, and the word. It was especially a blessing to me in teaching through Galatians to hear Karen find the answer to the deadness she encountered at church many years ago. When a church is led by men instead of Christ, it is all about control: through manipulation of the truth and fear! She rejoiced to see the liberty and life in Christ after wondering for “35 years!” Our beliefs should not be solely driven by fear instead of love for our Saviour and Friend. That is bondage, NOT liberty!

Due to our fluctuating attendance, we have had some meetings in a public meetinghouse in the town of Ås, and some at home when attendance is low. We would of course like to get a more permanent location, but right now it is more economical to meet at home when not many will be attending. We have learned that financial goals that may be realistically reached in the US in 2-3 years, must be readjusted with patience for the 5-10 year long haul here in Norway.

Family

We were blessed to have both Susanna and Ethan home for a few weeks through Christmas and New Year. Susanna used her gifts at the piano to bless our services with music as well as beautiful classical music daily. We were able to have some friends for dinner and sat around the piano singing Norwegian and English carols... very enjoyable. It is such a blessing to learn and enjoy Christ being exalted in another language and culture! Norwegians have many exquisitely beautiful hymns and carols. Ethan was able to bring his fiancé, Heleane, from the Netherlands too. Yes, he got engaged in September! They are sorting out details with her studies and his work before deciding on a date, but they hope to get married in the spring. He has currently moved to the Netherlands to work and be near

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her and the family.

Personally, I had some unexpected extra things to move in November from the place we previously rented. I was told I had more time, but that changed and I had 5-6 trailer loads of lumber and materials that had to be sold, tossed, and/or find a new home. We also had to move our shipping container with which we moved here from AK. Another frustrating job was getting my truck approved to be road legal again. Norway has bi-yearly inspections on all vehicles. In our area (you northerners will understand) the roads are generously salted. My 17 year old Hilux got rejected because of rust on the frame and rusted through and now leaking oil pan. Needless to say, I searched high and low for someone to do the work. Most could not, and the quote I did get was around \$6,000 plus parts just for changing the oil pan. Thankfully, I was blessed with mechanical learning and had access to a shop here. I pulled the engine, replaced the pan, welded new plates on the frame, cleaned and painted all the rust, as well as a few other tasks with brakes and lights. In the end, the truck passed and we saved a lot we didn't have!!

In between grease, rust, and sand in the eyes, we enjoyed some beautiful concerts where Molly and Else played piano and violin. After a record breaking warm and wet November, we now have 0-10 degrees F and 10" of snow. It's cold and beautiful.

Thanks

Yet another year has passed and I want to express our sincere thanks for each of you who pray and give to be a part of us being in Norway. We are still learning language and culture, but it is becoming more familiar. Your support is a lifeline. Thank you for enabling our opportunity to minister and live in this country! May our Lord Jesus Christ increase in each of you in '26. To Him be the glory!

For His Cause,

Daniel and Family