



Church News - A greeting from the Danish pastor

What happened to the miracles?

In a small town on a cold winter's day the sky suddenly turned into ice. A skater with a red scarf appeared and started skating on the ice. He skated the same figure again and again and created a pattern. People in town stopped and looked, they wondered, they imagined, they pondered, they hoped, they calculated and tried to decode the pattern. Some even thought they figured it out, but after a period of time no one cared anymore or even bothered to face the sky, the ice or the skater. They just went on with their lives. Michael Ende a German author has written this fairytale and I read it as a metaphor of our time. As adults we do not really care or hope much. We have become too sensible, too rational. We expect to be given a reason for everything and try to control our life so that nothing can surprise us. And maybe that is why it has become so difficult to believe in miracles. We are afraid of losing control or waste our time if we open up to things we are not in charge of. A sad thing about having too much control over our lives is that we might miss out on a precious aspect of life: the ability to be happily surprised! And we may fail to see some of the miracles because: if we do not look we will not find.



The Bible reports of thousands of miracles, daily miracles where people got food, hope, joy, or a new beginning; was cured, saw a light in the darkness, and also of "once in a lifetime miracles". NO matter whether we believe in them or not, they do take place!

Winter is just around the corner, it will be cold, rainy, and grey and maybe coldness will catch you, but this is the best time of the year to look for miracles. I will not promise that the sky will turn into ice, but I can promise you, that life is still full of miracles and things to wonder about.

Pastor Anja Grønne Mathiassen

(If you want to hear more reflections on miracles and wonders you are welcome to attend the Church service in Auckland 3rd of July where the theme is miracles)



What happened since last Church News:

The church celebrated the Danish Fastelavn in Dunedin. 45 people showed up. We beat the barrel and found the King and Queen of the Cats; we ate "fastelavnsboller" and had an awesome afternoon together. Four days later we showed up in the Danish Newspaper "Kristeligt Dagblad" in an article about Danes abroad celebrating "Fastelavn".

In Dunedin we have opened a mums group and are happily surprised by the number of kids, mums and one dad that has joined the group. We are now meeting once a month.

In the beginning of April I (the pastor) stayed in Auckland for a few days. I celebrated an Easter service in Auckland, together with a number of people and a "family choir". Thanks to everyone who participated and made it a wonderful Easter Service. I also made some home visits and as always I feel honoured when people open their homes and hearts to me, and invite me to hear stories from their life. I got the chance to visit the Danish mums group in Auckland. Thanks to the host Christina Bengtson and all the kind parents and kids that welcomed me. It was very inspiring and a pleasure to meet you all.

On April the 6th 2011 we had a church meeting. The general secretary from Denmark participated via phone from DK. At the meeting we had to say goodbye to our first treasurer and to welcome our new treasurer Inga Nielsen Dunedin.

Thanks to:



Thanks to Knud Fink-Jensen, the former Danish Consul-General in Wellington, for his great work for the Danish Church NZ. Knud Fink-Jensen has been our treasurer right from the beginning and has now stepped down. Knud Fink-Jensen was one of the most important people in the foundation of the Danish Church New Zealand. We are grateful for his work, expertise, deep knowledge, patience, diplomatic way of guiding the pastor into bureaucracy and most of all for his sense of humour and always kind and friendly attitude. We wish him all the best and look forward to see him at the coming Danish and Scandinavian events all over New Zealand.

Welcome to:

Inga Nielsen, Dunedin our new treasurer. Inga has lived in Dunedin for 20 years. She is a retired teacher, a busy grandma and popular friend of many of the Danes in Dunedin. We are looking forward to have you on board and to work with you.

Next church service:

Auckland the 3rd of July 2011 at 4pm in the Danish House, Auckland

Did you know, that ...

- You can support the Danish Church New Zealand Inc with a \$25 contribution per year. If you wish to become a financial supporter of the church, please e-mail anjagronne@hotmail.com or go directly to <http://www.danishchurchnz.org/blivmedlem.htm>
- You can have your child baptized in the Danish Church NZ, either in connection with a church service or at another arrangement. I will be happy to find a way so that we can have your child baptized in the area where you live.
- Your child can be confirmed in the Danish Church NZ. The teaching will be done via the Internet through e-mail correspondence and the confirmation will take place at a place and time that will suit you.
- It is possible to be married by a Danish pastor. I'm happy to come and bless you and be your celebrant on such a wonderful day.
- You can have a Danish-English funeral.



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