

NORWAY



Fear of the West turns into Blessings for the East.

The Normans sailed to North America before converting to Christianity about a millennium ago, those centuries they also invaded European coastal dwellings and sailed Russian rivers into Asia. Probably prayers of surviving monks of the frequently raided, looted, and burned monasteries were heard; When the feared Normans became Christians, they turned into a blessing with their physical strength and travels protecting, advancing, spreading the Gospel through Catholic, and Byzantium areas, even reaching Muslim territory. Lets pray for those today too, who try to force fear on us.

Christian Stronghold, Still a Mission field.

Being part of Danish or Swedish ruled empires (until 1905), they welcomed the Reformation early on. For centuries their capital Oslo was called "Christiana". Despite the increasing pluralistic society with Vietnamese, Burmese, Turkish, Bosnians etc, Still over 90% of the 5 million citizens is listed as Lutheran. Thanks to revivals and Pietism 8.4% is Evangelical; (One of the highest percentages in Europe). However, it is still more than 3x less than in the US (29%).

Beyond Belief Toward the North Pole.

Tapping newly discovered offshore oil in the 1970s, helped Norway become one of the richest Western countries. Average income is twice as high as average income in the US. The government backed social welfare system is so highly developed, that Michael Moore decided he could not use it for his film 'Sicko', it would be beyond belief for most American viewers. The government supports (Lutheran) mission through humanitarian focus.

With the Government's vision to spread the wealth, Norway's quality infrastructure reaches the farthest corners, preventing migration to cities from vast, rough rural areas. With almost the same Sq.Mileage as California, it stretches 1100 miles towards the North Pole, (sharing just about all latitudes with Alaska). Norway's complete rugged cost-line (islands included) measures a record 35.909 miles.

Revival Forms and Revival Faith.

Material richness goes not seldom with spiritual poverty. Churches struggle finding needs to cater to, and so be a witness. Stores selling inexpensive things without environmental or fair-trade concerns, lose out. Young pastors impressed us, serving dwindling, aging churches. They face the challenge to reaching this generation, often merely familiar with 'ways of doing church'-forms of revival times, rather than being affected by the content of revival faith, and calling them to come to Christ.

Thanks for Answers to Prayer:

- Strong mission sending traditions and lively mission vision.
- Many of the leaders in the state church are evangelical and stand firm on theological and moral issues.

Challenges for Prayer:

- Pray that Norway's Christian heritage may revive. Less than 10% of young people are Christians, less than 4% of the nation attends Sunday worship.
- Pray for new revival, deep commitment to biblical faith and practice. The strong evangelical tradition faces pluralistic society issues and internal battles on issues like homosexuality.
- Pray for the continuous role of Norwegian "mission houses" and movements to keep encouraging commitment to accountable Christian community life.
- Pray for the Baptists and other minority denominations to continue a strong contribution to Norwegian Christian life.
- Pray for home-mission, and church planting in Norway. Especially the church in Honningvag, the mission-point at Nordkap which International Ministries helped succeed.
- Pray for young peoples ministries like IFES.
- Pray for the 25.000 Sami people (like Eskimos)
- Pray for immigrant minorities: Moslems, Asians and those from former communist countries.
- Pray for the capital Oslo, where secularization is highest, and most immigrants live.
- Pray for disillusioned youth seeking answers in drugs.
- Pray for the lonely, as over 50% of households in Oslo consist of 1 person only.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Help churches in Oslo

Help at a rehabilitation center in the South.

follow prompts at: www.kalkmaneurop.org (contact us).

Prayer & support for IM Missionaries, the Kalkmans:

Based in the Czech Republic assigned as liaison and volunteer coordinator from International Ministries with the EBF (European Baptist Federation), Norway is one of our 50+ partners.

Your help and support to do our ministry is needed. If you feel God is leading you to partner with us in reaching out to Europe, please pray for us and consider financial support by sending a check to International Ministries (with "Target Kalkman" in the memo) to: P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA. 19482; or go: www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/70 to give on-line; or call IM office at: 1-800-222-3872 ext. 2324

Contact us at: www.kalkmaneurop.org

by clicking on "Send us an e-mail" in the top bar, asking for prayer information and newsletters. Thank you for your prayers! Thank you for your support!

-- Pieter & Nora Kalkman

