

Blessed New Year 2020!





Dear friends,

As 2019 draws to a close, we would like to share with you some of the blessings our family has experienced during this last year.

We opened the year with 10 days of special focus on prayer with our local church. I can't think of a better way to start a new year. Ellen white writes: "Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?"

The first months of the year were spent in local ministry and our days were filled with lots of visitation, preaching, and personal Bible studies. A highlight were the Bible studies I had with a refugee from the Middle East who received Christ in his life and decided to get baptized. There is no greater joy than stepping into the water together with a precious soul who has dedicated his future to following Jesus.

I enjoyed teaching the Bible at Matteson Mission School to a vibrant group of young people. In the spring I taught on the book of Revelation and later in the fall the book of Romans. Exploring these books is life changing.

During Easter we travelled as a family to Slussfors, Sweden, where they gather lots of young people from Scandinavia each year to enjoy two things – The Bible & snow! Yes, early morning and evenings were spent diving into God's Word, while the day was spent exploring the beautiful snowcapped mountains on snowmobiles.

Spring is still definitely my favorite season, especially after a long cold and dark Norwegian winter. It speaks of new beginnings. And this spring I was in a special way reminded of new



beginnings as I officiated two weddings of friends. One in Romania and the other in Norway. With warmer weather our boys enjoyed the outdoors and especially with the new bikes we got them. It's amazing to see how fast they are growing.

In June I was officially commissioned to pastoral and evangelistic ministry by the Norwegian SDA Union after having served as a pastor for a few years now. We appreciate being in ministry and serving in different capacities as a family. We have been based in Hønefoss for soon two years and enjoy the fellowship and ministry opportunities that this provides.

One of the highlights of the year was the Living Water summer camp in July. This year we hit a record in attendance with up to 500 people attending the Sabbath program! As you can imagine there was a lot of work with logistics, but looking back we are so grateful for the huge blessing we all received. It was truly a spiritual feast for young and old. We hope you will be able to join us in 2020! (For more info: livingwater.no)

During the summer we travelled as a family to Porto, Portugal, where I spoke at the GYC (Generation of Youth for Christ) conference. People from across Europe gathered to spend some days together in drawing closer to God and getting equipped for service. We also enjoyed the beauties of Porto and the warm sunshine that I can only dream about right now as I am writing this letter.

In August Silvia and I travelled to Kuala Lumpur where we spoke at another youth conference. I must say that speaking at so many youth conferences is one of our secrets to staying young! Especially with the reality ahead of us that we are both turning 40 in 2020! One of the highlights of our trip to Malaysia was meeting a Chinese man who had spent the last 8 years in prison for his faith. He had been charged for unlawful distribution of Christian books. Yes, this is still the way things happen in many parts of the world. I sat down and spoke with him about his experience and how he made it through these difficult and trying times. I remember thinking how I had come to encourage the believers, but now found myself being encouraged by his faith. The church in the East has its challenges, but seeing the fervency and dedication in so many believers is encouraging. The church in the West is struggling in a different way, as complacency and materialism is pushing its way into our midst. Perhaps we are imprisoned in a different way. There is no doubt that we need a spiritual awakening more than ever.

Most of September was spent in Oregon, USA. Our time was packed with evangelistic meetings every evening, but the days were spent at a lovely country home that some church members had made available for our family during our stay. The boys loved walking in the forest around the house, picking berries, and greeting the lonely sheep on the property who was the sole survivor after a cougar had visited the area. The meetings went surprising well as I had my doubts whether people would attend an evangelistic program lasting for 3 weeks with only two days free. But people came and they continued to come. We had an attendance of close to 100, and we were very encouraged when 10 precious people decided to get baptized towards the close of the series. We also had a few opportunities to enjoy the beauties of Oregon, and one day we visited the coast. Oregon coast is one of the most beautiful coasts I have seen in my life. Endless beaches that just stretch on and on as long as the eye can see.

The last months of the year were spent in lots of visitation, personal Bible studies, and several shorter evangelistic series with churches in Norway. It is also very encouraging to arrange activities with the children in Hønefoss church. Silvia has put her heart into this area of ministry, and the kids love it. It means a lot to be able to do something good for others and the sooner we can learn this in life the better. This year the children practiced for a concert that has been performed at the local mall, at a rehabilitation center, and another center for blind people. Children can share God's love in a way that break down barriers.

With 2020 around the corner we want to wish you all a peaceful and refreshing holiday season and a very happy and blessed New Year. The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. May we fill it with precious experiences, acknowledging at every page that life is a gift from above.

Greetings and Blessings from Daniel, Silvia, Elias, Enoch | livingwater.no

