

The Grotkes

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



Norway

July-August 2026

Dear Saints,

Our Arctic summer has sped by, and now fall is upon us up here. Most Norwegians are working hard to finish their harvests, building projects, and outdoor activities before the cold and snow make such work much more difficult. The Lord has kept us busy and blessed. Here are a few highlights.

Our Norwegian taxes are finally paid and caught up, thanks to the help of some generous Christians. This has been a struggle for us for several years, so it is such a relief to have it behind us for a while. We can now focus on preparing more efficiently for next year. We are very relieved and grateful. I am also grateful to the Lord for providing several good projects for wonderful customers. Two of my main summer projects were a large dovetailed timber sauna with a terrace and pergola, and a massive deck around a customer's in-ground pool (very rare here), which included a pool maintenance and storage shed.

Another first for us was having all four of our oldest children working this summer. Ethan (20) secured a good job with a local carpentry crew while finishing his carpentry apprenticeship. Susanna (23), Molly (17), and Gabriel (16) were all hired at a summer café and mountain farm inn. They waited tables, cleaned rooms, washed dishes, cooked in the kitchen, and made new friends. The owners allowed them to stay in a high-mountain cabin called a *seter*, a traditional summer mountain farm where shepherds once brought their livestock to graze. The children said they felt like they were experiencing Heidi's life in the mountains! They were surrounded by mountains, sheep, and waterfalls, with a 600-meter climb on foot to and from their cabin and the inn every day. Their Norwegian employers, Arnstein and Marianne, said they received the best compliments from customers of any year they had been in business. They were so impressed that they asked the children to come back and work again next summer! We were very thankful and proud as parents to see our children enjoy their summer, earn some money, and leave a good impression as Christ-followers should.

We started our Sunday services again in August. We had a good group last Sunday: eight adults and twelve teenagers and children. Everyone enjoyed the service, and one visiting unbeliever commented positively on the message about how Christ interacted with the woman at the well. Holly prepared a meal to share, and we all enjoyed good fellowship.

Thank you all for your prayers regarding our health, the church and ministry here, and getting our taxes squared away. Please continue to pray for these things, as well as for a trip I must make to New York at the end of October. We will be holding an auction and doing a great deal of cleanup at my dad's estate.

Our sincere thanks to those who pray for us and support us here in Norway. May our worthy Lord find us each faithful and doing what we can for His Kingdom.

In Christ Jesus,

Brother Daniel and family

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