

Newsletter // Fall 2023



Advancing the Gospel in the Nordic Nation of Finland



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DISCIPLES: IT'S WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO

Hi Friends!

We hope you've had a great autumn! As Thanksgiving is upon us, we are thankful for each of you who are a part of our support team, either financially or through your prayers! You make it possible for us to serve here in Finland and across Northern Europe. Thank you.

Recently, I shared a message with our congregation here in Helsinki about discipleship. During my time of preparation, I was reminded once again that making disciples is at the core of who we are and what we do as followers of Jesus. In the busyness of our modern lives, it's easier now more than ever to neglect this beautiful and daily practice of becoming more and more like Jesus. In fact, when Jesus describes what it means to be a disciple in the Gospel of John, he paints a picture that awakens the hearts of believers and unbelievers alike. What is it about being a disciple that attracted people from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures to follow Jesus? What awaits all of us who respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him? In summary, Jesus taught that true disciples are radically transformed by love, experience unparalleled freedom and live abundant, fruitful lives, (Jn. 13:34-35; 8:31-32; 15:7-8). At a time when poor imitations and false versions of the "good life" abound, we commit ourselves to the call to go and make disciples. Not only are we learning to become better disciples ourselves, but we actively engage in the process of leading others to follow Jesus as well. This is who we are and what we do.

During this autumn, God has given us many opportunities to do just this. From outreaches at our local church, to training and empowering our colleagues across Northern Europe, we are both making and becoming better disciples. Thank you for sending us to share the Good News and answering the call to go and make disciples.

Love, Stephen & Sonia

MORE FAMILY & MINISTRY MOMENTS

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM NORTHERN EUROPE



 Each October we meet together for a time of training with all of our First Term workers;
In August, we served in the Europe booth at General Council and shared with others about reaching Europe;
While in the US, we had the opportunity to visit Stephen's family in Virginia;
On an escalator together with several from the leadership team for Europe;
Sonia, enjoying her all-time favorite Finnish dessert for her birthday, *runebergintorttu*;
In August, our Scottish team gathered together for a time of strategic planning and conversations with national leadership;
Together Larry Henderson, our Europe Regional Director, on a ministry visit to Norway and Denmark.



A typical home discipleship group that we lead from our church;
It's always a good break to have some gelato;
Sonia participated in a special prayer retreat held in N. Ireland;
Stephen speaking at our local congregation recently;
In October, we had training for new workers coming to Europe in our brand new Europe Hub building;
One of our newest workers getting ready to come to Wales here in Northern Europe;
While at General Council, we couldn't resist going for a "spin" on the Vespa;
Scan the QR code for a video greeting to watch or share.

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

• Pray for our **funding** as our travel commitments have increased greatly since becoming Area Directors here in Northern Europe..

• Did you know there is a **special 30-minute prayer time** for Europe on the **first Friday of every month** at **12:00PM** (Central/USA)? Zoom info is below:

ZOOM ID: 86863722829

Access Code: 698771

SUPPORT INFORMATION

Please note that the AG Giving website has been updated to make it easier for you to partner with us. Thank you for your support!

> **Give Online:** stephenandsonia.com

