

APRIL



FISKEBÄCKS
MISSIONSKYRKA

Fiskebäck's Mission Church is taking steps to be a church without walls.

During this spring term Brunnen has been using the acronym B.E.L.L.S. (Bless, Eat, Listen to the Holy Spirit, Learn Jesus and Sent) to help us put words and actions to our faith. BELLS is focused both outwards (blessing others, eating with others) and inwards (listening to the Holy Spirit and learning what Jesus did). At the same time BELLS is missional as it reminds each of us to live out our own "sent-ness" (Who has God sent you to?). This term we have already talked about bless, eat and listening to the Holy Spirit, so we are now concentrating on learning more about Jesus so that we can do as He did.



John 10:11-16

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹² A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep. ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd."

If we are supposed to learn what Jesus did and follow His example, then when Jesus claims to be the good shepherd (a shepherd who would give his life for the sheep), then are we ready to do the same: are we ready to sacrifice our lives for the sake of the Gospel?

Think about it: In what ways are you sacrificing your life today for the sake of "the sheep" (the Gospel)?

If we are to "learn Jesus" perhaps one of the best ways to do that is by looking at what He taught. In the passage of "the good shepherd" (John 10:1-16) we learn several things about Jesus: 1—He is the one who saves. He is claiming to be the Messiah! 2—Jesus is the good shepherd which means He can be trusted at all times. 3—He is gathering sheep when in contrast the Pharisees in chapter nine who are scattering the sheep.

Jesus is not like any other shepherd; although others shepherds may be good at their job, Jesus does something entirely different. Jesus is a different kind of shepherd, He is THE good shepherd one who not only gathers His own sheep, but one who also gathers sheep who are not in His fold (v 16). What other shepherd does this? Or an even better question: what other shepherd can do this? Sheep only know the voice of their shepherd, so Jesus' ability to call the other sheep and for them to follow means there is something special about Jesus. In this parable Jesus is clearly calling all to follow Him. But will we listen and will we follow? If we are to follow the example of Jesus seriously then we need to understand that there is a calling for the shepherd to sacrifice His life for the sake of the sheep. In our world today we are not used to hearing the word "sacrifice." It is foreign to us because the world teaches us a much more selfish message: "how can you get more..." Jesus gives us a different model to follow and it is one of sacrifice. So, if Jesus is the good shepherd then in what ways are we willing to sacrifice for the sake Gospel/the sheep? How are we helping others be a part of Jesus' sheepfold?

I (Aaron) am amazed when I hear what some people in Brunnen are willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Good News. In Brunnen, just like in any church, we have people whose lives are filled with many activities: everything from family to sports, from church to work, from life's joys to life's difficulties...but one thing that I have observed is that a few people in Brunnen have realized for themselves that something MUST be sacrificed if they are going to be a part of the new church. Each person has 24 hours in a day, but what we do with that time may be different. One person in Brunnen said that they were decreasing their work hours so that they could give more hours to family/friends and the church. This person doesn't make a fortune, but is willing to sacrifice out of they have so that Brunnen can grow as a new church. This is just one example of what one person in Brunnen does to literally follow the example of Jesus being a sacrificial shepherd. Are you feeling stress, but want to help your church? What will you be willing to sacrifice?

BRUNNEN

BEING MISSIONAL



Jesus said: "So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also."

Our Hope

Our hope is to start a new fellowship in Brunnsbo that reflects God's kingdom in its beauty and diversity where people can grow as Jesus followers. We long to do so in openness with other churches near Brunnsbo, so that we can proclaim and demonstrate God's whole Gospel to His creation.

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Fun ways God is moving!

- On April 14th we had a prayer and fasting day. We are thankful for the people who took time to pray for the ministry of Brunnen. A small prayer group has started to meet at Sara's apartment on Wednesdays at 7am. Other's are welcome to join.
- We have out grown the apartment in Brunnsbo and are now going to rent-out the community center in Backa called "Backas Folkets Hus" starting May 6th!
- Brunnen is working with several other small congregations in the Brunnsbo/Backa area on forming a Fall Conference together in October 2012.

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for a good prayer and fasting day. Pray that this prayer and fasting day will bear fruit.
- Pray for those who are attending Brunnen's first Church Camp. Pray that we will form a deeper sense of fellowship and community with one another as well as each of us growing deeper in our faith.
- Pray for the planning details for next fall. We already had a meeting about the fall activities and now the details need to be worked out.

What's next?

- Brunnen is having its first Church Camp weekend together on May 4th to the 6th. We will be having our retreat on one of the islands outside of Gothenburg called Styrö.
- We have planned to continue to meet as normal through out the summer. So feel free to come and join us if you are in the neighborhood, check the website for more info: www.brunnen.cc