



Summer in Norway #17: Living Water

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.' ¹⁴...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' **John 4:10, 14b**

This summer we are heading back to our beloved Norway for new adventures in the Sognefjord. Our first visit to Skjolden was Debbie's visit in 2003 and was also the year that *Elvheim Guesthouse* was first purchased. After visiting together in 2006, the trip became a regular feature of our summers. We bought into the ownership of Elvheim in 2011 and in so doing, continued to help fund the ongoing redevelopment of the house, which has been a major endeavour over these past 20 years. The vision for the house has always been about making and maturing disciples. This vision has also been framed amidst the idea of bringing the nations together. The Discipleship weeks run over the summer months and really aspire to this vision, and it has been so fun to see so many people from so many nations coming to Norway. Recruitment is well under way for this coming summer and for Discipleship Week 2, we are already expecting people from Sweden, US, UK, Holland & Kenya. We are often asked why Norway, but interestingly never by those who have been! Skjolden is a tiny village which sits on the end of Norway's longest fjord and at the foot of some of its highest mountains. The views in every direction are simply incredible and the general pace of life is incredibly restful and refreshing. It really has to be experienced to be believed! This summer we will be in Norway for nearly three weeks which will encompass two week-long opportunities.

Sat 22 to Sat 29 July: We will be hosting friends for an informal week of fun and communal living in the Norwegian fjords. For our family, this week will include time with good friends, preparing for Discipleship Week, and welcoming key people arriving for the following week. What a joy to have the use of Elvheim this week!

Sat 29 July to Sat 5 August: We will host another Discipleship conference primarily targeted at those aged 18-30. Building on the examples of water around Skjolden, we will think topically about water in the Bible. It is no surprise that many of the Bible's key events take place close to rivers, seas, lakes and waterfalls. Water is also used metaphorically especially through the idea of *Living water* (e.g., Jeremiah 2:13, 7:13 and John 4:10-11, 7:38). This theme will serve as a framework to talk together about some fundamental topics about life as disciples of Jesus: idolatry (forsaking the spring of living water and digging broken wells), sustenance (the tree planted by the river), suffering (the storm on Lake Galilee) and stepping out in faith (walking on water). All in all, this series is an invitation to come and drink deeply of our creator God who alone can satisfy our thirst. We currently have spaces for both weeks. If you know people who might be interested, or even want to come yourself, please get in touch!

Update from Debs:

Families Together is an exciting and growing ministry for which Debs continues to be part of the leadership. We have a number of non-Christian parents that come faithfully and hear the Gospel each week. Relationships are growing and developing, and it is providing an excellent context for Debs to mentor and disciple some of the women. Increasingly, Debs is able to draw on, and share her experience of raising young children with the next generation of young parents at church.

Debs also continues to help lead NavMums which remains a huge encouragement and highlight for her. This community of women from all over the UK seeks to support, encourage and disciple one another amidst the challenges of raising children and being involved in different ministry contexts.

Debs continues to lead the 4-7s ministry at Above Bar Church and she really enjoys teaching and engaging with the children on Sundays. We are journeying through Exodus as a group and it's such an encouragement to see the children engage with the Bible stories and worship sessions each Sunday.

Debs continues to meet 1 to 1 with a number of women to mentor and disciple them. These times are very special and an encouragement to Debs as she supports them living and ministering in different contexts.



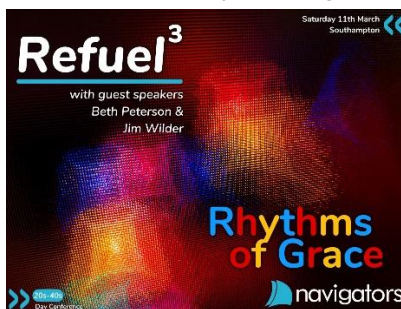
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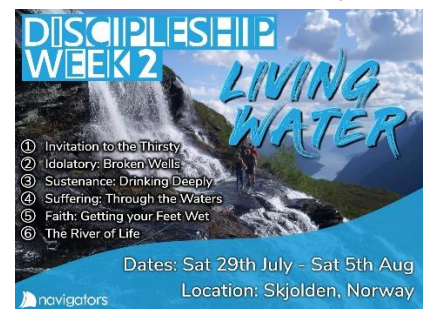
Refuel³

with guest speakers
Beth Peterson & Jim Wilder

Rhythms of Grace

navigators

Saturday 11th March
Southampton



DISCIPLESHIP WEEK 2

LIVING WATER

- 1 Invitation to the Thirsty
- 2 Idolatry: Broken Wells
- 3 Sustenance: Drinking Deeply
- 4 Suffering: Through the Waters
- 5 Faith: Getting your Feet Wet
- 6 The River of Life

Dates: Sat 29th July - Sat 5th Aug
Location: Skjolden, Norway

navigators

Update from Steve:

Graduation is coming up for our Formation School students which brings a mixture of feelings. On the one hand, it's sad to see people moving on and we will miss them. On the other hand, releasing them is exactly what's needed to allow more time to put into practice what they've been learning. We are working hard on recruitment for 2023-24 and are looking for people in whose hearts God is already at work.

Our year at Building to Last is also drawing to a close. We have been hugely encouraged by the two Refuel conferences we ran in October and March. The monthly gatherings have been going well and the discussions we have had around Matthew 4-11 under the title Breaking the Mould have been a huge highlight.

Our trip to Norway is one of two summer programmes the International Missions team are overseeing this summer. Steve was recently in London chatting with leaders from other Missions organisations about the future of sending short-term teams. We are also working to support some new long-term partners hoping to be sent out in September.

Steve continues to preach and teach quite a bit in various contexts. In the coming months he will be leading a seminar at our National Conference in June and preaching at Above Bar Church on 9 & 16 July.

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray into all of the things we've shared above. At the time of writing, prayers for people to sign-up for Discipleship Week and Formation School 2023-24 are among our most urgent prayer requests.
- Please pray for good family time at half term as we travel to the Lake District for a family holiday. During that week we will also attend the wedding of Steve's eldest niece Amy, to her fiancé Ray, in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Please pray for the family as we attend our National Conference in Harrogate from Fri 9- Sun 11 June. Please pray that this weekend would be a significant one for the Navigator movement in the UK.
- These months prior to our time away in Norway are very full and it feels like there is much to cram in to be ready for our time away. Please pray for efficiency in all our preparations and for everything to fall into place.
- Please pray for the kids to finish the school year well. Ben will be at a Football tournament in Holland (26-29 May) & then he, Naomi, Sam & Jacob will attend West Runtons Dolphin Launchpad camp (12-19 Aug).

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