



‘HEI’ FROM THE HEEBs IN HELSINKI

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“... being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

As hard as it is to believe, we have been in Finland for three years already. Even though we still feel very new here, the life that we left behind in Sevenoaks seems a long way behind us now. A couple of weeks ago we woke to falling snow, and realised that our lack of surprise at snow in May must mean that we are more acclimatised than we thought. Certainly had we arrived and been greeted by the very cold and long Winter that we have just had, we would have struggled a lot more at first! God has been very good in allowing us time to settle in before having to undergo months of sub-zero temperatures and snow that just kept on and on falling. Yet, by the end of May the temperature had risen dramatically. Suddenly the daffodils have bloomed and the trees are green. It's a welcome change, with the dawn chorus well under way by 4am, and days that stay light until around 11pm.

HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the highlights of our past three years – learning to ski on a

frozen lake, having sauna and rolling in the snow afterwards, skating on the frozen sea, a treasure hunt in thick snow, midsummer celebrations with almost 24 hours of day light, learning to put out nets for fish and preparing them to eat, getting a guinea-pig, being welcomed to a street party by our neighbours soon after our arrival and included in their family celebrations such as graduation parties, a triple 50th and nearly having to do Karaoke in Finnish, being part of Jonathan's mother's 70th Birthday celebrations, hosting a hen night and then going to the wedding, the first days in school where only Swedish is spoken, Jess being able to shop using Finnish and now Swedish, school trips for the boys, Jonathan being asked to preach in the Chinese congregation and for us both the joy of seeing people grow in Christ.

Jonathan continues his work of teaching up at the FLM Bible College in Ryttylä. He is particularly looking forward



FLM students

to the Autumn as he has been asked to teach a course exploring why European society has become so secular, post-modern and anti-Christian. They will be looking at the intellectual influences of Nietzsche, Foucault and Derrida balanced with Schaeffer and C. S. Lewis. While some of the students have never heard of these people, Jonathan sees

Sent to Finland by Crosslinks, Jonathan is working with the Finnish Lutheran Mission as a teacher in their Bible College. Jonathan, Jess, Jean-Paul (14) and Nathan (12), live in Helsinki, where they help in the International Evangelical Church.

this course as being a great opportunity to discuss and explore the challenges of secular world-views and the answers that Christianity gives. Pray that the course would help to mature the students in their faith and equip them for the challenges they face on the Mission field as many of them go into closed countries. The teaching system at the college means that Jonathan crams a term's worth of lectures and processing for the students into only one or two intensive weeks depending on the course. Jonathan will teach the 'English for Missionaries' course again and this year Jess will be involved.

DILIGENT

Jess has really enjoyed being freed up to be at home for the boys in the afternoons when they are home from school. But she has been diligently working through her Swedish also – a slow process, and full of laughter. The group that she is in has bonded well and meets after class for tea. Discussions have been really interesting and varied, with many opportunities to talk about God. Jess has joined a choir based in our local Swedish speaking church. It gives her the opportunity to improve her language skills – and with an unexpected highlight of singing in Icelandic! She has been given a warm welcome into the group and is loving getting involved with older women.

In the church, Jonathan has completed his monthly 2 Peter sermons and is bus-



FLM Bible College

ily planning the Autumn Bible study campaign. The Pastor has chosen to study *The Prodigal God* by Tim Keller. Jonathan will be providing training for the Bible study leaders at the Church's Mid-Summer retreat. The campaign starts 19 September. Please pray for this area of ministry as the material could be challenging for many. As part of the teaching programme Jonathan will be preaching throughout the Autumn so that the sermons and the studies work together. Jess continues to meet with and pray for the students/young professional women in the church and would value prayer for wisdom in to how to respond to situations.

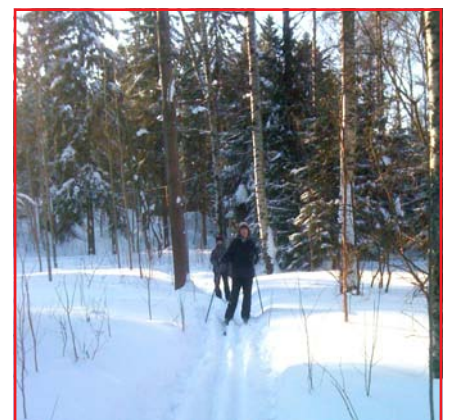
PRIVILEGE

We continue to host a weekly Bible study in our home with the three youth leaders of the Scandinavian Chinese Christian Church (SCCC). It has been a real privilege over this last year to spend time together praying and studying the Bible.

Each of them juggle work and full-time studies, so it's been very exciting to see them still wanting to spend time with God and put Him first in their lives. They are an absolute delight.

The boys are both enjoying the much warmer weather. JP has just been away on a school trip to Åland for a music festival. He continues to enjoy life, especially when he has an electrical gadget he can take apart and use to make into his own machines.

Nathan is happy to know that he has a place at JP's school for this Autumn and can't wait to move on. He is just back from a week away with his class. He continues with his art and was thrilled to be able to meet up with Paul Hobbs on our trip back to the UK in November, who kindly invited us to visit his 'at home' exhibition before it's opening in London. Both boys are looking forward to their long summer holidays.



The boys skiing

Please pray for:

- Our own faith, that we would continue to live in Him, rooted, built up in him and firm in our faith.
- That the boys would continue to grow as Christians.
- For the SCCC Summer Camp, especially for Ah Woon, Ying and Chyde, who all have new leadership roles for the first time.
- For the work that Jonathan is doing in the Bible study groups. Please pray for the leaders: Timo, James, Stephen, Taina, Sach, Sujit, Meeri, Albi, Anne, Vida, Päivi, Pirjo, Håkan, Willem, Marlene, Kari, Czaba, Kimmo and Yachen.
- For our witness to those around us and the stamina to keep reaching out when we are tired.

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