



Stavanger International Church

“Sharing Worldwide Blessings
– Training disciples for the next move”

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 FOR STAVANGER INTERNATIONAL CHURCH (SIC)

Council Members:

Hotler Samosir: President (January-July)

Edwin Achere Arrey: President (August-December)

Marta Dale: Vice President

David Siagian: Treasurer

Joseph Mutamba: Christian Education Coordinator / Programme Leader

Team-leaders:

Andrew Fitch: Worship

Marta Dale: Worship Assistants

Diane Østvold: Audio Visual

Charles Nti: Prayer and Intercession

Leslie Waller: Hosting Service

Rosemary Weston: Children’s Ministry

Laudecir Kern: Youth Ministry (January-June)

Henrik Grydeland: Fellowship

Edwin Achere Arrey and Rickenson Moshi: Outreach and Mission (March -July)

Beryl Esembe: Outreach and Mission

Equipping Ministries: Torhild Skårnes

Dorcas Ministry: Denise Johnson-Joakimsen and Melanie Mutamba

Helene Abd-Malak: Coffee Table

Sugianto Gandhi: Stewardship Events

Seth Ueland Chancy: Web and Communication

Staff:

Vidar Mæland Bakke has been Senior Pastor in 100 % of the position for the entire year of 2013. Kay Olorunju was Ministry Coordinator in 50% of the position from January-February before she went on maternity leave. Denise Johnson-Joakimsen replaced Kay as Ministry Coordinator in 50% of the position from March-December.

New Leadership Structure

The need to restructure SIC leadership was already raised by the Council in October 2012 and

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a new structure was launched at the beginning of 2013.

The new structure provides for a smaller core/executive council team elected by the Congregational Meeting and an extended group of leaders coordinating ministry teams. In such a structure those who coordinate different ministries are released to spend their energy on programme and outreach and less on administrative issues such as finance and employment.

A Leadership Retreat was held at Eigarøy in February where Executive Council, Team Leaders and SIC Staff met to settle the new structure and make plans for 2013.

The new structure has proven more dynamic and effective, although there is a need of continuous evaluation. SIC-staff plays a vital part to follow up and empower team-leaders, and provide for good communication between teams, coordinators and Executive Council.

Sunday Services and Growth Groups

The bigger fellowship in MHS Aula on Sundays at 11:00 and the smaller fellowships in Growth Group meetings during the week, are the two wings of SIC church life.

The connection between the two forms of fellowship have been further deepened this year as we launched a booklet every semester with material for Sunday services, Growth Groups and suggestions for daily bible readings and practicing of faith in the family. The booklets have been produced in cooperation with other churches in this region. The first semester was entitled «His Story - is more than history - a journey through the Gospel of Luke». The second semester was entitled «Eight Acts from the Book of Acts - To be continued». The booklets have proven helpful in focusing the church on reading and exploring the Bible together and relate it to our daily lives. A new booklet «Faith, Hope & Love» has already been produced and will be launched for 2014, focusing on the seasons in the church calendar.

a) Sundays Services:

The Worship Team has continued to work with the aim to involve different cultures and expressions in worship. The team has shown a great improvement this year, under the coordination of Andrew Fitch. There have been regular rehearsals on Thursdays and before the services on Sundays. The singers and the musicians seem to have demonstrated the power of God's love to overcome individual shortcomings.

The new tool Online Worship Center was launched in March and has simplified the preparation of Sunday programmes, making it easier to coordinate staff and leaders for Sunday service.

The attendance at services has usually been from 65-70, but we also had Sundays this year with more than 100 people gathered.

In addition to Pastor Vidar's preaching, several members of SIC have served as guest preachers throughout the year. These are: Denise Johnson Joakimsen, Beryl Esembe, John Trygve, Laudecir Kern, Rickenson Moshi, Holy Rakotondramiadana, Seth Chancy and Edwin Achere Arrey.

Moreover, in April we had a visit from Pastor Maicon Steuernagel (Oslo International Church) and in October from Pastor Rolf Arne Tjøstheim (NMS Network of Missional Churches). Covenant Players British and Irish Office Catalyst Unit, Debbie and Geoffrey Allen, together with our own members Siri and Seth Ueland Chancy contributed with several plays on our Sunday for Persecuted Christians, 3rd November. Other guest speakers from

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outside SIC include the following: Pastor Martin Weingaetner, Pastor Jusup Ibrahim, Dr Olav Bjorgaas, Rev Michael Hayhurst and Major General Jean-Fred Berger.

b) Growth Groups

SIC is a church that encourages all of its members to become a member of a Growth Group. Our vision, “training disciples for the next move”, depends on our Growth Groups as the main framework for discipleship training. SIC had the following Growth Groups in 2013:

Men’s Growth Group (initially led by Joseph Mutamba; and later by Samuel Oyemakinde)

Women and Children Growth Group (led by Helene Abd-Elmalak)

Young Adults Growth Group (functioned as two groups during the first semester, led by Pius Agormey and Abrie le Ronx)

Couples Growth Group (led by Ari Tarigan)

Sandnes Growth Group (led by Siri and Seth Ueland Chancy)

MHS Students Bible and Fellowship Group (led by Pastor Vidar)

Sola Growth Group (started at the end of 2013, led by Sudarsan Prathipati and Ari Tarigan)

KIA Multicultural Choir (led by Diane Østvold, the choir has not been active during the last semester of 2013, due to lack of conductor.)

The Growth Group leaders had six meetings with the pastor and Growth Group Coordinator for mutual support and teaching. Torhild Skårnes (Equipping Ministries) also attended some of these meetings.

Membership status

Our membership grew in 2013 to a total number of 165 compared to 137 in 2012. Some of our members and families ended their stay in Stavanger and moved to another country.

Training events and courses - «Training disciples for the next move»

- **Newcomers Gatherings:** 9th March, 17th March and 12th October. Twenty-two (22) new people were admitted members on 14th April. Six new people were admitted members on 20th October.
- **Discipleship Days at SIC:** In 2013 the discipleship courses from «Equipping Ministries» were introduced at SIC. One of SIC members, Torhild Skårnes is a licensed teacher in this course. The first theme, «Listening for Heaven’s sake» was presented already on the Leadership Retreat, and then about 20 attended the Discipleship Day on 6th April. In the fall the second theme, «Renewing of the Mind» was introduced, first as a seminar at our Family Retreat in August, and later as a whole Discipleship Day on 21st September with around 29 people in attendance. Life Coach Kjell Aanensen had most of the teaching on the last Discipleship Day. Important was the equipping of group leaders from SIC on these days. It was a huge progress (compared to previous Discipleship Days) to have well-prepared leaders to facilitate the exercises in groups.
- **National Conference NMS-Network at Sola:** 11th - 13th April
Theme: “Leading your Church into Growth”. Joseph Mutamba, Rosemary Weston and Pastor Vidar participated from SIC.

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- **Prayer for Healing:** June

Ministry Coordinator Denise Johnson-Joakimsen led a course on Prayer for Healing during the month of June.

- **Women Talks Ministries** is a ministry especially serving women/parents, led by SIC member, Beryl Esembe. She offered a workshop at SIC Fellowship Hall on 19th October and also had a seminar about spiritual gifts at our Family Retreat in August.

- At the same Family Retreat, Ariane and Torstein Caixeta-Thingnæs offered a seminar on the issue «**Faith at the work place**».

- **The Marriage Course** from Alpha Ministries was led by Vidar Bakke in the Fellowship Hall during the months of September and October. The course had ten participants.

- SIC Member Marek Schott and Ministry Coordinator Denise Johnson-Joakimsen led a course in the Fellowship Hall on the issue of **Speaking (Praying) in Tongues** in December.

Children and Youth

In February 2013 the new Toddlers Room (safe play room) in the Fellowship Hall was ready for use after great efforts from volunteers. This has improved the playroom conditions for the smallest children during the Sunday service. The room was also used for some Baby Song gatherings on Wednesdays led by Siri Ueland Chancy and Vidar Bakke in the Fall of 2013.

The Sunday School Team has been led by Rosemary Weston. Usually there have been leaders for two age groups in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday service. They do an excellent job for our children.

Youth Coordinator Laudecir Kern finished his Master degree at MHS in June, and went back to Brazil. Since then there has not been a regular youth ministry at SIC. During the first semester Laudecir gathered some of the youth for fellowship and activities on occasional Fridays. The youth ministry continues to be an area that needs development in our fellowship.

Prayer Ministry

Throughout the whole year of 2013 the Prayer Team has gathered on Wednesdays in the evening for intercessory prayers, led by Prayer Coordinator Charles Nti. Our prayer team undergirds SIC, its ministries, and each member, in prayer, and is vital for our mission in Stavanger and globally. See also under «training events» about courses on prayer for healing and prayer in tongues.

Dorcas Ministry

During the Spring of 2013 this new ministry was launched under the leadership of Denise Johnson-Joakimsen, Marta Dale and Melanie Mutamba. Inspired by the woman Dorcas, mentioned in Acts 9, the team has organized a weekly dinner for students at MHS. Dorcas also provides food for people in need in our community. The whole church has been invited to

support the ministry through special donations.

Outreach

There was an outreach team at SIC during the first semester of 2013. Some of the members participated on KIA events and on the Global Outreach Day at the centre of Stavanger.

Two teams (about 12 people) also participated during the Kindness Stavanger Festival, organised by IMI-Church.

Pastor Vidar participated on the Community Outreach Event at NATO and on the same kind of event at the International School, as well as meetings with new students at MHS. We lacked a team to represent SIC at the University during the first week of the Fall semester. Notwithstanding, the outreach plan for 2013 was completed.

Special Events:

17th May – The Independence Day of Norway

For the first time a team from SIC participated with selling of foods at the International Event at Bjergsted. Led by Sugianto Ghandi, the team put enormous efforts into making foods and selling the whole day. The most important outcome of the participation was the publicity this gave SIC in the international community of Stavanger.

A group of SIC members also participated in the People's Parade.

Service at Brekko

Sunday 9th June our Family Service was held at Brekko Chapel, near Ålgård, with great fellowship, barbecue and family activities afterwards.

SIC Family Retreat at Tau

31st August-1st September: For the first time in many years SIC organised a retreat for all members and newcomers at Wathne Camping, Tau. The response from about 35 participants was very positive: great fellowship and good program. We will especially emphasize the workshops on Saturday, led by Torstein and Ariane Caixeta-Thingnæs («Christian at the Workplace»), Beryl Esembe («Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Family») and Torhild Skårnes («Renewing of the Mind»), as well as «witness and sharing» in the evening. We found Wathne Camping to be a good venue for such an occasion, and the hospitality of Sam and Betty Speers was really special. There were some children who attended, but fewer than expected. A good team prepared an excellent children's program.

JOYFEST 2013!

Probably for the first time in her more than 40-year history, SIC courageously launched on 16 November a music festival dubbed JoyFest 2013 – Celebrating Freedom! Our SIC worship team wonderfully led the event with supporting musicians from the UK «HopeGene» and Sandnes International Church Lighthouse (SICL). The event included heart-searching presentations of the gospel by Covenant Players. Many overjoyed participants felt that it was the beginning of greater things to come.

Relations with other churches and organisations

SIC has close relations with other churches and organisations locally and globally. SIC was part of a joint service in January in Stavanger Domkirke, led by the Dean of Stavanger, Anne Lise Aadnøy, the Anglican Pastor Peter Hogarth and Pastor Vidar. Two joint services were

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held with Kampen Church (Church of Norway) and two services with Stavanger Anglican Church.

In October SIC was one of the organizers behind the Torch March for Persecuted Christians, involving people from many churches in Stavanger. And the same month SIC hosted an international gathering with representatives from the Norwegian and international churches in Stavanger.

SIC financial summary in NOK:

Our budget was set at:	1 000 000
Actual incomes:	
Collection / pledge:	1 110 113
Grant (includes Youth grant):	97 751
Other (auction, K-stud, etc):	33 158
TOTAL INCOME:	1 241 022
Actual costs:	
Administration costs:	112 424
Program costs:	96 628
Youth programs:	16 551
Staff expenses:	749 122
Missions (10% of income):	124 102 (of which 73 895 is expended to date)
TOTAL COST:	1 098 827
Surplus 31.12.2013:	142 194

Based on its membership, SIC applies for and receives two grants from local governments.

These amounts are included under Grants in the income for the church.

Missions:

Ten percent of all giving to SIC is earmarked for missions. In 2013 the following donations (in NOK) were allocated based on 2013 budget sum:

NMS (Marit Breen Women Project in Ethiopia):	20 000
KIA Rogaland:	20 000
Open Doors (Egypt):	20 000
Sandnes Lighthouse (SICL):	10 000
Covenant Players:	20 000
Open Post (pastor's discretion):	10 000

This 2013 Annual Report has been prepared and submitted by:

SIC staff and the SIC Council
January 2014