

## **Blessings Poured Out on CC's Scandinavian Frontier**



**The 6th annual CC conference in Scandinavia was rich in challenging Bible studies, refreshing fellowship, and uplifting moments of prayer and worship. If you weren't there, here's what you missed...**

When the first conference attendees started arriving at the rented campsite facilities near the Danish town of Roskilde, the joy of reunion was thick in the air – as was the blazing heat of a summer-struck Denmark. Some new and welcome faces from Stockholm, Oregon, and Hungary added to the regular group of participants from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Russia, America, and Germany. Everyone checked in to their rooms as they arrived throughout the late Thursday afternoon. The smiles were wide, the laughs were loud, the hugs and high-five's were frequent. It was obvious that everyone had been looking forward to this gathering for quite a while.

About 40 people were signed up for this year's conference (the highest number so far in the short history of the conference). Among the regular attendees were Pastor Ralph Wood of CC Oceanside in California and Pastor David Guzik, Director of CC Bible College in Siegen, Germany. Both of them had arrived with the usual purpose of being used by God to encourage and edify the conference attendees in Scandinavia. Pastor David was there for his sixth Scandinavian conference, while Pastor Ralph came for his fifth in a row.

Daniel Jacobsen, who with help from his family has been the main planner and coordinator of this year's gathering as well as last year's, officially opened the conference. He welcomed everyone and gave the few necessary practical announcements before letting the first strum of worship sound from the guitar of George McLaughlin from CC Malmö, Sweden.

Pastor Kent Åkerlund of CC Malmö led the first Bible study session. While kicking off the 4-day journey through Paul's epistle to the Philippians, Pastor Kent took time to share about his recent trip to CC Malmö's newfound friendship church in Poland. His visit to the materially poor and spiritually dark Polish community brought a much needed encouragement and perspective to his ministry in Scandinavia, as he experienced God's provision and faithfulness to the small Polish



church. The encouraging and personal report by the pastor of Scandinavia's only Calvary Chapel served as a refreshing opening of the conference.

The first evening ended according to the conference tradition: with "fika" (Swedish for "a kicked-back time of neat fellowship while having coffee, tea, or other beverages along with some sort of dessert").



**Day Two – Into the Word**

While the temperature was climbing steadily outside, Friday got off to a wonderful start with the Morning Prayer meeting before breakfast. This was followed by the second Bible study session, this time taught by Daniel Jacobsen. Then, after lunch, Pastor Ralph Wood got on with the first of two workshop sessions about personal inductive Bible study methods.



»The whole purpose is to teach people how to read the Bible by themselves and let the Holy Spirit bless them by showing them the essence of the text. People shouldn't have to rely on a pile of commentaries to get them deep into the Scriptures,« Ralph Wood explained.

He ended the workshop session by giving people homework for the following day's session.



In the evening Bible study session, Pastor Ralph picked up the study through Philippians, where Pastor Kent and Daniel Jacobsen had left off. Erinn Fralich from Applegate Christian Fellowship in Oregon led people in worship on his guitar with some percussion back-up. The evening ultimately ended with "fika", while some people went down to sit by the lake, where the children's ministry helpers had kept a bonfire going from the evening session with the kids...

And thus, another hot day at the conference drew to a close with the blood red, Hollywood-like half-moon reflecting itself off the calm surface of the lake.

**Multi-lingual Children's Ministry**

In spite of the many various nationalities represented at the conference, all teaching for the adults was done in English – without any notable problems.

However, for those in charge of the children's ministry such a procedure could simply not be taken. With a group of kids altogether speaking five different languages – some bilingual, some only familiar with one – the task had to be handled creatively.



»Because of the language barrier, we preached and taught Jesus to them through our actions... and when possible, we used words,« says Kristofer Midtlyng, who was in charge of this year's children's ministry. The 29-year-old American missionary with Norwegian decent currently serves in Scotland, but is praying for a future opportunity to go to Norway. However, since his Norwegian language skills did not yet permit him to fluently communicate with the Scandinavian kids, he happily teamed up with Thomas & Amy Larsen, as well as Allison Faith Hitchcock. The three of them took turns helping out with the kids throughout the conference, so that all three of them would also get a few chances to sit in on the "grown-up" teaching.





»I must admit, I discovered that my Russian is a bit rusty,« Thomas laughs in response to the question of what it was like looking after a group of kids, who spoke either Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Russian or English. However, between Kristofer the American, Thomas the Dane, Amy and Allison the Danish-speaking Americans, the children's ministry was in capable hands, and the kids seemed to think so, too.

### **Recreational Time**

Saturday was kick-started by yet another Morning Prayer meeting before breakfast. Then followed the first Bible study session led by Pastor David Guzik. Shortly after this session ended, the second session of the inductive Bible study workshop with Pastor Ralph took place. Those who had not done their homework from the day before were sent outside to study by themselves, in order for Pastor Ralph to continue the workshop with the rest of the class.



While half the class sat out on the lawn studying their Bibles, the rest of the class was blessed in the sanctuary.

»I've taken a lot of inductive Bible study classes in the past years, including my

time at the Bible College in Murrieta, but I learned some things in this workshop that I had never known from all the previous classes,» Daniel Jacobsen said afterwards.

After lunchtime, the entire afternoon was all about recreational time and spontaneous social activities. People would hang out on the sun-bathed lawn outside the sanctuary, cool off by going swimming in the lake, or go for a drive or a walk in the beautiful and scenic surroundings.





A few hours into the afternoon, a spontaneous volleyball match was arranged at the campsite volleyball course. With six enthusiastic players on each team, the high-spirited game entertained the people on the sidelines through four sets – until the final play decided the game just before dinnertime. Who knows, perhaps it was the birth of a new athletic tradition at the Scandinavian CC conferences...?

### **Afterglow after Dark**

With satisfied stomachs, high hopes and anticipation people gathered in the sanctuary for the Saturday evening Bible study session, taught by Pastor Ralph. As in the previous years, the session on the last night of the conference would be followed by a time of afterglow (a.k.a. believer's meeting) and a time of just waiting on the Lord.



An intimate time of communion started the afterglow session. The congregation then waited upon God to speak to His people through the various gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many were clearly blessed as God's Spirit moved on the expectant group of believers, and as people willingly prayed with and for one another. While the twilight slowly turned into solid darkness outside, the bright love of God roamed

freely inside the sanctuary.

Towards the end of the night, the elders stayed behind and took time to pray for those with special prayer needs. This too, was a powerful time in which God ministered to the hearts of His saints. Far past midnight, the last people decided to retreat to their rooms after a long and eventful day of manifold blessings.

### **Departing**

With the rise of the Sunday morning sun, the 2004 conference was drawing to a close. The Morning Prayer meeting wasn't marked by sadness, though, but rather with thankfulness and optimism. So was the last Bible study session, taught by David Guzik.



Finishing up the study through Paul's letter to the Philippians, Pastor David let the Word of God edify the flock before they would return to their spiritual frontlines across Scandinavia and Europe (and the U.S.).

The study was followed by the traditional group photo shoot, after which people would help clean up the entire campsite facilities. Then, one by one, people started saying their goodbyes, since some had planes, trains, or busses to catch. Others had many miles of European freeway ahead of them. And so, with many hugs and exhortations, people parted ways, refilled and recharged for service and ministry – as happy receivers of the blessings which were poured out on the Calvary Chapel frontier of Scandinavia.



Related articles:

- [Pastors Pleased with Conference \(16.08.04\)](#)
- [How People Got Blessed \(14.08.04\)](#)
- [Another Scandinavian Conference Coming Up \(09.07.04\)](#)

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