

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER



FISKEBÄCKS
MISSIONSKYRKA

Fiskebäck's Mission Church is taking steps to be a church without walls.

We now have our own logo which you see here in the letter. The basis of it is in the name "Brunnen" (The Well), but there are other aspects of the logo. We believe Jesus is living water that flows over all banks of life. As Christians and as the Church we are called to live close to Jesus, bathe in His water, and because we live like that we are able to spread the gospel of God to other people - splashing water. Our life is also marked by worship and therefore the person in the logo is facing up with raised arms. So there are three distinct aspects in the logo: deepening personal discipleship, outward for others to hear the gospel, and upwards towards God. We hope that all three will be a clear reality in Brunnen's life.



Congregations in the New Testament

Jerusalem was a mega-church from the beginning (3,000 became Christians in one day, on Pentecost!) Led by the apostles and Jesus' brother James. In persecution, Christians spread throughout the world and more churches were formed.

Ephesus was a port city with a lot of international exchange. The congregation consisted probably of a rather mixed group, but would perhaps change members now and then as people would move on. We know that this congregation was founded by Paul and he also wrote a letter to them on important issues such as ethnic unity and leadership of the church.

The church in **Antioch** diverse. In Acts 13 we find that although the leadership was made up of people from different parts of the world we learn that the church in Antioch was probably founded by Christians who had to leave Jerusalem during the persecution.

- continued on the back

What is a church?

In the Bible there are several descriptions of what the Church is: the people of God, Body of Christ, living stones, etc.. But there is not just one image in the Bible of how a local church works, instead we have several examples in the New Testament and all are different. Yet they are all, in some way, considered to be a church. In Sweden there are essentially two models: *folkkyrkan* (a local church for the people who live in that given area, People's Church) and the *föregingskyrkan* (a church formed by membership, 'Club'-Church). But there are other ways to define church than by how we organize its structure. Perhaps another way is to look at what one does as a church, such as: to have genuine fellowship with one another, seeking to follow Jesus together, reading and living the Word, breaking bread together, praying together, and being the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" together.

So as we form a new church we, in Brunnen, are considering what our structure should look like and how we should act as a congregation. What do you think? How would you prioritize? What is the most important thing for us if we are to live out "church"?

The key point here is the need for more churches, but not very many of us are willing to start a mega-church, but quite a number of us could be willing to start a house-church. The foundation of how we see "church" lies in how we see Jesus, just as much as global mission and the Church's main purpose. Then and only then, when we have pondered what the church is for a while are we able to know what a church really is.

What are your thoughts? What is it that makes your church to a congregation?

BRUNNEN

BEING MISSIONAL

Continued from the front-page ...

What did the early church do? What we know from Acts is that they ate together, prayed, focused on Jesus and on the apostles' teaching, took care of each other and helped the poor around them. It is exciting to read the various letters found in the New Testament and see more about what the various congregations focused on, so please do so ...

Our Hope

Our hope is to start a new fellowship in Brunnsbo that reflects God's kingdom in its beauty and diversity where people can grow as Jesus followers. We long to do so in openness with other churches near Brunnsbo, so that we can proclaim and demonstrate God's whole Gospel to His creation.

Contact Info

Aaron Thompson
011.46.734.29 04 95 (from the US)
aaron.thompson@covchurch.org
<http://blogs.covchurch.org/athompson/>

Sara Möller
0739-97 13 68
solsken_nu@hotmail.com

Fun ways God is moving!

- There are now 15 people in DNA-groups and our cell-group gatherings are sometimes too crowded. We are realizing we are needing to equip new leaders to lead the next cell-group.
- We are seeing various people in Brunnen who are really taking initiative and the vision to heart. We are seeing how a few in the core-group are really longing to start-up many ministries all at once, but we realize that small, but sure steps are best.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the plans with the language cafe next term and the people we will get in touch with as a result.
- Aaron still has 15% of his support to raise in order to become a project missionary. Pray that people will step forward and even if there is anything you yourself can help with.
- Pray for those who involuntarily feel alone now in Brunnsbo, especial near the Christmas holiday. Pray that God will clearly show how Brunnen can do something about this in the future.

What's next?

- We hope to get started with a language café where people can practice their Swedish or where they can get language help if needed. We see that there is a need for a meeting-point between Swedes and immigrants. Please contact us if you are interested.
- The website is almost finished. It always requires more work than what one thinks but it's great that it will soon be up and running, we will share the address with you next time ...
- Next semester our Sunday gatherings will be based on B.E.L.L.S. (Bless, Eat, Learn Jesus, Listen to the Spirit, & be Sent into the world).