



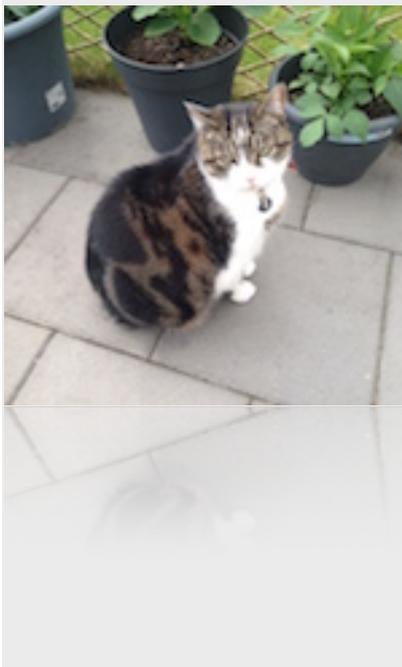
# The Gospel Challenge

Re-evangelizing Sweden - Gospel training & discipleship ministries

## Writing a new course in Evangelism and discipleship

Working in Stockholm with a group of new believers we discovered that we need new tools for evangelism and discipleship so we decided to write a new course adapted to the Swedish culture and the current situation. We hope that with this we can be much more effective in outreach and in training.

Our cat Obi Wan Kenobi



## Moving back to Sweden has brought its own unexpected challenges

This is our first newsletter since moving back to Sweden.

It is good to write again, although from a completely different perspective. Our first challenge was to find a place to live, and through God's grace



this was resolved after nine months. As we are settling into our new apartment, our new ministry and new life we would want to express our gratitude to all of you who have been praying for us and still are.

### *Only the biblical gospel can counter the serious moral decay in Sweden*

Another challenge was that being back in Sweden after 13 years in Serbia, we realised how much we have been insulated from the issues in society, such as the media's trying to discredit believers as homophobic, or stuck in a past where the church is viewed as an oppressor of freedom. Just seeing how far things have gone in the moral decay of Sweden shocked us. People celebrate gay pride festivals all over the country: 30 festivals every year and the media pushing it as if it is the only good thing happening in Sweden. It is a difficult time for the church.

A lot of people are agreeing that the greatest need for Sweden and Europe is a new effort towards re-evangelizing. Just as Gospel growth is strong in the third world, we need to bring our attention back to Europe (but, of course, without losing our ongoing work in the third world). Europe, once the bearer of the banner of Christianity, is in a really bad spiritual state; today paganism is strongly on its way back.

## Evangelism training

For every believer we train to know the Gospel thoroughly and be able to share it spontaneously at every opportunity, we create a new missionary who is equipped to his/hers own frontline. This is our vision: to train people with gospel skills.

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It seems to us that a lot of Christians are in a state of fear and confusion, not knowing what to do or where to start. But actually there is very simple solution, though we as Christians might have lost the confidence in being able to do it. We just need to do what we always have been called to do - make disciples.

To counter moral decay we need Jesus' recipe of "salt and light": the preaching of the biblical gospel and a life full of his grace working in us as we fight sin. The biblical gospel has been lost and needs to be found again, along with the boldness to preach it and persistence to teach it. This is where we need to invest most our effort. So, we do have a great challenge ahead of us, reaching into what seems an impossible situation.

*Talking about impossible situations...*

### *When God intervenes in one mans life*

We want to share a very recent story from Sweden to encourage you to stay faithful in ministry and prayer as you never know when and how God will move.

It's about a young man who is in his late 30's. He is comes from a non-believing family who despised Christians and religion. Growing up with Nietzsche and other philosophers rather than the bible, shaped him into a person with a total worldly view on life. As a successful businessman in Stockholm, he had everything he needed in life; there was absolutely nothing he wanted. Though he was not seeking God, God was seeking

him. An urge for something more was growing in him and one day he decided to 'Google' God. He ended up on a good Christian website where he listened to a sermon; the Holy Spirit convicted him of his sin and need of salvation and he was converted there and then.

You see, this is just the type of guy who represents the general trend and thinking in the west today and we think people like that will never become Christians. I asked him how he would have reacted if somebody had preached the Gospel to him before he became Christian. He said he would have dismissed

them as lunatics. And still here we are, writing about an impossible miracle. Or is it? For God nothing is impossible.

*'When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'* Matthew 19:25-26

**Yours in Christ**

**Chris & Lotta and Obi**