



This August will be 22 years of ministry in Iceland. One veteran missionary reflected, “As a pioneer, stop thinking in terms of years, think in terms of lifetimes.” We agree.

As you know from our previous letters, we lack the proper tools to complete the church plant, to train a national, and to turn the work over, to train ministers to replace us. We still need a sound translation of the Bible, teaching materials, a songbook, a commentary, a Bible dictionary, and other tools we took for granted in America.

Putting aside the dynamic of needing a nuclear, national family to become faithful, we are also facing generational and deep-rooted false teachings about God. He told Jeremiah, “See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.” (Jer. 1:10). The process of rooting out false teachings, pulling down strongholds, destroying false gods, and throwing down cultural misconceptions of God precedes building and planting. This verse spells out clearly the process and struggle of planting a church. “Building” and “Planting” are in that list, however, a building project on such a large scale is not something that anybody would advise a missionary in a pioneer country to do.

However, the responsibility of the project became mine when the military base closed and the Pastor of the Military ministry felt led of God to leave. The U.S. military members who had started this 13,000 square foot building left it to us with 30% completed and with a \$150,000 mortgage. To the Glory of God, all major construction is today completed, leaving only final touches like windows, and no mortgage. Now, we have a building that can facilitate not only our weekly ministries but also summer camp and a future Christian school.

As the building project was bigger than we are, so are the tasks before us now like the Bible translation, the study tools, and the Christian school. Any one of these tasks could take a lifetime, yet we have only one to offer Jesus. As the first Baptist Church in Iceland’s history, I knew that “failure to finish” was not an option. Though people truthfully said that finishing was impossible, with God all things are possible. As we continue the next leg of this seemingly impossible journey, we appreciate those who “strive together with me in your prayers to God for me” (Rms. 15:30). We really need people who will believe that our Lord does the impossible. As with the construction projects, we trust God to accomplish what He has put into our hearts to do in the future while simultaneously ministering the Word, preaching the Gospel, inviting people to church, and holding services.

Thank you for praying for us as we minister and for supporting our work in Iceland! Photos below: Left is the last room in the building project completed. Next is our English-speaking ministry singing “It Is Well with My Soul” in the newly finished room. The next photo is of preschoolers being taught in Sunday school. Next is our bus ministry and Icelandic Adults. Next, on the far right is our English ministry. All photos were taken over the past 4 weeks. We praise the Lord for what He has allowed us to do and for open doors to proclaim His Holy Word.



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BMFP: Baptist Missions to Forgotten People: Mission Board

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