



Blessed New Year 2019!



Dear friends,

At the dawn of a new year we would like to send you a warm greeting from our little family to yours. As we look back on 2018 our hearts are filled with gratitude. It's an honor and blessing to be able to share the Word of God in different places and meet so many precious people.

The year began with a trip to Germany where I preached at the ATS (Adventist Theological Society) conference. Since I had just come back from a trip to Botswana, I was a bit tired and worn. The long flight hadn't helped, but each time I got up to speak at the ATS conference I felt I was given just the strength I needed. It was great to catch up with many European friends and gospel coworkers. I preached alongside Taj Pacleb and was able to convince him to be one of our speakers for our Living Water summer camp later that year.

Back in Norway I spent the first few months enjoying lots of precious time with my kids. In Norway both parents can take a parental leave during the first two years of a child's life. My father leave lasted till the end of March. During this time, we travelled as a family to Bogenhofen (Adventist academy and theological college) in Austria, where I spoke to the students for their week of prayer event. It was such a blessing to connect with the students and witness lives being impacted by the preaching of the Word. As a family we had a wonderful outing to Salzburg where the early signs of spring were just popping up.

From April I started a new position as pastor of Hønefoss church, which is just under an hour drive from our country home. Besides having the pastoral respon-



sibility for this congregation, I am also employed as an evangelist to work with different churches in the East Norwegian conference. We started right away with an evangelistic meeting series in Lillehammer, the winter Olympic city of Norway. Together with pastor Joachim Fosse we held public meetings spread over four weeks. Guests expressed their gratefulness for the presentations and several church members commented how they experienced the "old known truths" in a new, fresh, and dynamic way.

As May came around, we had a drastic change in weather. From a long cold winter, we transitioned into many warm sunny days. With pastoral work comes lots of visitation and during May we visited church members and new friends in the area.

In June we travelled to the beautiful city of Geneva, Switzerland. I had been invited by the international SDA church to conduct a week of evangelistic meetings. We stayed with a wonderful family with two kids close in age to our two boys. During the day the kids played together and in the evenings we all attended the meetings. While I preached there were separate children meetings. Among those who attended, was a young man with quite a rough and difficult background. One of the church members had been ministering to this young man over quite some time. Now again the truths of God's Word filled his mind and heart. At the end of the week we were able to witness his baptism. There is nothing greater than seeing people connect with their Savior and commit their lives into His hands.

In July we had our yearly Living Water summer camp. 2018 marked a record attendance with over 300 people on Sabbath. Our main speaker, Taj Pacleb, preached powerful messages that were well received. Many came forward to his appeals and we also closed the camp with a beautiful baptism down at the lake. If you did not get to join, you can listen to the messages on the Living Water website (livingwater.no). You can also mark your calendar for this year. The camp will take place from the 2nd till the 7th of July, 2019. For more info and registration, check the website.

In the end of August and beginning of September I attended two seminars for pastors. One in England and the other in Serbia. Back in Norway I taught a week at Matteson School and it was great to be back after quite some time. Later in September my parents visited and we had a precious time together.

During the fall months I held evangelistic meetings in Hønefoss, Oslo, and Mysen. Though it's hard to gather a large crowd these days, it's rewarding to see individuals take the time to come and listen to the truths of the Bible. From these meetings we have started several personal Bible studies. Evangelism is at times like a treasure hunt, but once you find treasure all the effort is worth it.

As the year drew to a close, we wanted to do something for the local refugee center. We organized a Christmas concert and the kids in Hønefoss church did an amazing job singing from all their hearts. I was also overwhelmed with all the gifts church members had gathered for the refugee families. It was touching to see how thankful our new friends were for the time we spent with them that afternoon.

Along with these highlights, 2018 of course had its challenges as well. It's not always easy to have a family with two young active kids and at the same time always be on call as a pastor, while preaching and teaching in different places. We could sense we were running low on energy as the year was coming to its end.

The last days of the year we flew as a family to Sweden to attend the ASI convention in Ekebyholm. Just being away some days gave us new strength to enter the new year. I preached the last Sabbath of the year at the ASI convention about the importance of resting all the results of our work in the hands of God. It's an important reminder that ultimately He is in control and we can let Him lead. With these thoughts in our hearts we welcomed 2019. I can't wait to see how this year will unfold. In the meantime, we continue to rest in Him.

Much love from Daniel, Silvia, Elias and Enoch | livingwater.no

