

ABIGAIL'S UPDATES

November 2023

Hello, friends, family and supporters!

This has indeed been a hard newsletter to write! Thomas's dad passed away on the 17th of October. The weeks before and the weeks after his passing have been a blur of grief, digging into family, and sharing our son around for snuggles as he begins to giggle and babble.

All this time I have been thinking a lot about the goodness of Jesus. He takes this traumatic, unspeakably horrifying process of dying and turns it into a doorway. It is still harder than words can say, still overwhelming and terrible but the `sting` of death is removed. The finality of it all is changed. The promise of eternal life meets our deepest need, a need that many of us spend our lives ignoring.

During Jesus' ministry, people are going about their lives, wanting freedom from Rome or food or just water from a well. Jesus keeps redirecting them to the thing they keep ignoring, which on their deathbed, will suddenly be the most need of their lives. He tells them that daily food isn't as needful as "the bread of life" and that water which temporarily satisfies thirst is nothing compared to the "living water." Jesus shows His people that freedom from the oppression of Rome is not nearly as needful as deliverance from sin and death.

Don't ignore the deepest need of your life.

"For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:53-57 ESV

Love and prayers, Abigail



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This has been a hard newsletter to write...

To avoid writing it I have given Bjørn a bath, taken a shower myself, cleaned the kitchen sink, hoovered all the rugs, tidied the shoes, move some laundry about, cuddled with the cat and joined the baby for a power nap. Now I'm snatching the moment before it passes to tell you what's happened here lately and to ask you to pray with me over some things.



A TIME TO MOURN

Firstly the really sad news is that Thomas' dad passed away two weeks ago.

Terje was at the hospital taking treatment for an aggressive form of stage four cancer and was alone the morning he passed away. But Jesus was with him and we know he was calling out to Jesus to take him home. Thank you for praying for him and us over this last month.

The family is drawing closer together for this time of grieving. Can I ask you to keep praying that we would all be drawn closer to Jesus too and that the Holy Spirit would be especially close to my mother in law, Gerd Lilly.

A TIME TO LAUGH

Bjørn Andreas is growing all the time.

Thomas and I are hugely relieved to be out of the newborn woods. Bjørn Andreas is a peaceful, happy little chubster who is developing an excellent giggle and his own language. He says 'gi' when he is hangry, 'gu' when he is enjoying his toys and 'giiiiuuu?' when he's making conversation.

I am happier each day, especially now that we are functioning in routine in regards to sleeping and eating and I am getting enough of both. Thanks for praying for my mental health as I process the birth and my new role as a mum.



LOCAL VISION

I've been in Norway three years now!! and we celebrated our third wedding anniversary last month!

Even though we feel called to serve overseas in the near future we are doing our best to live in the present and to make the most of this time in Haugesund! It's a challenge! We are hoping to start a mid week, day-time mums group at the church. The church leadership is onboard and there is a room we can use Hurrah! Pray with us for a Norwegian speaking mum to join us in making it happen.

We have got an international thanksgiving party planned to facilitate some fun. I'll lead a worship song and Ivie from Brazil will share a bible passage. We will have a potluck and will hopefully have lots of fun tasting each others favourite foods. Pray that people come along and that friendships blossom.

VISITORS FROM FAR

We have had some wonderful time sharing our new little one with our family from further a field!

My parents were able to visit when Bjørn Andreas was 6 weeks old, Bente (our OM Norway field leader) and her son dropped by from Kristiansand for some cuddles at 8 weeks. My sister Rebecca and her family were able to visit when he turned 2 months and next week Auntie Trish is coming to visit promptly followed by my eldest sister Joanna.

When Rebecca came we were kindly able to borrow Thomas's best friends family cabin. There was room a plenty for us all and we got away from the endless roadworks which are surrounding our house right now.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our applications to Wycliffe are slowly moving forward. It would be good to send them by new year. Thomas is still building hours with 140 to go on fixed wing and 90 in helicopter to meet the experience requirements to serve with JAARS. We are trusting God's timing with all of this.

THANK YOU!

As I finish typing this up it's snowing outside. The first snow of the winter!! Time to get all the wool clothing out, and put the winter tires on the car! Thanks for your, fellowship and prayers friends!! 🥰

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stay in touch! ❤️ Thomas, Bjørn Andreas and Abigail