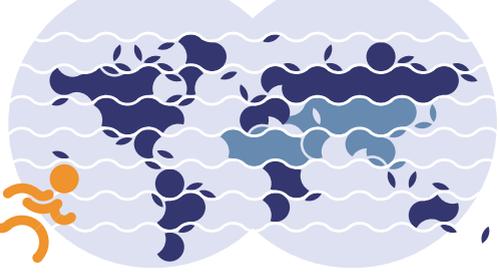


# Mot Målet



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## Who is Youth with a Mission?

We are from 0-100 years old. We live in over 150 nations. We work together as friends in multicultural teams and across generations. We come together from different Christian traditions to praise God through a diversity of expressions.

We are committed to growing in our understanding of who Jesus is and how he wants us to love and serve the people of this world. We like new ideas and are happy to let young people have a go at them. We believe that God

wants a living relationship with each and every one of us.

We travel a lot. We are touched by those who suffer and we want to do something about this. It is important for us that decisions are made locally. We are not here for the money, and are happy to live simple lives.

We have experienced that faith in Jesus will take you to places you would never have dreamed of – to do things you could never have imagine – in ways that you would never have thought of.

# Apple trees and the corona crisis

In my garden there are eleven apple trees, the oldest of which, I am told, was planted in 1912.

As soon as the bitter cold here in Hedmark is over, I let the trees feel the pruning knife. It feels brutal.

Two years ago, I pruned more than ever. I cut away so much that even my neighbor commented about it. “There won’t be much fruit here,” he said. This was especially true for the oldest trees. He was right. But I had a plan, and last year my work paid off. The trees bore an abundance of fruit. Even the oldest trees bore fruit. In September, I had saved over 50 jars of jam and almost 100 liters of apple juice in the cellar. We are still enjoying the fruits of the “garden massacre” two years ago.

Right before his death on the cross, Jesus talked about pruning vines. Branches that don’t bear fruit will be cut away. Branches that do bear fruit are pruned – not so much – but still some, so that they can bear even more fruit.

We can understand “spiritual fruit” in two ways:

In the first way, the fruit of the Spirit grows “inside us.” Paul presents a long list of examples of this in Galatians 5:22–23: love, joy, peace, perseverance, kindness

and so on. In Ephesians 1:17–18 Paul prays that “... God ... may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation ... in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you ...”. Fruit in the spiritual sense is also something that grows inside us. It is the process where we become more and more like Christ, a change that happens inside and out. Metamorphoo is the Greek word that was used to describe this change (2 Corinthians 3:18) – the process where a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

Secondly, the fruit of the Spirit is something that grows externally – as a result of our life and work, where the Kingdom of God becomes visible among us. Jesus talks about this in the parable of the talents (Luke 19:11 and Matthew 25:14). How do we manage what was given to us when we meet other people? What is the result of our activities? Is the Kingdom of God growing among us?

The corona crisis has done something to our daily rhythms. Many activities are set aside. New practices and rhythms are established. This gives us a good opportunity to consider how we use our time. Is there something in our lives that needs to be “pruned”? Is there something that prevents “Christ being formed in me”? Are there activities in our churches that do not bear fruit? Is it time to think again? Has the corona crisis helped us to find new avenues to show that God is good? Is there something in particular we should begin with?

The corona crisis will not last forever. Things will perhaps be normal again when the schools begin in the fall. Perhaps it will take a full year. Nobody knows. But I hope that when we return to normal, we have let the Lord of the Harvest prune us, so that we can bear even more fruit.

*Andreas Nordli*

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# Short news

## NEW BASE LEADERS IN NORDLAND

Øystein and Gro Rykkeliid have led YWAM's work in Nordland since it was begun twenty years ago. Last year YWAM Nordland purchased a property in Sørfold district, a little north of Fauske, and they have recently completed the move from Nordtun School in Meløy. Øystein and Gro have decided to step down as base leaders and will pass the baton on to Sondre (26) and Annika (27) Neverdal over the course of the summer. Sondre is from Bodø, while Annika is from Finland. They have been married for four years and have a young son. They have worked in YWAM since 2015.



## YWAM NORWAY INTERCESSION MINISTRY

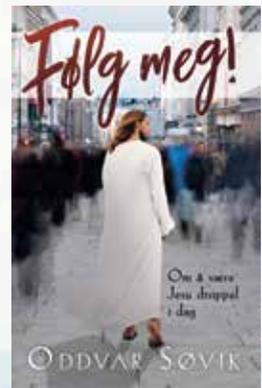
Ivar and Anne Marie Eidsheim have been the contact people for YWAM Norway's intercession ministry for many years. They have received prayer requests from people all over the country and have faithfully prayed for the nation and individuals. They recently decided to step down from their roles as contact people for this ministry. Their successor has not yet been decided upon.

## OUR ACCOUNTS IN 2019

Preliminary figures show that YWAM Norway has grown financially, with a profit of almost 1.5 million kroner in 2019. The profit will be added to the organization's equity. Turnover last year was approximately 50 million kroner. This does not include Proklamedia, YWAM's kindergartens, or YWAM's private school.

## ODDVAR SØVIK RELEASES A NEW BOOK ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP

"It looks like there has been a separation between what it means to believe in Jesus and to follow Jesus. Therefore there has also been a separation between what it means to be a Christian and to be a disciple. But that division isn't found in the Bible," says Oddvar Søvik about his new book *Følg Meg!* (Follow Me!) It has been published by Proklamedia and the theme is what discipleship looks like today. Oddvar Søvik is an MF-educated theologian and held many different leadership positions across Norway before retiring in 2012. Søvik has written a number of books on different topics, several of which are published by Proklamedia. The book can be purchased at [www.proklamedia.no](http://www.proklamedia.no) or in your local Christian bookstore. \* Please note this book is currently only available in Norwegian.



## YWAM SHIPS NORWAY'S OFFICE OPENS IN ÅLESUND

YWAM Ålesund has long been a central partner for YWAM Ships Norway's hospital ship work in Papua New Guinea. Jan and Randi Alnes, base leaders for YWAM Ålesund, have now opened a YWAM Ships Norway office in Ålesund that will serve the ministry through communication, recruiting, and fundraising for the work in Papua New Guinea. The office will be in the former cafe of the Ålesund Bedehus (prayerhouse) in downtown Ålesund.

# The disciples' fellowship in a difficult situation

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A little while ago we celebrated Easter. It was a different sort of Easter. Maybe you spent it with your family, or maybe you were sitting in isolation. Perhaps this Easter wasn't celebrated at the cabin, as so many people are used to. But we celebrated in the way we could, because the message of Easter will always remain.

And this is how we can see Easter as a backdrop, as a miracle. When Jesus Christ gave His own life so that we could have eternal life. But how did His disciples experience their Easter, when Jesus was crucified?

They celebrated together with Jesus and shared the Easter meal. The next day, He hung on the cross. Three days later, He was resurrected from death. Personally, I can have a tendency to read Mathew 26–28 quickly; the words fly past, and so do the events. But how were these few days for the disciples? How were those hours? Those minutes? The disciples had spent three years together with Jesus, and after a meal of celebration their rabbi was crucified.

Some months ago we were able to go to concerts, restaurants, school, work, and university. Now however, a global pandemic has put society on pause. In these times, the world and our lives have abruptly changed. Maybe you have a full house with children and are trying to work from home, or you are a lonely student that is studying from home.

One question I have been thinking a lot about over Easter is what we can learn from the disciples' unrest,

turmoil, and fear. Now that Easter has just passed, we find ourselves sitting, perhaps like the disciples, in fear and uncertainty about what will happen next.

It is never easy to interpret large worldwide events, such as a pandemic, through God's eyes. I believe it is not our job to do that either. But in spite of everything, I believe we can learn much from the disciples, who in an uncertain situation gathered in groups and families and sought God first of all.

I still want to share a good message – an unshakeable message – but I also want to give a realistic message. We live in an uncertain time – a difficult time – and perhaps we even understand in our bodies how the disciples felt those three days that they sat and waited. Today we are lucky, and in our country we don't suffer persecution as others do in different parts of the world. We can gather in our families, and we are lucky to be able to gather for church digitally. Zoom and other digital tools can help us to stay together in fellowship such as the disciples did in an uncertain time.

In this edition, you can read about how we in YWAM Norway have gathered using Zoom and other digital tools. How we look up and know that we believe in a God that hears our prayers. God is good and sooner or later we will again be able to gather in church buildings, universities and work, and open up YWAM bases and schools.



## EDITOR

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**ANDREAS SÆTHER**  
Is 21 years, living in Oslo. From Hommersåk, Sandnes. Did Backpack-DTS in Rogaland in 2018. Staff at YWAM Oslo and studies at the College of Leadership and Theology.

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# Latin Vikings in Mexico City

YWAM ¡Hola! Has a Viking heart! And if you don't yet know who we are, let me tell you our story. You have a part in it.

In 2010, YWAM Rogaland sent a DTS team to Mexico City – the first of many. Jan Torland, base leader for YWAM Rogaland, had decided that YWAM Rogaland should start a work in Mexico City, to equip Spanish speakers for missions. After many years of preparation, we moved from Norway to Mexico in 2019 to begin. The team was not so large in the beginning. We were just three people: one Mexican, one Norwegian, and one Japanese. But God soon began to call more to join, and we quickly grew to seven – the perfect number for a team!

## Raw worship

We did not have our own place to live for the first six months. The boys lived in a small apartment near downtown, while the girls lived north of the city, at the house of a friend of ours. It was challenging not to use all of our time and prayers to find a place we could all live together. I remember Andreas Nordli, leader of YWAM Norway, say that “one of the most important things for a pioneering team is to find a sustainable rhythm.” So even though we didn't stop praying for a place to live, we made an effort to develop daily routines.



*The team at YWAM ¡Hola!  
Has grown quickly over a  
short time.* PHOTO: EMILIE  
TODAM FUTTRUP

For example, we began to have regular meetings to seek God, pray and worship in three different places in the city, and we invited local friends to join us. One of these places was a café where we had worship evenings. Lots of people came together from different churches to worship God every Friday. These evenings were completely raw! It began with just ten people, but we quickly grew to over seventy.

### **Vision became a reality**

Soon we began to grow exponentially and multiplication became the

new rule. We went from seven to thirty staff, and God provided us with a house that had been used by a drug cartel earlier. Immediately after receiving the building, which had previously been used for evil, we began to mobilize Mexicans and those of other nationalities to missions. Our vision had become reality!

### **GOfest**

Since 2019 we have mobilized nine teams that have traveled to Japan, over seventy teams to Mexico, started three DTSs, and challenged and trained over five hundred people. We have cooper-



## **REPORT**

**JOSE ELISAMA (33)** is from Mexico. He was DTS staff at YWAM Rogaland from 2014 to 2018. He is now base leader at "YWAM ¡Hola!" in Mexico City. He did his DTS at YWAM Perth, Australia in 2011.



✦ ated with many churches, and countless people have been touched by the Holy Spirit through our different ministries and schools.

We have a full schedule the coming months, and now we are also planning a Mexican version of GOfest!

### **iMi casa es tu casa!**

YWAM Norway has been a huge inspiration for us. One of ten hears our team talk about Norway – for example, we always sing a prayer song before we eat. Even though we know that this will change over time as we grow, we make good use of the legacy from YWAM Norway and YWAM Rogaland: A spirit of pioneering, apostolic blessing, and passion and joy for building the Kingdom of God.

Do you understand better now? YWAM ¡Hola! Has a Latin Viking heart! ¡Mi casa es tu casa! Join us! ■

# he Carry the Love tour in Norway

The Carry the Love tour in 2020 reached almost 24,448 students in the USA with the gospel, and over 2,043 have given their lives to Jesus. In April 2020 Carry the Love should have come to Norway. They are now changing their strategy, but they have the same goal.

### **DTS in Hawaii**

Vilde Nyjordet is part of the leadership of the Carry the Love team in Norway. Vilde grew up in Oslo, and did her DTS at Kona, Hawaii two years ago. Since then she has also completed the “Revival and Reformation” school with YWAM Kona. This school focuses on revival history and how Christians today can bring revival and reformation to the places God is calling them to.

### **A heart for Norway**

“It was during this school that God started to call me and give me a heart for Norway, a hunger to see Norwegians know who they are and what God has called them to,” explains Vilde.





WWW.CARRYTHELOVE.COM

#### CARRY THE LOVE

This is a ministry originating from Circuit Riders, a ministry under YWAM. It focuses on reaching universities and high schools with Jesus.

*Vilde Nyjordet works with Carry the Love.*

PHOTO: PRIVATE

Vilde says she was brought up in a Christian home and was actively involved at church as a child, but she never understood what it meant to have a relationship to Jesus. She says that at high school she “got stuck in partying, alcohol, and all that. But now, two years later, I’m totally free and can share my story with people who have no idea (about God); I tell them what a joy it is to know Him!”

#### **Carry the Love – New Strategy**

Carry the Love is a two-day event with a strong evangelistic message focusing on equipping students to reach out with the gospel in their universities and high schools.

Organizers had to cancel the five Carry the Love events they had planned in Norway, in Oslo, Kristiansand, Stavanger, Bergen and Trondheim.

“We gathered people from all over Europe and met by livestream on 8 April. We worshipped, and listened to preaching, teaching and testimonies.”

In autumn 2020, they are planning to have more evangelistic events, which will include practical training in evangelism and worship.

#### **European Tour**

Vilde had just come home from part of a tour in Europe just before the COVID-19 outbreak. In the Czech Republic they visited several Catholic schools where they could preach the gospel. “When the Holy Spirit came into the classroom, in a normal school day, people started to weep and wanted to come to Jesus and repent of their former lives!”

Vilde expects “that people will have a real meeting with Jesus”. ■



#### **INTERVIEW**

**GERD VÅRIN  
EMMERHOFF**

Gerd Vårin is 21, grew up in Kazakhstan and now lives in Bergen.

She is studying teacher training and is part of Disippel Bergen. She did her DTS in Ålesund in 2017.



# The corona crisis and YWAM Norway

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Everyone in Norway has been affected by the spread of the coronavirus. A lot of people have been temporarily laid off, some people own firms that have gone bankrupt, some have had the virus and a few people have lost loved ones.

YWAM Norway has followed government advice, and in several cases we have enforced stricter precautions than those recommended. For example, all of our outreach teams returned home as quickly as possible in March. A lot of schools or courses that were due to start in March or April were cancelled, while some of them are continuing with online teaching. Seventeen of our 150 missionaries have come home, and for some it was a race against time to return.

## **The bases**

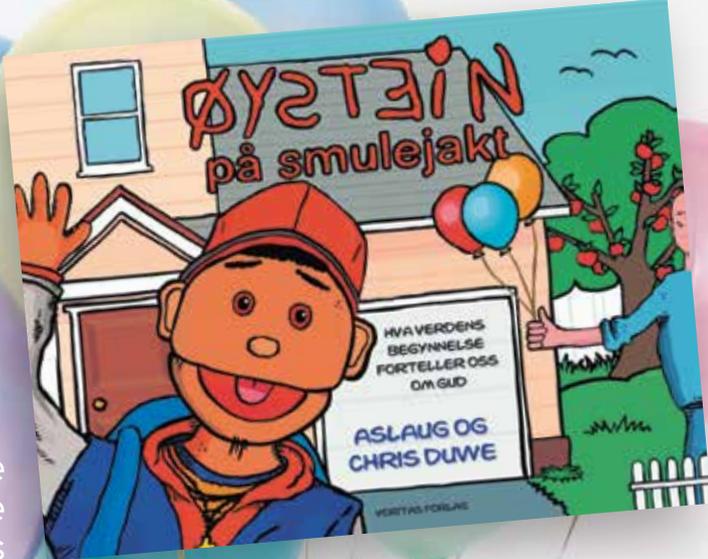
A lot of YWAM Norway staff members live in communities. In these

cases we've made individual decisions on how to run the bases, often in cooperation with the local health authorities. As bases also function as private homes, most of them are still functioning to a degree, but with a very reduced capacity. Some of our bases have basically been shut down, as they are quarantine areas where no one can enter. Others have been more open.

## **Finances**

YWAM Norway has lost well over a million kroner because of the corona crisis. We will be able to recover some of this, but at the moment we don't know how much. The loss is due to cancelled schools and events, and to unused plane tickets. However, if the situation continues through the summer and autumn, we could face more serious circumstances. Although YWAM Norway is in a good place financially as a whole, some of our bases have a lot of expenses because of rental agreements and mortgages. These bases will find themselves in challenging times this autumn if everything is cancelled.

*Andreas Nordli,  
leader of YWAM Norway*



Children have to learn that the Christian faith is credible

## Chris Duwe has published a new book

Chris Duwe and his wife Aslaug have just published a new children's book. The title is "Øystein på smulejakt – Hva verdens begynnelse forteller oss om Gud"\* (Øystein searches high and low – What the earth's beginning tells us about God) and is about the fact that "no thing can come from nothing". This is a very logical truth. No one expects that dinner will just prepare itself. But when we talk about the world, animals, people and DNA, we suddenly think that this can just make itself happen. This is wrong, says Chris.

### What age group is the book aimed at?

If an adult reads the book with the child, it is suitable for five- to eight-year-olds, but if they read it alone, then eight to ten.

### What do you hope the book will give to children?

I hope it can result in some good conversations at home, and that children

can have the chance to process what they've heard. I think that parents would like to have some help in addressing the big questions such as "Does God exist?" This book offers both a simple and a deep answer to this question. I hope adults and children will read it together and find out that God exists. In this book I'm also celebrating the fact that Øystein is searching and wants to find answers to life's big questions. I hope the book will result in people understanding that it is OK to doubt and to ask questions – that's when you find the answers.

I also hope that children can find their true worth. Our basic value is that God has created us and given us purpose. If we believe God has created the world, then we must believe He has also created you, so you are valuable. ■

*\* Please note this book is currently only available in Norwegian.*



### A NEW BOOK

EVA MARIA NILSSEN is 37 years old and is originally from Varangerbotn in East Finnmark, northern Norway. She leads the "Bibelkveld" (Bible evenings) with YWAM Rogaland. She did her DTS in Skien, Norway in 2003.

Focus  
on the  
family





The home and the family have become even more important in this season when lots of schools and kindergartens are closed, and many people are working from home. This situation presents us with lots of new opportunities.

Times of crisis quickly reveal the most important elements of a society, and the last few weeks have clearly shown us that the family is of fundamental importance to society. A lot of parents have had to homeschool their children, work from home and also do church at home. “This does present some challenges, but also gives us some good opportunities,” says Geir Edvin Frøen, leader of Familiefokus.

One of the opportunities is the amount of digital resources that have been made. Chris Duwe and Svein Ola Skaaret turned their office into a studio. They normally work with the Øystein project which is part of Familiefokus. They’ve had live “anti-boredom shows” on Facebook and YouTube every day while the schools and kindergartens have been closed. “We want to bless the families with a programme that can gather the family and bring some joy to daily life,” says Chris Duwe. They also broadcast an Easter calendar. “We hope that children in Norway will get to know Jesus,” he adds. They reach out to several thousand children and young people through these online shows.

Daily life has been quieter, and people are spending more time with their families. “We have finally been able to start the morning with family devotions,” says Geir Edvin. “Although we’ve become less effective in our work, and miss things that were possible before,” he says while pointing out some opportunities they’ve seen this crisis bring: “Prayer has become more important in our family, it’s good to be more active in our children’s schoolwork, and we’ve had many good conversations about the big questions in life.” His desire is that each family will have a greater focus on Jesus during this time.

*Mot Målet*

*Chris and Svein Ola prepare for a new live broadcast.*

PHOTO: PRIVATE



# The national prayer conference at Grimerud

*During the prayer conference, a lot of time was set aside to wait in God's presence in worship and stillness.* PHOTO: YWAM GRIMERUD



## REPORT

**HÅVARD SAND**  
Håvard is married to Karen from the Philippines. They have one son, David (18). Håvard works as an assistant at Grimerud kindergarten and in Proklamedia. He did his DTS at Grimerud in the autumn of 1986.

**“Speak, Lord! Your family is listening!” was the theme for the national prayer conference at Grimerud, at the end of February.**

YWAM Norway and the National Prayer Council has arranged national prayer conferences for many years, and in the last few years there has been quite an increase in attendance. This year Grimerud was once again full, with almost 500 pre-registered participants.

At the end of February no one was aware of the shakings and upheavals awaiting Norway and the rest of the world just three weeks later. People from all over Norway had gathered to hear from God. One question begs to be asked: “What did we hear that would help us prepare for the reality that we find ourselves in now?” We can see with hindsight that there were sev-

eral clear messages that were spoken: little did we know how rapidly they would become highly relevant.

The clearest message was from Rhonda Mathisen, who called us to go home and turn our homes into houses of prayer. The call to “Go home and pray!” was repeated several times. Karen Sand called us to focus on Jesus and told us that “now is the time for quiet and to wait on God.”

During the prayer conference Håvard Sand led us in a prophetic act, which illustrated how the prayer bowls have been filled up with the prayers of our forefathers, starting with the first Irish missionaries who came to Norway in the ninth century. During the prophetic act the prayer bowls with the accumulated prayers of former generations were poured over someone representing the youth of today. Elin Slåtten from Fauske represented that generation, and she shared a powerful Jesus-centred testimony on Saturday evening. This message spoke of God's longing



and hunger, and the importance of having deep roots in the Bible in order to go through difficulties and challenges. Alv Magnus, Håkon Fagervik and Bjørn Olav Hansen also shared testimonies that would in their own ways prepare us for what lay ahead.

In addition to the preaching and prophecies, a lot of time was set aside to wait in God's presence in worship and stillness, and also in intercession for Norway and the nations.

The prayer gathering was a testimony to the unity that has grown between Christians in the last few years, and which gives a basis for us to stand together across denominations when a crisis like this touches us.

As we look back we can also see just how prophetic the theme of the conference was to be, as now more than at any other time the church in Norway needs to hear from God so that it is best prepared for the time we are living in. ■



## All of our summer events are cancelled

YWAM Norway has unfortunately had to cancel all of its summer events due to COVID-19. Now YWAM Norway wants to help families practice their faith at home. ●

“Unfortunately, we’ve had to cancel all our events this summer because of the way the situation has developed,” says Andreas Nordli, YWAM Norway’s leader. “We’ve tried to wait as long as possible before making the final decision, in order to see if we could run some camps, but we see now that this is just not possible,” he continues.

The events include the GOfest, which should have taken place at Stavern at the end of June, all the family camps, other conferences, summer courses and other camps during the summer. YWAM Norway had expected 3,000 participants at these summer events. ●

“This is really sad, since we have lots of families who have been looking forward to the events, and a lot of work has gone into planning them,” says Geir Edvin Frøen, leader of Familiefokus. He goes on to say that they are now working on alternatives for those who should have attended a family camp. “At Familiefokus, our desire is to help families and individuals to have a richer faith. A family camp is about helping families to focus more on each other and on Jesus throughout the year. We want to help Christian families to do this, and we’re looking at how we can offer them different resources during the summer,” he says. ●

“There are clearly financial consequences for YWAM Norway. We will manage in the short term, but it will be difficult if this situation continues throughout the autumn,” says Andreas. ■

In previous issues, we have shined a spotlight on several staff and leaders in important positions who are not always easy to see. We want to present additional ministries and work that doesn't always get a place in Mot Målet, and in this issue, we wish to present Alex and Alina, who have faithfully served for many years. Here is their story.

# Alex and Alina lead Proklamedia



*Alex and Alina together with their family.*

PHOTO: PRIVATE

Alex and Alina Drago-man, originally from Romania, have lived in Norway since 2015.

They have four children, Andrei (8), David (6), Robert (3) and Monica (2) live at Grimerud. Together they lead Proklamedia, YWAM Norway's publisher.

We met in YWAM Romania in 2004, were married in 2007, and both con-

tinued to work in YWAM Romania. In 2015, we came to Norway to be staff for a leadership course for three months. Our plans changed however, and we stayed to begin serving as leaders from Proklamedia.

To lead Proklamedia is a fantastic journey where we get to use all of our giftings, while at the same time have opportunities to step out of our comfort zones. To choose and publish books together with our team is a life-

giving and exciting process. This is fun, but it is also a lot of work. I (Alina) like best to work with the book layouts, while Alex likes best when the finished books come from the printer and he can smell the fresh ink from the boxes that the books come in.

Books were an important part of my (Alina) childhood. I became a Christian when I went to high school, and a book about the missionary Jim Elliot, who lived in the jungles of Ecuador, touched me deeply. Therefore it was great to be able to publish a biography about Jim Elliot in 2018 and his wife Elizabeth Elliot in 2020. Their lives are about faithfulness, hope, love for God, and surrender to the people they were called to serve among. A good friend says that we need to “burn” for the books we publish. If every book becomes a blessing for one person, then 30,000 people were blessed in Norway in 2019.

We believe that we all are born unique, with unique giftings. We discover and develop other talents as we try new things. To serve God is therefore never boring. There is always something new and exciting that we can learn. Our talents make the people around us better and stronger. Through our lives, God is honored and together we can grow while we use and develop our talents.

We wish to invite you to join our team. To serve God is both an honor and a responsibility. The biggest privilege must be that we one day will hear Jesus say to us: “Well done, good and faithful servant! ... Come and share your master’s happiness!”

*Mot Målet*

## Bo romslig og fritt på Hedemarken

Eiendom med to bolighus til salgs i Løten. Det romslige hovedhuset har 5 soverom, kårboligen har 2 (3) soverom. Frittliggende gårdstun med utsikt. God plass til prosjekter i garasje, låve og uthus. Her har det vært bedt bønner til Gud i hundre år.



Det er 10 km til Hedemarken friskole. 18 km til Hamar, 22 km til Grimerud.  
Se mer på [www.fjellbekken.no](http://www.fjellbekken.no) Kontakt Egil Rønningstad på 4020 1177



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# Some Valuable Experiences

It wasn't easy for Kristina Garelius to move to a big city after living and working with YWAM Rogaland for four years. However, God knew she needed this time in preparation for studying social work.



## INTERVIEW

SARA K. SORTLAND ((22) is part of the leadership team of Disippel Oslo. She studies copywriting at Westerdals, Høyskolen Kristiania in Oslo. She did her DTS at Kona, Hawaii in 2017.

### **How did God lead you to become a social worker?**

Kristina laughs as she says it's all about her wanting to work with people: it's a dream she has had for a long time.

"When I got saved, I really wanted to help and encourage people," she says. In 2015 Kristina received Jesus on the Backpack DTS at YWAM Rogaland. The three years she was on staff in Rogaland helped to shape and equip her for her social work studies. At YWAM Rogaland she did a lot of practical things, which is also very common in social work. She learned to lead "One on One" talks, resolve conflict and encourage others. These experiences have been invaluable.

"I just sat and laughed the whole first year, there was so much they were teaching that I'd already learned from YWAM." Kristina says that she gets a lot of revelation from the process she's in. When she applied for the program, she thought it looked interesting but didn't really think any more than that. But while studying to be a social worker she sees more and more how God led her to it.

Are there any experiences from YWAM that characterise your life as a student?

"The most practical things I've learned are not to worry about money, to bring things up and talk about them, and that we can pray with each other!" Kristina adds that we can easily forget to pray and take time with God every day. She's thankful to YWAM for showing her the value of taking time to be with Jesus. In addition, she feels that YWAM is still a home for her. She feels safe there, she knows the framework and what to expect. Kristina feels that she can relax when she visits the base in Oslo or the Bible evening.

### **What is your advice for people leaving YWAM?**

Kristina says she experienced culture shock when she moved to Oslo, it was so unusual to have so many Norwegians around instead of an international community.

"Be patient, have faith in God as a good father who will provide for all you need," she says. She doesn't hide the fact that it was much easier to make friends in YWAM than in Oslo. God comforted her by reminding her that she could still invest time in relationships she'd made during her years as YWAM staff, as others had also moved from the Rogaland base in autumn 2018, and settled in Oslo. As we talk, it becomes more and more clear how God has prepared Kristina for her studies. In social work she is able to use skills she has honed in YWAM to do what she loves: helping other people. ■

*Kristina has seen how her experience with YWAM helps her in her social work studies.* PHOTO: PRIVATE





# A chat with Miriam

MIRIAM JOYA (29) has since she was 18 years old, had a call to share the gospel. This call would, several years later, take her all the way from her home city and country, Tegucigalpa in Honduras, to the nation of Norway and big city of Oslo. After she was finished with her DTS in Oslo in 2019, she knew she had to stay. Today she is engaged in mercy ministry in the city.

**Jorunn:** Good morning, Miriam! Tell me: is it true that you didn't know what Oslo was before?

**Miriam:** Hi 😊 That is true. When I was 23, I stumbled across the word “Oslo”, but didn't know that it was actually the name of a city and that it was actually the capital of a country in Europe. 😊 Since that time, I began to read more and more about Norway (but without really thinking about missions.)

**J:** That is quite funny. But how then did you end up in Norway?

**M:** When I was in the middle of my 20s, I read a book (The Insanity of Obedience by Nik Ripken) that gave me the urge to say to God: “Lord, you have to send me”. That same night, I googled “YWAM”. I had not met anyone that was involved in the organization at that point. But when I checked the international homepage I was fascinated by the motto “To know God and make Him known”. I searched for “Oslo” in the search box on the page, and then I knew it: It was this one I should go to. I applied to the 2017 DTS in Oslo.

**J:** That is a great story! And now you serve in mercy ministry, right? How is that?

**M:** That's right. Technically, that means that we cooperate with different organizations in Oslo that already have an established ministry. The ministries that I dedicate most of my time to focus on are reaching out to women in prostitution. I work as a volunteer in a recovery house that shelters women after they have been rescued from human trafficking, prostitution or other types of vulnerable situations.

**J:** That sounds like very meaningful ministry. ❤️ I guess that you don't speak fluent Norwegian yet. How do you communicate with those you are reaching out to?

**M:** Most of them are immigrants. To my great surprise, many of the women come from Latin America, which means that they speak Spanish! I was very touched when I understood that God had sent me, a Spanish-speaking young woman, to help the volunteers to communicate with Spanish-speakers and build relationships with them. It is an honor to eat with them,

drink coffee, talk about how hard life is and talk about God.

**J:** That is quite incredible. God knows what he's doing. 😊 Apart from your ministry, how is life in Norway generally?

**M:** There are both good and challenging sides to living in Norway. I like Norwegians' gentleness. They are fascinating and I enjoy becoming more familiar with the Norwegian culture, society, and language. Even though Norwegians speak English, I can sometimes tell that they are uncomfortable with switching to English for my sake. I don't like to say "Excuse me, I don't understand". So I am looking forward to the day I can ask and answer questions!

**J:** I understand that well! I have never been in Honduras, but I can imagine that it is quite different from Norway.

**M:** Absolutely! The culture in Honduras and Norway is like night and day! 😊 The biggest difference, that also was most difficult for me, is that Norway has an individualistic culture, while Latin American culture is collective. Even though I have many good relationships, I learned over the course of my DTS that many prioritize duty over relationships, while in Honduras we are known for ignoring work in favor of socializing with colleagues...

**J:** I'm sure that both countries have something to learn from each other.

😊 What about church life – is it different than you are used to?

**M:** It's funny that you ask. In Oslo, in my experience, it works that many



preachers are very focused on God's love and grace, and seldom challenge the church to practice a more radical faith. Services in Norwegian churches have given me a stronger relationship with God's goodness and love, but sometimes I miss more challenging teaching.

**J:** Yes, we need both parts. Both God's goodness and love, but also a kick from time to time. 😊

**M:** Definitely. But now I think that I should go and read a little Norwegian. Normally, I am at the university three times a week to learn Norwegian, but now I have to study at home, like all others.

**J:** That is great – thanks for your valuable time. I understand you are a woman with much to do. 😊 It's been lovely to hear from someone that is a missionary in Norway!

**M:** No problem. Next time we talk, we can maybe do it in Norwegian :D Hadebra!

**J:** Take care! God bless you!

*Hope is the key to the work Miriam does*

PHOTO: PRIVATE



## INTERVIEW

JORUNN VALBØ  
TRAN  
(27), married with Philip, is from Sykkyleven. She lives and studies in Denmark. She took DTS in Skien in 2011.

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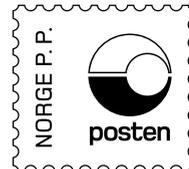
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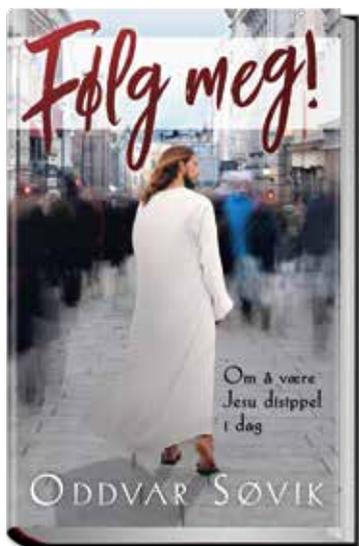
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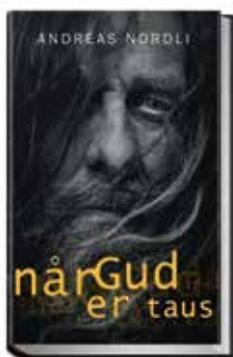
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