

Chapter 27

Norway



Located in northern Europe, Norway is known for its natural phenomena, particularly the midnight sun and the northern lights. In fact, from mid-April through late August, the sun is visible 24 hours a day in the northernmost regions! It is a land of mountains, glaciers, and deep coastal fjords. Oslo, the capital, is a city of green spaces and museums. Preserved ninth century Viking ships are displayed at Oslo's Viking Ship Museum. Bergen, with colorful wooden houses, is the starting point for cruises to the dramatic Sognefjord. Norway is also known for fishing, hiking, and skiing, notably at Lillehammer's Olympic resort.

The conversion of Norway to Christianity began around 1000 AD and resulted from contact with Christian Europe through trade ties and Viking raids. As of this writing, Norway has a population of almost 5.5 million, with the majority belonging to the state church (Lutheran). Religious expression, in general, is mainly private. Only about 5% attend church or other Christian gatherings regularly. Muslims make up around five percent of the population in Norway, primarily refugees from Africa and the Middle East. Most of the population lives in the southern part of the country, with the OAC



HARTVIG KLOSTER PRESENTING THE GOSPEL AT EGERTORGET, OSLO



REACH OUT POLAND 2024 MISSION TRIP



THE REDEEMER DRAMA AT NATHIONALTHEATERET, OSLO



*HARTVIG KLOSTER SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH
YOUNG BOYS IN ASKIM*



*STEFANIE SALMELID IN CONVERSATION WITH
TWO YOUTHS IN POLAND*



*DAVE GLOVER PRESENTING THE GOSPEL
AT GROENLAND, OSLO DURING
REACH THE CITY OSLO*



*OPEN AIR AT GROENLAND, OSLO,
DURING REACH THE CITY OSLO*

ministry centered in Askim, near Oslo.

David Fanstone, from OAC England, visited Norway back in the '80s. In 1996, Torben Ostermark, from OAC Denmark, began visiting Norway regularly with the vision of opening a branch in the country. In September 2005, God opened the door, and a branch of OAC was established in this country. Hartvig Kloster, from Denmark, was appointed as national director and continues to minister in this capacity. His wife, Kirsten, is also very involved in the ministry and does much of the administration to keep everything in good order. In 2025, the staff of OAC Norway includes one full-time, two part-time, and four associate evangelists. In addition to the ministry within Norway's boundaries, the work in this country has expanded to establish OAC in Poland. Several trips to Poland have taken place, and good contact has been established with a promising foundation being laid (see chapter 31 for more details).

Many opportunities for ministry and outreach are available to our OAC Norway staff. Almost every week, street meetings are held in Oslo where the gospel is proclaimed through sketchboards and gospel object lessons. Regular street meetings take place in Askim, Oslo, Sandefjord, and several other locations. In the summer, they often have about 30 people in attendance at each meeting, and good conversations follow afterward. Also during the summer, our staff attend music festivals, often with teams invited by local churches to evangelize. Every July, a five-day campaign called Reach the City is arranged in Oslo. In the cold of winter, they go out two-by-two and talk with people at Oslo Central Station. God has also opened up opportunities in churches and Bible Schools to train and preach. In addition, inspiring social media videos are being produced. To God be the glory as we serve Him in this part of the world.



TEAM MEMBERS - REACH THE CITY OSLO 2024



**MAGNUS HUSØY IN CONVERSATION
WITH MUSLIMS**



**KENNETH ROSENBLAD SINGING WITH
KIDS AT A CAMPING SITE IN STAVERN**



**KIRSTEN & LYDIA KLOSTER SERVING WAFFLES
IN ASKIM DURING DECEMBER**



**HARTVIG KLOSTER DOING A ROPE TRICK
IN SANDEFJORD**



GUNNAR SALMELID AT GROENLAND, OSLO



GUNNAR SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH TWO BOYS IN ASKIM



HARTVIG KLOSTER ON HIS WAY WITH THE EQUIPMENT TO AN OPEN-AIR MEETING



IT IS A BLESSING TO HAVE FAITHFUL TEAM MEMBERS OUT IN THE OPEN AIR