

Chapter 12

Denmark



JIM DUFFECY

The first OAC visit to Denmark was around 1951. Jim Duffecy conducted a six-month tour of Europe, which included a visit to Denmark. He worked with the Danish "Youth for Christ" Director, Mogens Larsen. The next visits by OAC staff were in 1987 and 1989, when David Fanstone (UK) and Benjamin Van den Akker (Belgium) conducted a seminar on gospel illustration and sketchboard use in Denmark. Torben Ostermark (the present-day director of Denmark) attended the seminar at Borkop and became excited about what he saw. After talking with David Fanstone, he was invited to join the "Love Europe" congress in Belgium in 1990 and later join David in London for some training. While in London, Torben met fellow Danes Sigrid and Jorgen Johansen.

Together, they trained with David and did open-air meetings in London. David suggested that perhaps this team of Danes could start an OAC work in Denmark. The suggestion was met with skepticism, but the seed was planted and eventually came to fruition.

When Jorgen Johansen finished his studies in the UK, he returned home to Denmark and held a secular job while also seeking opportunities to establish OAC in his country. He started full-time with OAC in 1994, and the first board meeting for OAC Denmark was held that year. Torben Ostermark also came on staff in 1995, and he became the national director when Jorgen stepped out of the work in 2000. Denmark served as a "springboard" for Hartvig and Kirsten Kloster, who served on the Danish staff and then moved to Norway to establish an OAC branch there in 2005, where Torben has been many times to assist. Lars Kristensen came on staff in 2001 and continued until 2013. A couple of part-time workers were with us for a season, Ole Christensen from 1998 to 2001, and Poul Nielsen from 2001 to 2004. These men assisted



TORBEN OSTERMARK PREACHING AT AN EVANGELISTIC MEETING IN A LOCAL CHURCH

us with outreach in Denmark and Latvia. Daniel Mikkelsen came on staff as a part-time evangelist in 2015, and Daniel Solgaard in 2025.

In recent years, our staff in Denmark have experienced an enormous openness to the gospel in the open air, specifically among young people aged 15 to 25. Almost every time we conduct an open-air meeting, one or more young people will ask us why we are Christians or what does it mean to be a Christian. Others ask questions like, "Do you think the world is going to end one day?" Many of them are very interested in hearing a gospel presentation. We are handing out many New Testaments in several languages.

We have also seen our open-air team grow in recent years. We have grown from 2-4 individuals on the team to over 10-15 each time we go out.

Since the beginning of OAC Denmark, we have been in ministry with another mission organization in Denmark, the Danish Lutheran Mission. Since the beginning of 2023, our relationship with this mission has deepened, opening up many more opportunities in churches, several bookings for evangelistic events, and more team members on our open-air team.

Torben is looking to the future and has great hopes for OAC Denmark. The ministry has been reaching more Muslim immigrants for Christ than Danes! In most of Europe, immigrant communities are a prime target for evangelism, as the local population is often referred to as "post-Christian." There is always the hope for revival among the European population as God does His work. As Torben puts it, "We are looking forward to what God will do in the future."



DANIEL MIKKELSEN PREACHING AT THE SKETCHBOARD IN OSLO, NORWAY



TORBEN TELLING A BIBLE STORY AT AN OUTREACH AT NORREBRO IN COPENHAGEN

