

Notes from the Nordic Team Meeting

2-3 Sept 2011, Denmark

Present: Dave & Chris Richards, Buck & Patty Hudson, Stefan Löv, Andreas & Anette Tofters, Frank & Betina Anker-Wiik, Christian & Pernilla Wendesten, Paul & Mirjam John, Kiell Tofters, Mats & Monica Nordén, Håkan Gniste, Janne Sääf, Kai Serholt (Fri), Rickard Svensson (Fri), Jörgen Olson (Fri), Samuel & Karin Stengård, Jan Griffith

1. Welcome and Updates

Betina welcomed us.

Pernilla told about the present for Laila Serholt.

Dave – what we need to do this weekend:

1. Focus on who we are and what we're doing.
2. Take up the financial recommendations.
3. Conference in Horred.
4. Address some questions we didn't address in Västerås.

We need to be wise in building and have an administration to support and we need to look at how to pass this onto the next generation. How do we operate as a family and support each other?

Håkan – “Core Commitments” are translated and need to be looked at by the team.

Time of prayer.

Chris – Shared about a TV program about 4 soldiers wounded in Afghanistan who were making a trek to the North Pole. They had to give everything to overcome the obstacles. Some of you may feel like this. We're coming into a time when things will feel lighter, even when the times are difficult. We're entering a time of blessing in our churches when it will feel easier.

Dave – 2 Cor 4:7-15 These scriptures will undergird you. Don't lose heart.

Some personal updates:

Stefan – Ann-Marlén has been working ½ time for a year and getting stronger steadily.

Håkan – Preached last weekend for 4 churches in Uddevalla, and recorded a TV program in Oslo.

Paul – Went to India recently for a funeral of an aunt??

2. Nordic Region Current Strategy (Dave's handout)

Dave went through the handout he shared with the International team.

Buck – Added that we do have contacts in the Faroe Islands (Lena Libner & Torbjörn Mattsson). Torbjörn works with professionals, puts them on the field to work and church-plant at the same time. He's planted in Somalia, Sudan. IAS is his organisation. Gets Sida money.

We need to work harder at sending right people to right places. Think beyond "elders" of a local church in order to help others you minister to reach out beyond the local. Dave wants to deposit everything in him to others so it will carry on, even better, when he's gone.

Betina & Buck – Shared about the sphere day yesterday in Denmark. They want to meet in Nov again. Buck was very straight-forward about being relational and how to function. They're talking about having a Danish conference.

Stefan – Six people have been asked to work on the values and structure for the whole movement (17-18 churches) in Finland. Next week Stefan will meet all the pastors (15-16) and talk about these. **Pray for this.** A lot has been done before, but not received. There's a longing to release the 5-fold ministries – something new for this movement.

Dave – What Stefan is doing is a model for the rest of the nation, much like what we've done in Kenya. There are differences, of course--different, not wrong. We must not be divisive in helping the Mission movement in Finland.

Our regional conferences are growing at about 25% per year. New people need to be joined to the team (people, family), not a thing or organisation.

Håkan is working with Dan, the leader of the Pentecostal Church in Uddevalla. Christian might be able to help.

Cross-pollination is an important part of what we do. For the local pastors - "Step out so others can step up."

Dave's time in Sweden this summer – "Concentrate on the 45 cities and the regions beyond." Which cities? Gothenburg. Where else? Sweden, America, Africa. "Work with the guys you're working with to build them up. Take them with you out of their local situations

so they learn to look in a different way.” Something new is beginning to happen. We’ll need to work more regionally.

Chris – Having you in our home has been a great way of getting to know you more, and we want to continue with this.

Håkan – We need to help other pastors see what they need and what others on the team have to give.

Kai – Fathers need to take a step toward the children, not wait to be asked.

Stefan – One practical thing we’ve done in our annual conferences is that we’ve tried to bring in new faces from the team every year.

Dave – Maybe we need to coordinate this better. Swedes won’t generally ask to go somewhere.

Buck – This is a field we all own. Feel free to show up at any sphere day. We need to share dates with you.

Dave – Need to be intentional.

Betina – Would it help if we wrote down what areas or churches we have a heart for?

Kiell – What kind of authority do we go in when we go?

Andreas – Relations--authority grows out of relationship.

Buck – Part of the problem here is the perception of who owns the field. The first time you go you may just give a teaching, but the second time I would expect that you would bring some strategy. The question is, how do we facilitate this?

Andreas – This was also a problem for Paul and Timothy. This takes faith, prayer--a spiritual way of dealing with this.

Buck – Gave the example of Ingemar Aronsson serving the Danish pastors.

Stefan – Need to continue to communicate these values with our own churches when we bring each other in.

Christian – When he brings in new people, he asks them to respect their mandate and go in under the authority of the leadership of the church. If they don’t, they won’t be asked back.

Pernilla – We’re all busy, but it’s important to decide to invite each other.

Paul – We need to go a step beyond and invite others into our homes, and we need to start to do something with the youth together. Things are happening, even if we don’t tell about everything.

Dave – Why don't we put our DNA in our youth? Why do we raise them up and send them off to YWAM, or somewhere else?

Buck – We need to do a youth or emerging leaders event together, something strategic.

Dave - Leadership is a battle for the hearts and minds of men and women. The battle needs to be won in the next generation. Values, vision, victory, presence.

3. Conference in Horred

Practical:

Jörgen – We want to serve you, but we need your help. We can get to know each other by working together! We need the most help with the food. We're expecting around 220 people. We'll put up tents to give more room for meals. Hopefully those (90 people) staying at Helsingborg can eat breakfast there. It will be possible to bring caravans and hopefully there will be places in homes also. The goal is for each participant (from Horred, Gothenburg and Uddevalla) to work for one period (meal) each.

Can we have strict deadlines for conference participants and ask them to pay when they book? (There may be some exceptions to the deadlines, of course, but these should be the exception, not the norm.)

Who is responsible for what (administration)? Jörgen, Samuel and Jan will meet 28-29 Oct and talk about this.

What do we need to do for the children? Set an age limit for kids (under 3 years?)? Childcare? Recommend not to bring kids, but provide something for those who really need it.

The same prices as those we had in Västerås will probably work.

General schedule & responsibilities:

Wed 16/5 12.00 to Thur am - Nordic Team

Thur 17/5 12.00-16.00 - Young leaders (handpicked group)

Thur 17/5 19.00 to Sat 19/5 16.00 – Nordic Leaders' Conference

Churches on the west coast can host people coming from abroad Sat eve to Sun – Håkan will be responsible for setting up host churches and deciding who goes where.

Responsible for youth event – Mats (leading), with Rickard, Paul, Andreas, Janne, Christian

Worship – Frank & Tobias responsible

Sound – need some more help

Translation – Rickard, Tobias, Kajsa, Gustav, Anette?

Theme discussion:

Family on a mission.

Mandate, mobilisation, mission.

Phil 3:16

We need to build strong with the values, while bringing in the new people.

Dave – There will be a change of format for the conferences in Oxford starting next year. 2012 will be an International conference. Theme: “A voice crying in the wilderness...” Will take up the questions: “Where’s the voice?” 2013 will be for the UK only.

Youth leaders’ event – See it as a launching pad for next 20 years. Pray and spend a lot of time preparing.

Chris – “You are about to see a great field with green shoots...a day of fruitfulness...a time for the shoots to be attended...”

Dave – This is really, really important! A lot is happening in the local churches, but something more will happen when they come together. We’ll be able to speak into something that will become a sea.

Håkan - 1 Kings 12 Shows the problems that come when different generations don’t relate.

Andreas – build with living stones; bring change with living stones.

Mandate – build on what God has said.

Mobilisation – equipping people to do what God has said.

Mission – be an army out to the community, living it out among people.

Mats – Family on a Mission. (Keep it simple and build on what we’ve had before.)

Ps 110:3 Thy people shall be willing...

Conclusion re: the theme for the conference:

Theme: Family on a Mission Subtitle: “Thy people shall be willing...”

Discussion about speakers:

Speakers – Invite Stefan Swärd.

Paul – Doug Kreighbaum on Mandate?

Dave - The team needs to step up. Give Stefan only a couple of sessions (about what he sees in Scandinavia).

Chris - Do we need a time of reporting what's happening in the different regions? Do we need a meal time for new people?

Paul – Invest our free time to get to know people. Use sessions for the other things. Or use free time to talk about what's happening in different regions.

Frank – Suggestions: give the option of worshiping and praying during free time.

Dave – Or could we have an evening of prayer and worship? Can we take some time to pray about this and come back to it later via email? This will become clearer in the next few months.

Samuel – Appoint (and advertise) one main speaker to take responsibility for each seminar. That person can then invite others to get involved.

Andreas – We need to bring in both values (during the days) and the prophetic (in the evenings).

Buck – We need to think both about the family advancing and the new people wanting to come in.

Dave – **It's better to have a small team to put together the program – Christian, Stefan, Buck, Dave, Betina, Samuel, Chris.**

Kiell, Andreas or Mats will invite Stefan Swärd.

4. Is 52:7-12

Pernilla shared Is 52:7-12 ...bring good news...

Dave – What does this mean to us?

Andreas - He goes before and after us...

Håkan – v. 12 He's not in a hurry; He goes before us.

Stefan – v. 9 Common restoration

Paul – We should not wander about as refugees; we're sent to go and build families where we go.

Chris – All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God.

Mats – We need to cleanse ourselves as bearers of good news so we can call out to those in need in Sweden, not condemning, but offering good news.

Dave – The book of Isaiah is important. The watchmen were asleep; otherwise the prophet wouldn't have needed to say "wake up". We need to be awake to speak the good news while the world is speaking bad news. The church needs to be awake to speak. A lot of people are happy just coming to church, not being the church. We need to be awake to speak into society to change things. There's a lot more to do in our society. Dave gave the example of debt counselling in Basingstoke.

V. 7 Come with beautiful feet and speak the good news among people.

Time of prayer

Ps 93

5. What we see happening in our regions

Buck – Following up on the conference and being watchmen, what do you see in your regions?

Mats – In the beginning of the summer, I saw a lot of needs, while the Lord was talking about evangelisation and church planting. When Jesus says something it comes alive. Gen 1-3 – A garden is planted and it gives fruit. I can see now that if we ask people to do something with an evangelistic touch, they are hungry and want to do it.

Paul – Something changed in our church in June. Some of our youth shared about what God told them while praying for the city. They started something called "Lighthouse" last Friday. People came from all around the area. Youth groups in Falun are coming together and forming relationships. Beckie Baraka gave a word: "For your shame God will give you double honour." We're seeing that we're in a new time, and being a part of something much bigger, more regional.

Stefan – It's important to speak faith in difficult times, and for people to be grounded in the Word, because there are so many voices out there. Youth are very disoriented. They are very event-oriented, yet want to belong. We have a conference coming up in Dec that will be the biggest Christian conference in the Swedish-speaking part of Finland (300-400). It has just been a blessing conference in the past, but I want to give them more. It's the hungry ones who come. Many are coming from very dead churches. They want to belong, but have nowhere to go.

Buck – Here's a movement with 300-400 young leaders who haven't been given what they need. This could be the same problem in Sweden. What are we going to do about it?

Andreas – I'm going to plant churches with them (young people). They need a challenge.

Stefan – I want to encourage the people who come to have follow-up weekends.

Buck – Across the world there are youth who want to have missional communities to reach out and touch a community. It's almost back to how things were in the hippie days.

Dave – What Stefan is talking about is a fishing pool; that's different than what Buck is talking about. What we're doing at Horred with the young people is crucial in planting the vision to build on. The way you focus now will affect the future. Do you start small and hand-pick a few to build on, or do you start large and just have a large youth event and bless? We have to think with a bigger attitude—the body of Christ, not just local church. Those first 3 hours in Horred are the key thing! Even Jesus didn't try to meet the needs of the crowds all the time. Train others to meet them. Do you fear God or fear the people? We need to be moved by what God is speaking.

Sphere days and updates from regions (Buck):

East Sweden

Daniel Steen from Flen is asking for help (Mirjam knows his wife Emelie). Buck has recommended him to the guys on the east coast.

Valentuna Bibel Center--Lasse Nyléns old church--is asking for help. Sam Nyborg is leading. Buck would like Kiell to help. Kjell Sjöberg had a hand in planting this church.

Leksand

South Sweden

Need to give vision, value, purpose.

Had the first sphere day in Malmö at Ingemar's church with 44 pastors. Kurt Levin was there (Pentecostal). Next one will be at Staffanstorp. Expecting 20-25 on **1 Oct**. **Need help there.**

Dave – There's a difference between collecting and joining. We're not just meeting a need either, because once you meet the need, they leave.

Mats – His contacts are not ready for a formal Sphere day yet.

African church in Elma(?) – Rita and Joseph.

Ove Karlsson is the missions director/pastor in Älmhult and doing a great work there.

Norway

Next Sphere Day - 27-28 Oct in Tønsberg, Norway. Knut Tømmerbakk checked us out and wanted to start a family in Norway. Twenty-two showed up last time. The spiritual situation

in Norway is chaos right now. Lots of orphans looking for anything sound. Many of those who came are connected with Channel 10. This is primitive.

Denmark

Third “thing” - 9 Nov in Kastrup, Denmark. The Danes are not ready to connect to our national conference because of national animosity. Danes are competitive; they want to push forward. They’ve never really had revival in Denmark and are envious. Danes don’t really like that Swedes have come longer than they have. They relate better to England or USA.

Dave – We need to do everything we can to break down jealousy when we see it raise its ugly head--break down the dividing walls of hostility.

Kiell – We need to know how to speak about “Universalism”. Need to have a prophetic apologetic voice.

West coast

20-22 Oct – West coast conference in Gothenburg. Some will be showing up from the Danish Lutheran Church (group called Valmyndigheten)--they’re planting lots of churches. The leader (Hans) hungers for fatherhood.

Dave – We need to plant with sons and daughters; otherwise it won’t work. Be careful about receiving “the rich man” and the orphans. Work hard at developing the youth and developing sons and daughters.

6. Financial recommendations

Discussion about the **recommendations made by Samuel, Stefan, Mike and Jan** emailed earlier:

Guest speakers – honorarium too low. This may need to vary somewhat depending on the country. 4000:-/day as guideline, for guest speakers (those outside the family)

Amount per km – Follow the rules of the country the conference is in.

Discussion about **support to Dave & Chris, Buck**:

We need to have a theological foundation for this. **Stefan can initiate a Skype conference to work on this – all senior pastors on the team to be included. They will make recommendations to Samuel, Mike & Jan.** We’ll use the recommendations made so far until new recommendations are finished.

Nordic Development Fund

What should it be used for? How do we get money for the fund? These can also be addressed during the Skype conference.

Dave – This fund could be used to send people on the team to places where there is a need, but not money to pay expenses, and don't want to put a burden on the team members' own local church.

7. Some upcoming dates

Team meetings

Pernilla – We need to have more time for these meetings that fall in between conferences to build relationships and have more time to pray and discuss the topics we need to discuss. Suggestion: Fri-Sun, and try to prioritize that couples come together.

Dave will try to come with a recommendation for dates for next year. October? Near Stockholm?

Dave & Buck need to put more time into building the foundations of the prophetic next year.

A reminder about some of the other dates mentioned:

2011

Sat 1 Oct – Sphere Day at Staffanstorp, southern Sweden

Fri-Sat 21-22 Oct – West Coast Conference in Gothenburg

Thur-Fri 27-28 Oct – Sphere Day in Tønsberg, Norway

Wed 9 Nov – “Thing” in Kastrup, Denmark

Sat 3 Dec – Sphere Day on east coast

2012

Wed 16 May 12.00 to Thur am - Nordic Team in Horred

Thur 17 May 12.00-16.00 - Young leaders (handpicked group) in Horred

Thur 17 May 19.00 to Sat 19/5 16.00 – Nordic Leaders' Conference in Horred