

# The Good News

November 1, 2008  
Volume 2 Number 2

## Nordic Newsletter

### Sommarträff i Sverige Juli 24-27, 2008

**S**ommarträffen (Summer Gathering) was sponsored by the United Church of God on July 24-27th. A ministerial team

from the United States comprising of Messrs. Jim Franks, Britton Taylor, Johnny Lambert and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Kubik held seminars every day, usually in the mornings and evenings.

Because the Nordic/Baltic areas cover such vast distances, with scattered members sporadically-placed, we decided that in-



United Church of God pastor Britton Taylor speaking in Leksand about how to pray more effectively.

stead of visiting everyone on a circuit tour this summer, we would arrange a centrally-located place for everyone to travel to and have a get-together and thus the area of Dalarna, Sweden, was thought to be an ideal place for this event. About 40 people came from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Germany and Sweden.

During the four days we met we became better acquainted with one another, shared life's experiences, as well as benefited from the seminars, studies and services. We spent a lot of time socializing as well as enjoying the natural beauty of the lake and scenery.

The opening night seminar on

(see "Summer Gathering on page 2)

#### Issue Highlights:

- Sommarträffen in Leksand!
- Google Ads for Iceland
- Stefan Saxin from Gothenburg works with street children in Ukraine
- Visiting Good News readers in the Nordic countries.



### Good News Google Ads for Iceland

To continue the work of the Church here in Norden we are now using Google sponsored advertising to offer the *Good News* magazine in Iceland. As mentioned in our previous newsletter we were already using Google in the other Nordic countries. This has proven to be an effective way to preach the Gospel.



We are now up to 12 in Iceland from 3 last time.

### Stefan from Gothenburg Helps with Street Children in Vinogradov, Ukraine

During the two last weeks of June 2008 a team of four people traveling from the U.S., France and Sweden came to Western Ukraine in order to start up an English program for children.

About 35 children came for summer camp at the *Light of Love* Mission – a LifeNets-sponsored project in Vinogradov. LifeNets was founded in 1999 by Victor Kubik senior pastor of Eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

One estimate says that 120,000 children are abandoned in Ukraine, often economic factors play a central role – the collapse of the Soviet Union meant serious economic problems in the 90's with hyperinflation and high unemployment as consequences, leading to other social problems which affect the children. (see "Ukraine" on page 2)



Stefan Saxin teaching basic English phrases to the children.

## “Summer Gathering” continued from page 1

Thursday July 24.

The schedule ran as follows.

**Thursday evening July 24 - 18:00**

Victor Kubik - **Welcome: Introductions; What is the Church?**

*One of the United Church of God's Fundamental Beliefs is the biblical definition of the Church that Jesus established that has continued to this day. What is the Church, its mission and your part in it?*

**Friday morning July 25 - 10:00**

Jim Franks - **Introduction to Doctrine; How the United Church of God Developed the 20 Fundamental Beliefs**

*PowerPoint presentation on the history of doctrine in the UCG.*

**Friday evening July 25 - 19:30**

Johnnie Lambert - **Christian Isolation**

*How can we part of God's Work when we cannot assemble on a regular basis.*

Britton Taylor - **Anger**

*Will it control us or will we control it?*

**Sabbath morning—10:00**

Jim Franks - **Importance of Integrity for the Healthy Christian**

**Sabbath afternoon—14:30**

Britton Taylor - **Prayer - Why is it Important?**

Jim Franks - **How to be a Barnabas**

**Sabbath evening**

Stefan Saxin - **My Trip to Ukraine in June to Work With Street Children**

**Sunday morning - 10:00**

Victor Kubik - **The Gospel of the Kingdom of God**

*Jesus Christ keynote address in Mark 1:14-15 was that the Kingdom of God was at hand. What was that message about? The history of the Gospel goes back long before Christ The Kingdom of God was the heart of Christ's ministry and is the primary message of the Church today.*



We are planning to have the Summer Gathering again next summer from July 23-26th. We will have more information coming shortly. Would you like to come? Please let us know.

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## “Ukraine” continued from page 1

Most of the children at the mission are street children with different hardships behind them.

At the centre in Vinogradov they are fed several times every day - not only during summer camp but all year round. Apart from the delicious meals the children receive they are also educated in Christian values and the Bible. Vasyl and Irina Polichko, the couple who run the mission, recognize the many needs the children have and aim to prepare them adequately for adulthood.

The children are truly loved by the adults at the centre who are good family role-models; for some of the children, this is the closest to a real functioning family they'll have. If you're a street child in Vinogradov it does bring security and comfort to know that there is a home where you are always welcome.

Since the centre is primarily a place for kids there is

often a lot of games or sports going on. The children have a lot of energy and like to play a lot – not much time for indoor computer games here! Indeed, I was gladly surprised to find that the kids were not only physically active but also well mannered and friendly. Many of them are above their Western counterparts in social skills and manners.

After nearly two weeks we did see progress with all the children as they per-





**Memories of a wonderful four days at Leksand, Sweden at the Summer Gathering.**



formed the songs that they had learned in front of the interested adults. Following that we then sat back and enjoyed to see the children and also local talents perform Ukrainian songs. After the music there was food, desserts and candy – a great ending to the summer camp!

It is our hope that they will continue to build on their English vocabulary (hence the glossary books) so that they can

easier absorb the English they’ve been taught in ordinary school. To encourage them keeping their glossary books we attached a photograph of the Summer English class of 2008 and gave to each of the children. They were very pleased with this and gladly surprised at the end of the two weeks as they received it together with a small gift.

For a complete report about this project, please see Web commentary by Stefan Saxin on United Church of God’s *Vertical Thought* magazine for Youth at [http://verticalthought.org/issues/vt20/c\\_ukraine.htm](http://verticalthought.org/issues/vt20/c_ukraine.htm)

Also the complete stories are told on LifeNets Web site at <http://lifenets.org/vinogradov/summer08/menu.htm>

# The Good News

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## Communications

Visit our Website at [www.ucg.org/svenska](http://www.ucg.org/svenska) for literature offers, past newsletters and other information.

We have just started an electronic newsletter to our Nordic / Baltic readers. You can request this eNewsletter by writing to us at [nordic@kubik.org](mailto:nordic@kubik.org) or [sverige@ucg.org](mailto:sverige@ucg.org). We will add you to the list immediately.

## Would you like a personal contact?

We travel regularly on a route visiting our members and readers of the *Good News* magazine through all the Nordic countries. Our next ministerial visit to the Nordic countries will be during the latter part of January 2009.

If you would like to meet with one of us and ask any questions about the Bible or the Work of the United Church of God, please email us at [visit@kubik.org](mailto:visit@kubik.org) or write to the above address.

## Mailing List Growing in Norden

We are now mailing out over 600 copies of the Nordic Newsletter, there was an approximate 25 % increase from when we sent out the first issue back in Oct 07. If you missed these newsletters they are available to read at <http://www.ucg.org/svenska> or you can write to the address's on this newsletter and we will be happy to send you a printed version.

## John Wännstrom Baptized at Leksand on July 26, 2008



It was a joyous occasion for all attending the Summer Gathering in Leksand to witness the baptism of John Wännstrom who had come to surrender his life to Jesus Christ. The baptism was performed by Senior Pastor Victor Kubik and Associate Pastor Johnnie Lambert.

John is from Örebro, Sweden, but works as an engineer in Oslo, Norway. We are very happy to add him to our family!

For each of the seminars a number of hand-outs and United Church of God publications were made available for additional study on the topics that were discussed. Please tick the boxes and send in the slip to our Swedish P.O. Box address (above) to request your personal copy of the relevant booklets. You can also email us your request at [sverige@ucg.org](mailto:sverige@ucg.org). All literature is available free upon request.

- The Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God
- This is the United Church of God
- The Gospel of The Kingdom of God
- The Road To Eternal Life
- The Church Jesus Built
- Människans Potential (Swedish)
- Vägen Till Evigt Liv (Swedish)