

Newsletter // Summer 2023



Advancing the Gospel in the Nordic Nation of Finland



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GOD WILL REMEMBER... ALWAYS

Summer is a favorite time of the year for many – and with good reason! Generally, the weather is much warmer (or hotter!), people have more downtime to spend on other activities such as a family vacation, a trip or simply an opportunity to get some much needed rest. We hope each of you are enjoying your summer!

More recently, summertime has become even more memorable for us. This past June we were privileged to spend the full month engaged in training sessions and other events geared toward preparing new global workers. We thoroughly enjoyed our time with the new workers going to Europe and to other regions of the world. As a missions sending agency, we saw 94 newly commissioned career workers heading to 43 nations.

As new workers carry the gospel around the world, I am reminded of a truth that we read in Matthew 26 when Jesus was anointed by the woman with the alabaster jar of oil. You may recall that she poured out this very expensive perfume upon Jesus' feet. The disciples became indignant and could only see this act as a waste of resources and money. But, is that what Jesus saw? How did Jesus respond to this woman's sacrifice? Where others saw a waste, Jesus saw something of beauty. Furthermore, Jesus told his disciples that wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her. In other words, Jesus will always remember what we do as a gift of service unto him. When we give our time, our resources and even our lives for the sake of Christ and the gospel, others may see it as a waste, but not Jesus.

I can't help but think of the global workers recently commissioned. Behind each one, there are many who have broken open their alabaster jars as they pray, give and go so the gospel may go to every corner of the world. Isn't it a joy to know that God sees and remembers every act of service? That means He will remember yours as well.

Let this be an encouragement to us as we share the good news among the nations. Thank you for sending us to Finland and Northern Europe. God will remember all that we are doing together for his sake and the gospel.

Love, Stephen & Sonia

MORE FAMILY & MINISTRY MOMENTS



We met with our leaders from New Jersey and other colleagues during Missionary Renewal in June;
Sonia and I had the opportunity to see the production Esther from Sight & Sounds theaters;
We served as table facilitators during our June training;
We were so glad to connect with friends from Michigan who were in Finland visiting recently;
I was a joy to see Pastor Ken & Louise Jasko;
Sonia leading discussion as table facilitator during June training;
Having fun during a game night together with other Europe workers;
Scan the QR code for a video greeting to watch or share.

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

• Pray for our upcoming visit to Scotland in late August. Our team and national leadership will be meeting together for prayer and planning.

• 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

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM NORTHERN EUROPE



1 - Group photo of all the global workers in attendance during our June training and time of renewal; 2 - Celebrating together with newly commissioned workers serving in Ireland and N. Ireland; 3 - A gift from a fellow worker in Scotland. Sonia is collecting one from each of the 10 countries for Northern Europe as a reminder to pray for NE; 4 - Pray for us as we travel across Northern Europe and the US; 5 - Sonia and I were recognized for 20 years of missions service; 6 - In June, we met with a few of our NE workers. Countries represented in the group: Finland, England, Ireland, Scotland and N. Ireland.

