

Exploration—
DENMARK

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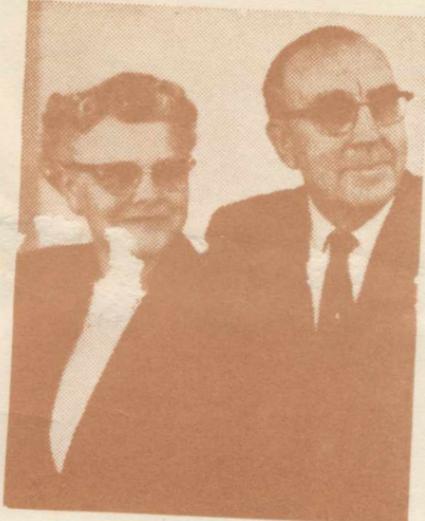
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by Jerry Johnson

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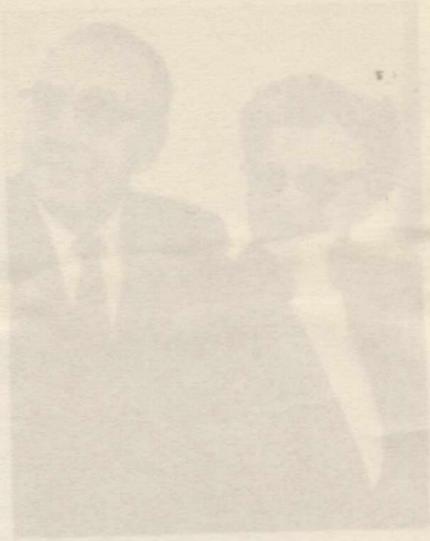
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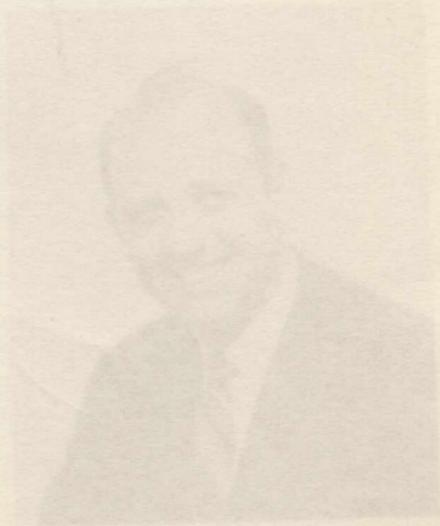
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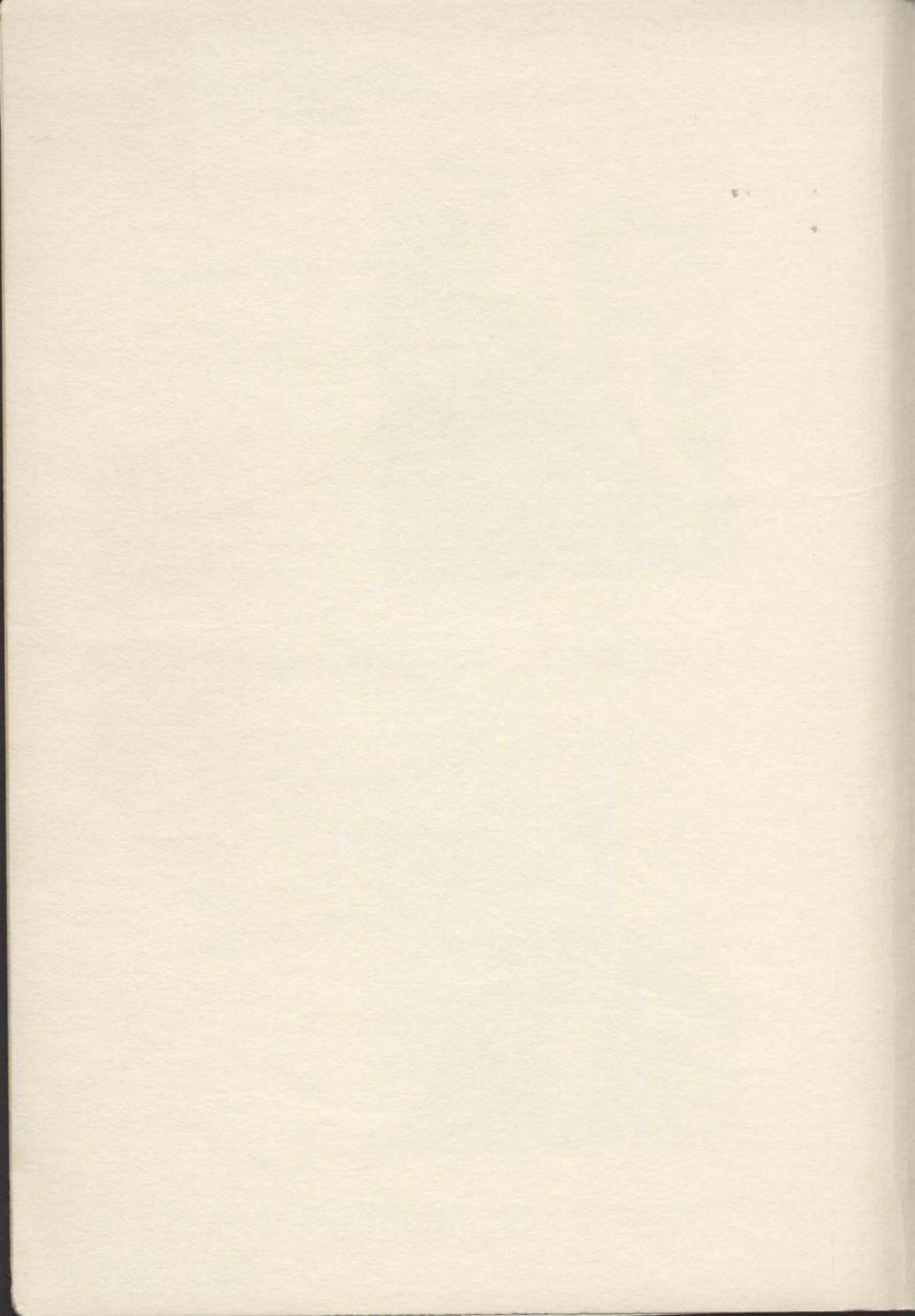
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by
Jerry Johnson

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FIRST PRINTING, 1962



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Dedication

to Jerry, Jr.

and Dennis—

little Vikings—

fine fellows—

Daddy's pals!

25752

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Dedication
to Jerry, Jr.
and Dennis—
little things—
fine fellows—
Daddy's girl!

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Foreword

First- and second-generation Europeans living in the United States are often heard speaking about "the old country" as they refer to the former home of ancestors in Europe. Many times as a child visiting grandparents on the farm in Nebraska, I was intrigued with conversation about Sweden, the birthplace of my grandfather, and Denmark, my grandmother's homeland. But these countries seemed unreal and far away to my childish imagination. The possibility of ever visiting them personally seemed quite remote indeed. But now here I am, in "the old country"—making Denmark one of my places of service in helping establish the Church of the Nazarene in middle Europe.

When one sets foot in Copenhagen, Denmark's capital, one is inclined to ask the question, "But what's old about this country?" It is new, progressive, and modern. However, just enough of the old still remains along with the maintaining of certain traditions and customs to keep the country unique and distinct. It doesn't take long to fall in love with it.

Many times I've heard my Nazarene preacher father speak of his mother's birthplace, and most usually he would accompany the conversation with a statement something like this: "I wonder when the Church of the Nazarene will begin work in Denmark." Undoubtedly many other Nazarenes of Scandinavian descent have often asked the same question. Without question it was joyful news to all of these as they read the announcement in the *Herald of Holiness* that Denmark was being explored for the establishment of our church there.

There is a certain thrill experienced in pioneer work that cannot be expressed on paper, although I have made an attempt to do so. But to really know the thrill, you

have to be there, to join in the prayers, to do some of the scouting, and then to actually see some of the visible results. That the days of pioneering are not in the distant past I am personally grateful. I am further thankful that my church has given me the opportunity of being one of today's pioneers in the establishment of our church in other countries. Along with this privilege has come the opportunity of working with such fine people as Orville and Kathryn Kleven.

As the work began to take form in Copenhagen and one step after another spoke so forcibly of divine guidance, it appeared that the details should be put down on paper, that others might share in the blessings. With the encouragement of my wife, Alice, the Department of Home Missions, and Nazarene Book Editor Norman Oke, I have endeavored to do so. I can now only hope that readers of these lines will receive a blessing as they peruse the following pages.

But while I am writing about Denmark in this book, actually we live in Germany. In the following lines you will read about the Nazi occupation of Denmark during World War II. This has not been done just to be digging up old skeletons. I did feel, however, that you should know what type of people the Danes are. The longer I live in Germany, the more convinced I am that the German people themselves took no satisfaction in their foreign occupations; and when such occupations are referred to, they must be narrowed down to the actions of the dictator and certainly not as the will of the people.

Under a democracy the German people are now expressing themselves, and the result is a very close relationship between Germany and Denmark. They are partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It appears that Denmark will become a full-fledged member of the European Common Market, which is one of the most progressive movements toward a United States of Europe. Germany is one of the leading members. Germany is Europe; and boundaries within Europe do not

appear to be as pronounced as once they were in the yesteryears.

The present trends toward political unity among European countries is healthy for the development of the Church of the Nazarene. It is our golden day of opportunity. The exploration of Denmark must be followed up with further explorations until the message of full salvation penetrates the farthest corner of every one of these countries.

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Introduction

There are times when God leads through the opening and closing of doors. Such was the experience of Paul and his evangelistic party as they traveled through Phrygia and Galatia. The Holy Spirit forbade them to preach and guided them away from Bithynia. Finally the doors opened for them to go to Macedonia. Without time to check with their mission board, they set sail, "assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."

The Church of the Nazarene is in Denmark today because of a similar leading of the Holy Spirit through circumstances and open doors. There was no prior decision by a mission board, nor even any budget for exploring the possibilities of entering Denmark. Rather, there was an evangelistic party—a man and his wife—dedicated, burdened, called of God, already equipped with the language and familiar with the ways of the people; there were people responding to the message and welcoming God's messengers; there was a building available, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that this was the place for the church. The Department of Home Missions concurred that the Lord had opened the doors of Denmark to the Church of the Nazarene.

As you read the pages of this book, you will sense that the Acts of the Holy Spirit are still being written in the twentieth century, and you will be glad you have had a share in this modern missionary venture through the General Budget and the Easter and Thanksgiving offerings of the church. Will you not share also in the prayer support, that it may continue to be true that "mightily grew the word of God and prevailed"?

—ROY F. SMEE

Introduction

There are times when God leads through the opening and closing of doors. Each was the experience of Paul and his evangelistic party as they traveled through Asia Minor and Galatia. The Holy Spirit forbade them to go on and guided them away from Mysia. Finally, the doors opened for them to go to Macedonia. Without any delay, with their mission board they set sail, joyfully believing that the Lord had called us to go to Macedonia, the great one there.

The Church of the Nazarene is to Denmark today through a similar leading of the Holy Spirit through the evangelists and open doors. There was no prior decision by a mission board, nor even any budget for extending the possibilities of entering Denmark. Rather, there was an evangelistic party—a man and his wife—led and equipped, called of God already equipped with the language and familiar with the ways of the people that were people responding to the message and welcoming God's messengers; there was a leading and the evidence of the Holy Spirit that this was the place for the church. The Department of Home Missions determined that the Lord had opened the doors to Denmark in the Church of the Nazarene.

As you read the pages of this book you will learn that the Spirit of the Holy Spirit are still being written in the twentieth century, and you will be glad you have had a share in this modern missionary venture through the General Budget and the Eastern and Theological Divisions of the church. Will you not share also in the prayer support that it may continue to be true that "mightily grew the word of God and prevailed?"

—Roy F. Sims

1

The Explored

It is an accepted fact of history that the Vikings were a hardy lot. Today's citizens of Denmark have upheld the reputation of their forefathers. Their endurance under fire in recent years has proved this true.

The capital of Denmark is Copenhagen. Nearly one-fourth of the entire population of the nation lives in this city. There are one million, two hundred thousand residents in Copenhagen alone. The population of Denmark as a whole is between four and five million people.

Copenhagen is known as the most modern city on the European continent. Probably modern West Berlin would be a close second. But that which places Copenhagen at the top of the list is its lovely, wide, convenient streets. Progress is a key word among the city fathers. Although traditions are upheld and reverence maintained for certain ancient landmarks, this city is not so bound to its traditions as some of the older parts of Europe seem to be. If a building stands in the way of a new city thoroughfare, the building comes down. This is not always so on the continent.

Not only its modern streets, but also the ultramodern architectural styles of its buildings are indications of a forward-moving people. Some of the most beautiful structures to be seen on this side of the Atlantic are in Copenhagen. An example is the new airport of the Scandinavian Airways as well as the new Hotel Royal in the heart of the city. Striking housing developments are to be found in the suburbs. The buildings are spaciouly situated. They are large but practical. Over two

hundred families may live in one apartment house, yet they all have their individual privacy and maintain their identity.

These areas are well planned with shopping centers conveniently located within reasonable access to all residents. Nothing has been overlooked, even to the arranging of halls made available for community activities. Play areas are a must. Children are important members of the Danish community. Their new modern schools are dream buildings.

The Danes are known the world over for their cleanliness, and this reputation they rightfully deserve. Their homes, inside and out, are for the most part spotless. Slums are not to be found in Copenhagen.

Denmark has an area of 27,000 square miles. This is divided into 50 larger islands and about 200 smaller islands. Lovely, large, modern ferryboats form the connecting links between islands. The land is productive and fertile, and there is much dairying.

Driving over the country there is much to see and enjoy. The Danes are proud of their Hans Christian Andersen, and in Odense one can visit his home. The little street on which he lived is preserved as it was in his childhood.

The *Smorgasbord* is all that the outsider has ever heard or dreamed of. It's a "must" when visiting Denmark. The infinite varieties of fish and other foods beggar description. What a taste treat! And there is no end to it!

Another Danish specialty is the *Smrebrød*. These are unique, open-faced sandwiches. They are to be found nearly everywhere one goes: in specialty shops, department stores, grocery stores, outdoor stands—everywhere. And they are delicious!

In Copenhagen itself there is much to see and do. The changing of the guard every day at twelve o'clock noon and every four hours thereafter in front of the

king's palace is an impressive ceremony. If the king is in residence, even more color and fanfare are provided.

On the water front is a statue of "Little Mermaid," made famous by the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen. She is reputedly the most photographed little maid in the world.

The city courthouse is rather a marvel in itself and provides one of the famous tourist attractions of the city. Copenhagen is a tourist city, and the appeal to the foreigner to visit there is a gripping one.

On out from Copenhagen about eighteen miles in the town of Roskilde is a famous cathedral. Here is where all of their kings and queens have been buried. This cathedral has become the Westminster Abbey of Denmark.

In the heart of the city is famous Tivoli. This is the Disneyland of Denmark. Its appeal to the children of Denmark and the continent, and the numbers in which they flock to enjoy it every summer, are an indication of its popularity. But Tivoli is also the Las Vegas of Denmark. Here in the heart of Copenhagen one can see men and women desperately trying to beat the losing game of gambling.

To the outsider dropping in, there is one thing that catches his eye which well causes him to stop and take a second look. In restaurants and on the streets it is a normal thing to see women smoking cigars. They may be small, rather delicate after-dinner cigars, and then again they may be real stogies. How difficult it is to grasp it all when one sees a woman, perhaps dressed in formal garb, sitting in the finest of restaurants, with a smelly, big, black cigar in one corner of her mouth!

It must not be forgotten that although Denmark, and Copenhagen in particular, is modern, progressive, and attractive, it is also sin-ridden. Its reputation identifies it as "the Paris of Scandinavia." Pornography plainly displayed on the newsstands is revolting to a clean con-

science. Prostitution is licensed and condoned. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is incomprehensible. The theaters make lurid appeals. Sin is everywhere. Scandinavia must hear the message of heart holiness!

There is one stop in Copenhagen that becomes a must for the visitor. This is the Frihet's (Freedom) Museum—there is none other quite like it in the entire world. It has to do with the activity of the Danish underground during the time that the German Third Reich under Hitler occupied the country. In the behavior of the Danes during this time of crisis one sees the spirit of the hardy Vikings coming to the fore. Practically the entire populace became a headache to Hitler and his occupational forces. They not only defied him but they fought actively against him. Undoubtedly there were many times when the dictator wished he had let them alone.

The Germans actually seized the country without resistance. The Danes were outnumbered and unprepared. Their desires were for peace and they made no provocations whatever. But Hitler felt that the country was needed, so he deliberately walked in and took control.

But the Danes are proud and their pride had been hurt. They were not to remain passive and undemonstrative over this act of modern-day mass piracy. They began to organize an underground that brought constant and well-planned harassment to the Germans.

And they had a leader. He was none other than the late King Christian X himself (present king is Frederick IX). Although one cannot say that he was active in underground activities, it is a known fact that he was an active leader of the passive resistance movement. He refused to leave and accept asylum although England offered it to him. He chose rather to remain with his people.

His open defiance of Hitler became an inspiration to the entire populace. An example of this defiance was his reaction to a cruel command handed down from the German High Command that all Jews in Denmark were to wear an arm band with the star of David on it, such as had been required in Germany. The king openly declared that the Jews of Denmark were citizens of Denmark just as he was. If they had to wear such an identification mark, then he would have to do the same. He would place the star of David upon his arm, and following the example so would thousands of others do the same. It would be absolutely impossible for the Germans to distinguish between Danes and Jews. The Germans gave up their plan.

Because of this passive, yet certainly very real, resistance, Hitler felt it necessary to try to develop some sort of good relations with the king. He knew that if the Germans should bring any harm to him there would be a rebellion in Denmark that would be absolutely uncontrollable. Hitler took advantage of the king's birthday to improve these strained relations. The king received a very, very lengthy telegram with all sorts of best wishes and greetings from the *Fuhrer*. The king was unimpressed. He replied also with a telegram. But his telegram contained only one word in it—"Thanks."

The king refused a bodyguard during this time. Every morning he would mount his horse and ride through the streets of Copenhagen. Scores of children would follow him on bicycles and on foot. Every day there would be crowds of people to greet him. These daily rides contributed toward closer unification of his people. The harassment of the underground intensified as the occupational forces continued to oppress.

There were the illegal presses grinding out pamphlets, booklets, leaflets, and newspapers against the Nazi regime. Mimeographs, offsets, and letter presses

were securely hidden under false disguises in basements, attics, and shops.

Homemade weapons delivered by street cleaners or women with baby buggies and many other means kept the underground rather well supplied. Informers were sought out, secretly tried, and prosecuted. The pressure was on, the days were trying, but they were rewarding.

The end of the war meant the end of the occupation for the Danes. There was confusion with their jubilation as the Nazi regime was cleaned out and things began to return to normalcy. Analysis afterward proved that the Danes are a hardy lot, that they are united and determined. Further analysis showed that they had not suffered to the extent that some of the other European countries had. Any bombing that had taken place in Denmark had been by special request, as the Allies worked closely with the underground. Deaths did not mount into the extremely high figures compared to other countries. But nevertheless there had been a price paid.

There was the man for example who stood for hours in bitter cold water to his chest, helping Jews escape by small boats from the shores of Denmark to Sweden, necessitating a two-year confinement in a hospital afterward as a result of sickness incurred. There were those whose lives were in constant danger knowing that the so-called security of their homes was now the most insecure place because of the dreadful secret police. Others were confined in concentration camps and suffered the accompanying consequences of horror, disease, hunger, and for many, death.

Perhaps another price that has been paid is the fear many have even to this day of another occupation. The crisis in Berlin and the threats that communism is making in regard to Europe stir up unpleasant memories in the minds of a number of the people. They dread the thought of another country overrunning them again.

This recent experience of Denmark and this fear that many have of another occupation have an undeniable effect on the development of our church work. It is often not a fear that brings one closer to God, but to the contrary encourages the attitude, "Eat, drink, and be merry" while there is still time. But it does have to be considered in business dealings and in the acquiring of property for permanent locations that won't be altered at the first sign of political instability.

One must also remember that Denmark, too, borders on the iron curtain. The chilly blasts of the cold war are often felt on these shores as citizens of East Germany have found one means or another of escaping across the small body of water that separates them to take asylum in Denmark. This small country is often the object of propaganda attacks from promoters of communism. Therefore one can readily see that their concern over another invasion has some foundation.

But the Danes are a thinking people, and logical in their reasoning. Conversation with one of the citizens might bring something like the following to light. "We know that we cannot hold the entire German populace responsible for what took place here during the occupation. We blame it onto a system, a system that has been proved wrong and fortunately wiped out. We feel that justice has taken care of the main proponents of that system. Therefore we hold no malice in our hearts." One Dane was heard to say, "You will find that we are quick to forgive."

What a wonderful, nearly ready-made proposition, then, Denmark provides for the Church of the Nazarene! Especially is this true in contemplating any further expansion. For these people would have much to offer our church in future years. A brave, hardy folk is exactly what the cause of holiness is going to need as the onslaughts of communism continue to threaten our existence. Their aggressiveness is what we need as we consider

the total expansion of the work in middle Europe. Their determination is a quality we can well use as we plan to get our roots firmly embedded in this part of the world. Their genteel spirit, mellowed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, will make holiness just that much more attractive to an onlooking world.

And Denmark is calling us. This does not mean that churches and groups, already organized, are calling us to come and take them over. The fact of the matter is that one cannot boast of an overabundance of spiritual activity in the country. The state church is Protestant, and like most state-operated churches, religion is not taken as seriously as one might suppose. Attendance in the cities might reach as high as 5 per cent, although this is doubtful. Some free churches are rather active and yet one cannot be too boastful of their attendance. A great deal of emphasis is placed upon pleasure, entertainment, and comfortable living. The amount of socialism that has been incorporated in government operations would perhaps have something to do with creating this latter atmosphere.

However, these are the very reasons that Denmark presents such a great challenge to the Church of the Nazarene. For sin is still sin in spite of any attractive environment. Wherever there is sin, there are heart need and hunger. The church that will bring a message and program geared to touch the hearts and meet the needs of the people will find an open door and a warm welcome. Such has been the case already for the Church of the Nazarene in Denmark.

An interesting observation made among the Danes is that, when a genuine Christian is found, he is deeply sincere. When he goes to church he expects a full meal from the Word of God. A worship service among the most devout in Denmark will include a ten- to fifteen-minute devotional at the beginning of the service, after which the main sermon is to be heard, with, of course,

music in between. They carry their Bibles with them to service and expect the minister to give them time to follow the reading of scripture in their own Bibles.

In Denmark one is gripped with a conviction that it is a must for the Church of the Nazarene to become firmly established here. These people will have so much to offer to the forward-moving planning of our church in the years to come. Careful planning, much prayer, and material investment are needed in these beginning days.

Careful planning is number one on the list of requirements, as haphazard, illogical, impulsive maneuvering will quickly identify us as one of the other "fly-by-nights." We must give all Europeans the impression of permanence.

Prayer is another requirement, for although the field appears to be ripe and doors are opening, Satan will oppose wherever his domain is trespassed upon—in fact opposition has already appeared.

Material investment is a necessity to help complete this permanent impression. As is the case in all Europe, where land is scarce and the population is crowded, property is also very expensive. Beginning days in Europe are demanding on the pocketbook, but the investments promise rich dividends. The millions in this section of the world are without question a tremendous opportunity for holiness evangelism today.

Recently it was my privilege to preach on a Sunday in Copenhagen with the aid of Rev. Orville Kleven as my interpreter. It was a double thrill for me. In the first place it was my first opportunity to do so under the banner of the Church of the Nazarene, and in the second place Denmark is the land of my own grandmother's birth.

On Sunday morning three men stepped out at the conclusion of the message. On Sunday evening another five made their way to the front. They knelt at an altar. They wept as they prayed. These were Nazarene ser-

vices. And God was very near and precious to our hearts. The grand total for the day? Four men and four women.

Of the eight, six were definite seekers for the experience of sanctification. Several were happy finders. One lady was overheard in her conversation with another woman just prior to the evening service. She said, "I know something unusual must have happened in church this morning as my husband was so happy when he arrived home." He had been one of those at the altar.

This is the opportunity for our church in Denmark. But it is more than an opportunity; it is also a responsibility. How often in missionary services we have enthusiastically joined others in singing—

*"From Greenland's icy mountains, . . .
From many an ancient river,
From many a palmy plain,
They call us to deliver
Their land from error's chain"!*

This comes very close to actually spelling out our responsibility, as Greenland is a protectorate of Denmark.

This opportunity the Church of the Nazarene has seized. The responsibility has not been ignored. Services are being held. Souls are being saved and sanctified. The church has begun an exploration in the heart of Scandinavia, and with God's help we plan to expand to all her four corners with the message of holiness.

. . . and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the Lord thy God . . . (Isa. 55:5).

2

The Explorers

"We're living in Rom. 8:28." The voice was that of Kathryn Kleven. She was speaking by long-distance telephone from Fresno, California, to me, her pastor, in Eugene, Oregon. Why the telephone call? And why the declaration, "We're living in Rom. 8:28"?

Rev. and Mrs. Orville Kleven, their son Wes, then a student in the University of Oregon, and Mrs. Kleven's mother were on their way to southern California from Eugene, Oregon, their home, for the Christmas holidays. It was December, 1957. On the way they suffered a very bad automobile accident, because an approaching car failed to obey a stop sign. Of the four only Mr. Kleven was hurt enough to require hospitalization. But his injuries were serious. The bones in his face had been broken in a number of places. The outcome wasn't definite. But faith in God and in His Word had brought the entire family to a place of restful trust as they firmly believed that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Up until this time the Klevens had been evangelists for twenty-one years. Always active, and always enjoying a full slate, they had been happy in their work, and their ministry had been blessed of the Lord. But down through the years there was a special burden which both Orville and Kathryn shared.

Orville had been born of parents with Norwegian descent in the state of Minnesota. As a child the home language was Norwegian. The family attended a church

where this language was used. Orville had always had a yearning to visit the land of his forefathers to preach the gospel.

Kathryn had been born in Denmark. Her parents immigrated to the United States when she was still quite small, yet childhood memories lingered with her. Danish was the accepted language in the family's home life.

The country of Norway was ruled by the Danes for a period of about four hundred years. This brought about an interesting fusion of the two languages. Although Denmark relinquished its claim on Norway in 1813 (May 17), there remains a close bond between the two countries. It is true that the Norwegians and the Danes are both endeavoring to preserve their own languages; however their differences are mostly in spelling and in accent. A Dane then gets along very well in Norway, and a Norwegian is easily understood in Denmark.

A sharper difference is noted in the language as one travels into Sweden. Of course further on, in Finland, the difference is still greater, as there the language follows the Slavic line.

Often as Mr. Kleven had had opportunity to minister to young people during his lifetime, he had urged upon them the necessity of obedience to the call of God. He often used an illustration of the ocean tide in helping his listeners to discern the will of God for their lives. He said, "The call of God is sometimes like the ocean tide; it rises and then ebbs away, rises and ebbs away. Sometimes one will feel the call burning on his heart more impressively than perhaps at other times."

After the accident and his miraculous recovery, Orville had time during his recuperating period to review his ministry and contemplate the future. He felt that for the remaining years (before a man normally accepted retirement) he would want to make the most of his time in order to show the Lord his gratitude for

sparing his life. It was one day while taking a stroll on the ocean beach that he observed the tide was in. A burden weighed heavily upon his heart. It seemed to him that the Lord said, "Now is the time. I want you to go to Scandinavia and preach holiness."

That he and his wife would both find it comparatively easy to make the necessary adjustments in two of the Scandinavian countries there was little doubt. It did mean the canceling of a full slate of revival campaigns. It also required a tremendous step of faith in knowing just how, what, and when.

Contact with headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene indicated that, although the church had Scandinavia in mind for the future, just when finances would be available for the project and what definite plans would be made for entering were all still in the formative stages and very uncertain. Yet the call was there.

Through friends and contacts in the United States there were groups of Christians in Norway who heard of the Klevens' intentions, and invitations were offered them to come. They accepted this as an open door and at their own expense booked passage for Norway. On September 2, 1959, they set sail on the "Bergensfjord," arriving in Oslo, Norway, on September 11, 1959.

In the fall of 1959, Dr. Hardy C. Powers, general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene, accompanied by his wife, set out on an official visit of a number of overseas missions of the church. His trip took him to the Near East, back through Italy and Germany, and on home. In booking his passage he asked if it might be possible to stop over in Copenhagen, Denmark, on his way, as this was on his flight schedule. While in Copenhagen he took time to view the city, its development programs, and its possibilities for the Church of the Nazarene. He was impressed with the city and its opportunities. In fact it became an obsession with him that something had to be done about taking advantage of

such an opportunity for the message of holiness. The burden remained with him on his entire trip.

In December of 1959, Dr. and Mrs. Powers landed in Frankfurt, Germany, for the first official visit since the church had opened work in the Federal Republic of Germany. During his visit here Dr. Powers relayed to me his burden for Scandinavia, and Copenhagen in particular. It was exciting conversation as we considered the possibilities there. Dr. Powers indicated that when the work should open there it would likely be placed under the same supervision as Germany, as geographically it would be a logical move.

Upon hearing that Rev. and Mrs. Orville Kleven were in Norway, I made immediate contact with them to see if they would have time to conduct some revival meetings among our beginning works in Germany. Having served previously as their pastor and further having had the privilege of their labors as they conducted a most outstanding revival campaign for me at one time, I felt this could be a wonderful boost to our work here. Plans were made for them to drive down from Scandinavia in July and remain through August of 1960, conducting four different campaigns for us and winding up as special guests for our first German camp meeting.

In June of 1960, I attended the General Assembly in Kansas City, at which time Dr. Powers and I again discussed the possibilities of opening Denmark. I mentioned to him that the Klevens were in Scandinavia having wonderful success in their revival campaigns. Particularly interesting was the open door to preaching second-blessing holiness and the unusual number of people who were seeking the experience. This was an obvious indication that God was blessing the ministry of the Klevens and that they were being accepted by the Scandinavian people.

Dr. Powers suggested that I discuss the matter with them when they came to Germany. The type of thing

we would require of them would be different from going from place to place evangelizing. They would have to remain situated in one place long enough to hew out a work. This would require patience, effort, and sacrifice. But it would not be in conflict with their call, which was to preach holiness in Scandinavia.

The suggestion came as a complete surprise to the Klevens. They had heard the call of God and they had obeyed. Inch by inch they had moved along, walking into open doors and preaching heart holiness. God had blessed their ministry and they had enjoyed good success. Although there was much uncertainty, humanly speaking, in their fulfillment of their call, there was certainty in their own hearts that what they were doing was right. Since arriving in Scandinavia they had not had any idle time.

Now, through their own church, God was giving them a definite assignment. After much earnest prayer for divine assurance they decided to accept the assignment, trusting God to open doors and show them it was definitely His will.

Further contact with Dr. Powers and his consultations with the Board of General Superintendents cleared the way for us to proceed on this end of the line. Events began to take place rather rapidly. The explorers had been selected, and now we were ready for the actual exploration of Denmark for the Church of the Nazarene.

It had been quite some time since I had received the telephone call from Mrs. Kleven when she told me of their automobile accident. A lot had taken place in the meantime. Now, very strangely, our paths were to cross again and we were being privileged to work together in a unique assignment. The challenge had gripped all of our hearts as we contemplated future possibilities for our church in northern Europe. Certainly there would be obstacles and difficulties to encounter, but we had reason

to believe that the Lord who had so wonderfully led thus far would continue guiding us in the future.

On October 15, 1959, the mother of Mrs. Kleven, eighty-nine years of age, flew by jet from Los Angeles, California, to Copenhagen, Denmark, to be at home once again in the land of her birth. The unique contribution this remarkable elderly saint is making to the advancement of our work in Copenhagen is worthy of mention. She is to be listed among the original explorers for the Church of the Nazarene in Denmark. She is loved by all. She is an active, enthusiastic worker in the congregation.

A recent visit in the home of Orville and Kathryn Kleven found them living at the same address they gave after their accident in California. Their address—then and now—Rom. 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

3

Exploration Justified

More than once the Church of the Nazarene in middle Europe has been confronted with the question: "How can you justify the inauguration of new home mission work in countries where the population is already over 90 per cent nominally Christian?" In Germany we have our own little barb which we answer. It's simply this: "How can you justify the exporting of Volkswagens to the U.S., where already we have so many automobile manufacturers in competition with one another?" Perhaps the same could be said about Danish modern furniture, or their cutlery, or their cut glass.

Logic demands better answers than these, however, and certainly those who are contributing so heavily to support the work and those to whom we are ministering deserve clear-cut reasoning for this expansion of our church. In our consideration of this we must not forget the mission that the Church of the Nazarene has taken unto herself. Our God-given assignment, as clearly outlined by our founder, Dr. Bresee, and forcefully reiterated by all of our leaders since that time, has been to proclaim scriptural, second-blessing holiness with all of its ramifications and demands for holy living and aggressive evangelism.

Ninety-eight per cent of the Danish population are members of the national church. This church is Protestant and is supported by the state. The church is administered by the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs. The costs of operation are defrayed partly by a special church tax

paid by the members and partly by direct government grant.

Members are persons who have been baptized in the national church and have not subsequently withdrawn, or those who have otherwise been christened and at a later date personally joined a congregation of the national church. In addition to the national church, which as stated above accounts for nearly 98 per cent of the population, a number of other religious communities are represented. Those which have been officially recognized for the performance of legally valid ceremonies are the Swedish church, Church of England, Orthodox Russian Congregation, Reformed church, Methodist church, Roman Catholic church, and the Jewish Community.

One can immediately understand that there would be serious problems confronted by organizations that do not have the blessing of the national church. Such "free" churches are not entitled to any tax exemptions or other special benefits, making it just that much more difficult for them to operate. This rather "chokes" a free church movement before it gets much of an opportunity to even get going. The easy, human thing to do is to buckle under such pressure and compromise. The result is that many European free churches are falling right in line with the present ecumenical movement. Perhaps one of the leaders of a free church spoke for many when he said, "I'm getting tired of being a member of a minority church organization." His indication was that ecumenicity was perhaps the answer.

The general trend of Protestantism is toward ritualism, formalism, and institutionalism—all as substitutes for evangelism. A real, genuine revival movement is unheard of in Denmark. With a few exceptions the churches are not full. Conversation with nearly anyone will bring the same comment: "Our people don't go to church." The 98 per cent figure does not give any kind

of true picture of genuine, vital Christianity in this country. Organizations are urged to come to church by groups to fill up the empty seats. Even a bishop of the national church was recently heard to remark at the time of his consecration that the church has lost its appeal. The scriptural charge must be applied to Denmark, "A form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

Even during the war under the Nazi occupational period there was a certain amount of prosperity enjoyed by the people. The postwar economic boom has continued to improve the standard of living. The efficient social services rendered by the government have set a pattern for many countries that have followed this method for government. Denmark was one of the first countries in the world to introduce such social services. Many feel that the development of the country along this line has been accompanied with an unintentional sense of false security. Some say that Denmark has it too good to need to be religious. Or as one person expressed it, "The economic boom has rocked the people to sleep spiritually." The Danes have become rather calloused. Their attitude has become, We'll wait and see.

It has been said that the churches have not done what they could to stem this tide. Some say that the preaching from the pulpits has become anemic—that it lacks "punch." Others say that the ministers have failed to raise a voice on important moral issues and that the general trend is to "soft-pedal" that which might raise opposition to them. One recent observation made was that western Europe is fast becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah. Another observation was that these same countries are filled with "polished religious heathen."

Understandably some free churches are having great difficulty in financing their programs. Numbers of them in Scandinavia have resorted to drastic means in meeting this need. The accepted practice among a number of them is to have regularly scheduled lotteries for the

purpose of raising necessary funds for their churches. Even one so-called holiness group has accepted this means of meeting its financial obligations.

A story has been given for the truth that fishermen who make their way into Norway's northern waters each summer become very unhappy over the church lotteries. It seems as though in one of the main ports where the boats would dock overnight the churches took advantage of the seasonal population influx to sponsor their lotteries. Word has it that the fishermen radioed warnings to one another when and where not to dock, that they might be spared from this "evil."

It was in this same city in Norway that Rev. Orville Kleven was privileged to conduct a revival meeting in one of the free churches. It proved to be a great time of blessing, and during the course of the campaign the pastor was especially blessed, receiving the experience of holiness. He became greatly convicted over the use of lottery as a means of raising money and expressed himself to his official board. They voted to give him 100 per cent backing in this move, as it was a rather drastic one as far as his ministerial brethren were concerned. He needed such support in facing his superiors, for, while all local connectional obligations had been met and cared for with a balance in his treasury, his predecessor had not even received all of his salary during his term of service there.

During the course of this campaign Brother Kleven was called into the office of a businessman who was a member of this church. Conviction had seized him over his use of tobacco, and he gave his last package of cigarettes to the evangelist with the determination that with God's help he was through.

But how pitifully isolated are such instances! One pastor made the statement that if he were to ask all of his board to resign who were using tobacco he would have absolutely no one left. Tobacco and alcohol for the most

part are not identified as sinful vices by the existing churches. I was in conversation with an American missionary to Europe for one of the popular fundamental movements of the United States one day and asked him frankly their stand on alcohol here on the continent. The question embarrassed him and he stumbled forth an answer. He said, "Well, you know we must fit into the pattern and thinking of the people with whom we work and live. Certain customs and traditions must be adhered to, and here in Europe we do not take the same stand on the use of alcoholic beverages as we do in the United States."

A lady who has attended some of our services in Copenhagen told of her experiences in the company of one of her ministers whom she was assisting in a special evangelistic campaign. He produced a large bottle of wine, and when she at first expressed her reluctance, he assured her that it was all right because it was pure wine, the kind God would have them to drink. The purity of the wine spoke of the life of our Master, he said.

In vacation facilities made available by one of the leading free churches on the continent, where my wife and I were enjoying a few days in this "Christian" atmosphere, wine was made available to us to add to our enjoyment. In most homes in Europe the guest is offered a drink for hospitality's sake and how surprised the hosts appear when pure water is requested instead!

It is the firm conviction of those of us who are privileged to pioneer the work of the Church of the Nazarene on the European continent that we must identify ourselves as strongly and clearly as did the founder of our movement in Los Angeles on the temperance issues. For this weak and spineless attitude of churches on the European continent is going to bring about their own ruination. The moral decline of Europe's masses stands out as a black, eternal indictment against organized Christianity.

A respected Christian youth leader of Denmark was recently heard to declare in one of his addresses that the morals of his country present some of the world's most shocking statistics. He stated that the suicide rate and the divorce rate are frighteningly high. He further indicated that immoral sex practices have infiltrated their way even among younger young children. His expression of alarm and words of warning were impressed indelibly upon the ears of his listeners.

One does not need to go on a special shopping spree with an evil mind to be confronted with lewd literature clearly and plainly displayed on street newsstands. Its open availability is shocking to moral decency. An American travel author has commended the Danish people on their modern, unrestrained, uninhibited attitude toward sex. That which he failed to explain was that such an attitude has produced a large population of illegitimate children. Perhaps another item he failed to uncover is that venereal disease increased 10 per cent in one year from 1958 to 1959.

In a television interview a department store executive was describing their problems with shoplifting. He indicated that the problem was so serious, not only among customers, but also among employees, that if they were to release all personnel who were guilty, they would have no one left. A baker, in discussing the same problem, said he had never had an honest employee.

Let the reader be reminded that the above conditions have been described in a land where 98 per cent of the population are church members. This author has been reluctant to write of the prevailing situation in a country he has learned to like very much and in a people in whom he is deeply interested. However, it is because of this deep personal interest that these lines had to be written.

It is an absolute must for the Church of the Nazarene to become firmly established throughout Scandinavia.

Most Scandinavian Christian leaders seem to be in agreement that Denmark is perhaps the most difficult of all the Scandinavian countries in which to do Christian work. In contrast to this, Finland is referred to as the most receptive to the gospel. Some feel that less favorable economic conditions may have something to do with this. Others feel that the very precarious geographical position between East and West contributes to the dependence of the Finnish people upon spiritual help. Many are said to be expecting a major conflict to take place in the near future, and word has it that gospel preachers are proclaiming the soon return of our Lord to appreciative audiences.

Norway also appears to be more receptive to the gospel than does Denmark; there again this fact is believed by many to be because of a less favorable economic situation. Rev. Orville Kleven is thoroughly convinced that as we get our roots firmly planted in Denmark we will be able to move northward with great success. The vision we request our friends on the home base to share with us is not for Copenhagen, or for Denmark alone, but for all of Scandinavia.

These Scandinavian countries must be saturated with holiness. Nazarenes around the world have a right to know that we are not endeavoring to open our work under any other pretext than to preach holiness under the banner of the Church of the Nazarene. Because our church has not adjusted its moral standard to the customs of a country, because she has not weakened herself by changing her message that she might be accepted by some compromising ecumenical movement, and because our church has not been allowed to be sidetracked by side interests, overlooking our main task of evangelism, we have caught the challenge and met the needs in other countries. Guided by these same underlying principles we will fulfill a vital role in a spiritual awakening in Scandinavia.

The Church of the Nazarene would be guilty of shirking one of its greatest responsibilities if we did not follow through on this all-important thrust in this part of the world. To those of us who are privileged to play active parts on the scene in this unfolding drama, it has become an obsession to promote this work.

The writer of these lines is basically an optimist. That optimism is based on faith in a God "who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." But he is also a realist. That realism says we can expect great things from God "according to the power that worketh in us." This means that such a work as this Danish exploration must be accompanied with much intercessory prayer and keen interest on the part of God's people.

A streetcar from the main railroad station in Copenhagen and a transfer at the zoo to bus number 136 will take you directly to the corner of Rodovrevej and Rodager Allé. An attractive sign indicating this is the *Nazareners Kirke* stands before a neat little chapel. Friendly lights and melodious music beckon you in. You may not be able to understand the language, but you will recognize the Spirit. The words will seem strange but the tune to "Only Believe" will find a response in your heart. You'll like it here, for this is your church—your people, your home.

Will you join in earnest prayer that from this humble beginning a movement for the propagation of scriptural holiness will be born that will make its way throughout all of Scandinavia?

4

The Exploration

The exploration began with an agreement that I should make a trip to Copenhagen to do some spadework while the Klevens continued conducting meetings in Germany. The time I would have in Copenhagen was limited; nevertheless we would begin to put the entire plan of opening Copenhagen to a final test.

Arriving in Copenhagen, I found myself confronted with problems that I had experienced before but to which I had never become accustomed, a strange city in a strange country with a strange language. But if it was God's will for us to open work up here, surely somewhere there would be an available apartment in which the Klevens could live and a hall in which we could conduct services.

I arrived about 10:30 in the morning and spent the rest of that day orientating myself. I talked with real estate agents who handled apartments, scanned the newspapers, always trying to find someone who could either talk English or German, in order that I might communicate with him. Every source I checked out that day brought the same comments. They all said that obtaining an apartment was an impossibility; that many of their own people were having to wait as long as four years, and that we might also have to figure many months ahead, if not years.

This certainly was not the immediate encouragement we had hoped for—and yet it seemed so clear that Copenhagen should be our next move. The next morning I awakened early and took the matter to the Lord in

prayer. I'm confident it was the Lord who directed me to a most wonderful promise. It is found in John 11:40, "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"

Since my own arrival in Europe, I had learned any number of times that the promises of God can be relied upon. How precious have many promises in the Word become to us, and how much they have meant to us when there has been nothing else! That morning in prayer I promised God that I would "believe." But I felt He would have to direct my pathway.

I made my way to a Hertz U-Rental car system. I had reasoned that this could take me as long as two weeks, staying in hotels and eating out, and could all be very expensive. Surely there would be a quicker way of going about this, especially so since the "glory of God" had been promised.

I asked for a car with a driver who could speak good English. Within thirty minutes he was there. As I climbed into the car I asked for him to park awhile as I wanted to explain to him who I was and what my mission in Copenhagen was. He was rather intrigued. I said to him, "Now I want you to find an apartment for us as well as a place in which we can conduct services."

His reply was identical to that which I had heard the day prior. But I insisted that we must try. In my heart I kept telling the Lord that I was believing and fully expected to see the "glory of God" that day.

Having a man who could speak good English and who also knew the city of Copenhagen very well was like having a big brother fight your battles for you. I just followed along as we went from place to place. We were really skipping around town quite rapidly when he explained to me that he had a lead now that he was running down. We ended up in another large office building and we were led from one room to another. Scores of people were waiting to get into these offices,

but we were always ushered right past them and given immediate attention. I felt that the fact my driver was uniformed and that I carried an impressive-looking brief case didn't hurt the cause any.

That which we shortly learned was that a new set of apartment buildings were under construction in a very lovely area of the city. They had all been filled up for some time, but just that morning one party had come and canceled their lease, asking for a return on their earnest money. Would I be in a position to give them \$75.00 earnest money to hold the apartment if I liked it?

The driver took me out to see the apartment, which in itself was very nice and satisfactory. The rent was also quite reasonable. However that which impressed me was the area in which it was located. We made a rather quick survey of it. We saw the rows upon rows of new, modern apartment buildings. We also saw many new and lovely individual homes that had rather recently been constructed. I thought, I'm seeing the glory of God. I was immediately impressed that this would be a most wonderful area in which to begin our work.

I suggested that we look further to see what possibilities there would be of finding a place in which to conduct services. Within walking distance of the apartment we found a nice community hall. I was informed that this hall could be rented for religious services and that we would be entitled to use its facilities on a limited basis.

I was satisfied that we would hardly be making a mistake in taking this apartment. In fact I was convinced that this was the leading of the Holy Spirit. I informed the driver I was ready to go back and finish the transaction.

On the way back we drove down a main street in the area in which the apartment is located. There we passed a house that caught my eye. I asked the driver to stop the car while I took a good look at this house. It

was situated on this main street with a third good street coming at it from another angle. The house itself was on a corner. It had two stories and was very neat-appearing. But that which really captured my attention was another building next to the house. This had been constructed with its own attractive entrance. It was of the same design and architecture as the house. It looked just like a little chapel and I thought that perhaps that was what it was. But the driver told me the signs indicated it was a dance school. Much too nice for the devil, I thought. And we drove on.

Getting back to the offices, we drew up the necessary papers needed to rent the apartment. I then discovered that we would have to have special permission from the city for Klevens to live in this particular apartment. This would require the services of a lawyer. Choosing a lawyer sight unseen, in a strange city, let alone in a strange country, can be very dangerous. But somewhere in my travels I had secured the address of a lawyer who I understood could speak very good English. That God directed in this has been proved to us many, many times. This young attorney has proved himself to be very honest and fair as well as competent, and his assistance has been invaluable to us. It is next to impossible to make any kind of headway in Europe without the assistance of a good attorney.

It was a necessity to wait for this special permission but our attorney promised his best. In the meantime the earnest money would have to be paid. I shall not forget the comments of the ladies at the cashier's stand when I paid them. The driver interpreted their words to me. What were they saying? "Never has anyone come into our office and secured an apartment in one day before. It is impossible." But with God nothing is impossible. He had promised and I had indeed witnessed the "glory of God"!

When I released my driver from his duties a total of only about five hours had gone by. There is a big difference between five hours and four years. But God makes that difference. Copenhagen would definitely be our next move in middle Europe.

In less than two days after I had left Frankfurt, I was back explaining the exciting events to an enthusiastic Brother and Sister Kleven. Surely, since God had done so much already, the permission to live there would also come through. And it did, meaning that the last hurdle had been jumped. The apartment would be prepared for occupancy just about the same time that the Klevens were through with their evangelistic endeavors in Germany, and plans were made for the trip north. My family accompanied me, as they had not as yet seen Denmark. As we traveled, caravan style, in the direction of Copenhagen, we were thrilled with this assignment of getting things under way for the Church of the Nazarene to open work in Denmark.

We arrived on Saturday night, but because it was already dark we were not able to see much until Sunday morning. Before going to the American Embassy to attend church services, we drove by the apartment. We were all riding in the same car and I said, "There is something else here that you must see." I took them by the community hall, which I had understood would be available. I said, "This is a hall we can have in which to conduct services." But then I drove them the other direction past the house that had so impressed me. I stopped and said, "But this is the place I want you to get."

Brother Kleven suggested we go and see if anyone was there. The doors were open and we were favorably impressed. The entrance was cleverly made and as neat as anyone could imagine. The steps leading downstairs revealed a ready-made Sunday school setup. The chapel area itself would seat up to 125 people for sure. From what we could see of the house, it appeared to be very

attractive. The owner made his appearance known and Brother Kleven asked if he would consider renting this for religious purposes. His reply was that it would be free on week ends and he would consider it. But what he really was looking for was a buyer. We asked then the further question, "Would you consider renting and giving us also an option to buy?" He would have to think about it. That's all we wanted him to do—for after all, it was Sunday. But we had received our inspiration for the Lord's day and we went to the embassy services with hearts filled with the certainty that God was leading us His way.

Although major problems had been tackled, one must not think that opening work and getting established in a new country is an overnight's task. There are endless streams of red tape. The city's permission to let Klevens live in the apartment was accompanied with registration at the local police station. Then there was the necessity of receiving permission to work in a foreign country. The status of those involved must be clarified in regard to car license, taxes, and any number of other things.

These things the Klevens took care of one by one with an efficiency that sped the day when they could begin services. The lovely little hall was rented for Saturday nights and all day Sundays with an option to buy. Chairs were purchased, a pulpit was built, an altar was provided for, and things were made ready for the first service. Along with this was the need for much advertising. Literally thousands of door-to-door contacts were made at this time by Orville personally. An attractive brochure was printed and distributed which introduced the Church of the Nazarene generally as well as the Klevens specifically. This met with a satisfactory response. The interest was quite good and friends were made. However, one minister received one of the brochures and apparently felt he should endeavor to warn

the people of the evils of the Church of the Nazarene. His article of warning appeared in one of the newspapers which is printed for the area of Rodovre, the area in which the church is located. A translation of portions of his article reads as follows:

"In the midst of all the unbearable election-advertisements, together with advertisements about television, amusements, Lux soap, modern furniture, etc., there bobs up a big, extravagant, strongly American-characterized advertisement for divine services by a Norwegian-American preacher couple, who are commencing regular divine services in Rodovre, 10:00 o'clock, Sunday, the same time as our own divine services. The advertisement is big and extravagant, with a picture of the preacher couple and a grand description of the . . . services which they have held over in the U.S.A. And, so now the tour has come from U.S.A. to Rodovre. The pastor preaches with violent arm motions and the wife . . . plays on a mystical instrument which is called 'vibrafone' and also accompanies her husband's sermons with a still more mystical apparatus, with the greatly remarkable name of felt-o-graph, which shows gorgeous light pictures to the sermon text. In our highly admiring atom-rocket, together with sputnik-age, one could not demand a greater sensation. And so, also, are we presented with the movement's articles of faith, served in eight points, about which it is said, that it shows the denomination is not a 'new sect,' but an orthodox denomination. This announcement is absolutely mistaken, inasmuch as both points six and seven in their articles of faith proclaim a false teaching of perfection, which is absolutely contrary to the Bible's and the church's teaching, and can only lead to an

unsound and extravagant conception of Christianity.

“ . . . This pronounced sectarian and extravagant preaching of Christianity will not be proclaimed by this smiling preacher couple, Sunday after Sunday here in Rodovre, 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon—at the same time as our own divine service. We have here in Rodovre community, eight remarkable preachers in all ages, and all of them preach the gospel pure and tender, zealous, warm and nice. Should it be necessary to import a foreign, half-heretical, and unlutheran preaching here?”

Of course the article didn't particularly give the Klevens the warm feeling of being welcomed by their ministerial brethren, but neither did it alarm them. Actually the pastor had done well in emphasizing when and where the services were being held. As it turned out, the article was used to their advantage, as it created more curiosity than ever and a group of people came to one of the first services in a body just to let the Klevens know they were welcome in Rodovre. In addition the editor of the newspaper contacted Mr. Kleven and asked him if he wouldn't like to reply—with adequate space being offered to do so free of charge. The Nazarene article that followed was not a reply to the charges by the Danish brother but rather a positive declaration of our church's position and intentions in Copenhagen.

The first service of the Church of the Nazarene in Copenhagen, Denmark, was begun on Saturday evening, November 5, 1960. As the services progressed, letters from Copenhagen began to flow down to Frankfurt. These letters were all so heart-warming and encouraging that excerpts will be quoted from some of them here:

After the first services the following was received:

“Well, the first phase of the battle is over! Now, I wish I could report great crowds and

great numbers, . . . but I can report a significant beginning, with several important contacts. I believe we have discovered 'Lydia' over in 'Macedonia.' This one lady that I am referring to came to the first service, Saturday night, and to both services on Sunday, and was very much interested . . . She wants to help us and did help us. She passed out a big batch of our brochures yesterday afternoon, and took another big batch with her home last night again. She lives in the vast housing area with bungalow-type houses, and she took Kathryn and me up in that large apartment building after the service Saturday night, and showed us that vast area and said, 'See all those homes!' (And it was a sight to behold with thousands of lights.) There are two thousand people who live there, and there is no church. Once a month a preacher comes out here and has a coffee party in the afternoon, and that is all the religious contact these people have.' Then she said, 'Couldn't you do something for these people? I will help you all I can!' Think of it! This apartment is about a ten- or twelve-minute walk from our little chapel . . ."

November 9

"Just a few lines this morning in order to keep you posted on the progress (and lack of it), up Copenhagen way . . . I can report a good prayer time . . . She asked for 300 more brochures that she wants to pass out in her area. She is also working on her friends close to the chapel, so we are encouraged. This Swedish lady, a new convert, that was in church Sunday night, was also at the prayer meeting . . . She asked us how long we were going to stay, and I said, 'Oh, several years. We plan to live here for a while.' She got so glad she jumped for joy. So that is

encouraging. They just love our little chapel, and when I told them that we might buy the property, they were very happy."

November 14

"Another week end has come and gone, and although we did not have 'great crowds,' we had a 'significant time'; nevertheless . . . we made some very good contacts again . . . there was also a couple who attended our services on both Saturday night and Sunday morning. If I remember right, I believe he said that he was reclaimed as a backslider in a Nazarene church in Oregon—possibly Portland . . . Well, as the battle 'ebbs and flows,' God gives us a few encouraging signs along the way to spur us on to fight the battle!"

November 21

"Well, another week end has gone, and we can report three good services. We had eleven of us to the service Saturday night, with two at the altar and a good altar service. We were eight of us yesterday morning, with good interest. We were seven of us last night, with two at the altar and another good altar service. We also had a good testimony service on Saturday night . . ."

November 29

"We had a good week end; not great crowds, but we felt God's presence a little stronger than previous."

In this letter he tells of a minister of another free church who had attended his services, and he writes:

"He told me that he gave his testimony down in his church here in Copenhagen as to what my preaching of holiness had meant to him, etc., and when he gave the altar call, the altar filled up, he said. What I am trying to say is that God is blessing and vindicating the message and truth of holiness! He had gotten a bit discouraged,

possibly, in the preaching of it and after he came to our altar and got a 'renewal,' he has taken new heart and courage in the preaching of it . . . Well, praise the Lord, as Bud Robinson used to say, 'Holiness seed never rots.'"

December 5

"Well, another week end has come and gone, and we are happy to report progress. On Saturday night, we were twelve. Among them was a mother with two of her children . . . Sunday morning we were seventeen! Praise the Lord! . . . Had two new contacts last night. We are planning on three Christmas services, and they happen to fall on our rented nights. Providential, I would say. These people go to church on Christmas, and we are going to take advantage of it."

December 19

"Well, another week end has come and gone. We had 14 out Saturday night . . . there are some encouraging signs. The few who are coming in are trying to encourage us by saying, 'Ah, they'll come after a while.' Naturally, the people are skeptical of us. They ask us if we are Mormons . . ."

December 26

"We had a good time [Christmas] up here. Saturday night we had a service at 4 o'clock (which is traditional up here). We were 25 altogether . . . Sunday evening . . . one at the altar . . . This morning [Monday] at 10:30 we were 20, all adults . . . with four at the altar. This was the climax of our Christmas services, with a very fine spirit."

January 16

"Had seven at the altar Saturday night with a very good service."

January 30

"Saturday evening attendance 25 . . . good spirit and good interest in all the services . . ."

February 13

"Another week end has come and gone, and we feel that we had a good time . . . A mother about 35 came to the altar and gave her heart to God. She wept bitterly. She had her husband in the service, too, with her four children. When I shook hands with her husband after the service, I could see that he was deeply moved, and when I had closed up the chapel and turned out the lights, and came out on the sidewalk, there I found a group of about ten, surrounding this man and his wife, and they were praying for him. He wept bitterly and I believe God helped him too."

February 20

"Saturday evening . . . one lady, about 70 years old, came forward and got saved . . . Sunday morning attendance 29 . . ."

So the work began in Copenhagen. No great, unusual crowds numbering into the hundreds could be reported, but indications were then and have proved out since that the work was solid. One contact after another was made that began to count for the church. Interest as well as attendance increased. Certainly there were times when it didn't look as encouraging as at other times, but on the average it continued to climb.

In the words of Brother Kleven, "So the battle ebbs and flows." It has not been an easy assignment, but the Klevens would testify that it is a rewarding one. They are winning the hearts of many people for God and the church. They can honestly report that among the people they are reaching they are winning a large percentage to the Lord. The Denmark investment is already reaping eternal dividends for us.

As plans were laid for the fall program of 1961 a revival campaign of a week was scheduled. Financially the new little congregation assumed every obligation giving a total of 1,337 crowns during the week. This is nearly \$200. The attendance by this time had increased to the point that they often ran in the fifties and sixties for the services. But that which interests Nazarene readers is what God was able to do in the hearts of the people. Another excerpt from one of Brother Kleven's letters explains this aspect.

He writes:

"The best of all, of course, was that the Holy Spirit was very, VERY near in all the services, and blessed us to death at times. Holy laughter and shouts were manifest more than once, and that is saying a mountain for these dignified Danes! There was good seeking at the altar. Our people were so blessed and they assumed practically all the responsibility of entertaining. Last night we were nine men in our men's prayer meeting. There were ten women in the women's prayer meeting. We had prayer meeting every night before the service at 7 o'clock."

We marvel sometimes at the amount of progress there has been in such a short time. Yet perhaps we shouldn't marvel, for after all God had said, ". . . if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God."

As plans were laid for the fall program of 1961 a
review was made of a week's work. It was decided
that the next week's program should be a study of
the life of Jesus. The plan was to have a series of
lectures by the Rev. Dr. J. H. ... and ...
The first lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The second lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The third lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The fourth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The fifth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The sixth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The seventh lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The eighth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The ninth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The tenth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The eleventh lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The twelfth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The thirteenth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The fourteenth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The fifteenth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The sixteenth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The seventeenth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The eighteenth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The nineteenth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...
The twentieth lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. ...

5

Exploring at Ninety

July 4, 1961, marked an unusual and interesting celebration in Copenhagen, Denmark. It was not the observance of Independence Day for the United States, but rather a group of Danes were meeting in the facilities of the Church of the Nazarene to celebrate a birthday. It was the birthday of Mrs. Anne Rassmussen, mother of Mrs. Kleven, who was privileged to celebrate her ninetieth in the land of her birth.

I had the happy joy of attending this occasion myself, an occasion which proved to be a most moving and blessed experience. For here we were—in Denmark—in the Church of the Nazarene. Just eight months prior the first services for our church had been held on these very same premises. During this same period of time, Grandma Rassmussen had been active in the formation of our work. In my mind I went back to the years 1956 and 1957, when it had been my privilege to be Grandma's pastor in Eugene, Oregon. I recalled how she had never missed a service unless providentially hindered. Her faithfulness to both major services on Sunday and the midweek prayer meeting had always been an inspiration to others. She had seldom missed an opportunity to testify. Sometimes she testified in Danish and sometimes in English—but she was always ready to speak for her Lord. Her activity in the missionary society was consumed in sewing for the box work. For fifty years she had been away from her homeland before setting foot on Danish soil again. She is proud of her family in the United States, consisting of four sons, in-

cluding two doctors, and her daughter, now in Denmark. But her family is also proud of her. She had raised them well.

But Grandma Rassmussen did not return to Denmark to die. Rather she returned to live and here to serve her Lord. She wanted to help establish the church she had learned to love in the land of her birth. And now, on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday, I saw how an elderly saint was playing her role in this thrilling Danish drama.

Eight months of active operation for a new work, in a new country, is not a very lengthy period of time. Yet here they were, people who had been won, some saved, others sanctified—and because Grandma Rassmussen had faithfully prayed for them, encouraged them, and set an example before them they had come to show their appreciation.

As I participated in this unique celebration I couldn't help but make several conclusions in my own mind. I looked over at Grandma Rassmussen, dressed in her finest black dress, surrounded by flowers and gifts, and felt that here was an elderly lady who had literally defied old age. She had refused to be placed on the shelf. That she had made a contribution to the lives of these, her new friends, in such a short time could not be denied as one by one they stood to pay tribute to her. A retired officer of the Danish Navy sat next to me and translated what the different ones were saying. I concluded that through consecrated lives the Church of the Nazarene had made a permanent impression on a number of the finest people one could want to meet anywhere. As I was told that everything had been arranged for and planned by these people themselves, I was convinced that the Danish knack for doing things right is unsurpassed.

A glance around the tables, so beautifully decorated and heavily laden, was a blessed experience to me, as it

would have been to any Nazarene who could have been there and had known who these people were. It was more than a birthday celebration. It was a spiritual feast. God's presence was keenly felt as a message from the Word of God was given. Gospel songs were fervently sung from the heart. Testimonies were spoken. It was without question the very nicest birthday celebration I had ever attended.

I inquired about some of the different ones who testified. I was so impressed with the quality of these people, and further so as I learned who they were and the places they are filling in their own lives. An introduction to some of these persons would perhaps be of interest to our readers.

There was one lady who had done much in the preparation of the occasion. She's always anxious to help anybody. As a matter of fact she purchases flour in 100-pound sacks and keeps it on hand in her home that she might be prepared to do some baking for her friends when they need it. And did you ever taste Danish pastry? It is without question the finest.

This little lady knows Christ and has known Him for some time. But through our church, for the first time she has heard the message of holiness. She yearns for the experience and has sought it, determined to keep seeking until she receives that which her heart longs for.

There was the little, quiet, unassuming bachelor whom I had met on a previous occasion. He had been to the altar at a time when I was privileged to preach in Copenhagen. He's always on hand to help Brother Kleven on little odd jobs about the place, as he is an amateur electrician of sorts. His loyalty has been demonstrated through various ways and now he is serving as usher for the congregation.

Then there is the lady whose "face shines." She is a prayer intercessor. The prayer meeting that takes place in her home each week has been beautifully blessed of

God to the deepening of her own life as well as others. She can report a number of answers to prayer, and her own Christian testimony radiates through her godly life.

I was greatly interested in a lady who spoke some interesting words, not particularly indicating however that she is a Christian. She had received an advertisement of our church and felt that she wanted to go over and attend. On the other hand, there was this certain fear of being identified with something new. She said that every time she picked up her newspaper one of our church announcements would "slap her in the face." Then she would often ask herself, Are they still over there? Will they remain? Recently she got up enough nerve to attend one of the services and has been attending regularly ever since. Earnest prayers are being offered in her spiritual behalf. She is an amateur artist with unusual abilities in this field.

Then there is a neighbor just to the west of the church. He is a fine businessman who had earlier thought he should refrain from identifying himself with this "new group." His testimony was most gripping. He had been a Christian earlier in his life, having found the Lord through the Salvation Army. However he had drifted away from God and had gone into deep sin. About seven years ago he made a new start for the Lord, but this time also has not been utilized as it should for the deepening of this spiritual life. He continually shied away from our church.

Finally he suggested to his wife that the least they could do was to step over and welcome the new preacher and his wife to the neighborhood. This they did and found the new neighbor a likable person. They started attending services. In his testimony he thanked God for the opportunity of having the privilege of going to the altar, where he got things fixed up once again in his life.

There were a number of them as I looked about that evening. In fact there were between thirty and forty of

them gathered there for this occasion and most all of them would present an interesting story to relate.

The master of ceremonies had the ability to grace any occasion. I recognized him, for I had seen him at the altar on a previous occasion praying, crying, earnestly pleading for the experience of sanctification. He testifies to having the experience now and his life bears evidence of the same. He has a rather significant post in the city, but his loyalty is to God and His Church. He has become Brother Kleven's right-hand man. He has unusual leadership abilities, making his assistance in the work of the church invaluable.

At Christmas time Brother Kleven had personally distributed 2,000 dodgers from door to door and one of them had fallen into the hands of this gentleman. His first service in our church was at Christmas time and he has since, with his wife, become an integral part of the program. He will often suggest to Brother Kleven, "You are going to preach on holiness for this service, aren't you?"

The statement is often made by attenders at the services, "How did you happen to pick this area of the city in which to begin your work?" The Klevens have only one honest answer. They didn't pick the area; God did. We did not know that there was not one free church in this entire area of thousands of people. Nor were we aware of a small group of genuine Christian people living in this section of the city who could be assimilated into a congregation for the Church of the Nazarene. These are Christians who have never heard of the doctrine of holiness as preached in the Wesleyan tradition, yet their hearts have hungered and they have sought, with a number of them receiving.

I had occasion to visit with one very fine gentleman who attends our services here. Because he could speak German very well, he and I got along fine. He told me of the need for a holiness message with its accompanying

standard for righteous living in the country of Denmark. He deplored the trend of the times from a moral and spiritual standpoint. But then he added, "How glad we are for Pastor Kleven and the message he preaches! He preaches this message of holiness too, you know!"

So there they are, fruits of your prayers and giving. The men and women I have met inside our church in Copenhagen, I would be most happy to recommend to any of my pastor friends stateside as material for A-1 laymen.

My own observation of our work in these beginning days in Denmark has reminded me of everything I have ever heard or read about the initial days of our church in the United States. A visiting district superintendent made comments that the story of these early beginnings for the Church of the Nazarene here is like another chapter being written to the Acts of the Apostles.

A final conclusion I made at Grandma Rassmussen's birthday celebration was about this little old lady herself. I thought, How good God has been to you! Your faithfulness and loyalty to Him throughout your lifetime has been vindicated. God has given you more, many more than your threescore and ten years—and with a good mind and good health that you might go back to the land of your people and help establish your church. And now you have made your way into the hearts of your people again and they have thanked you for the contribution you have made to their lives in a few short months. And you've shown me something too, Grandma. You've shown me that it pays to serve Jesus; it pays every day. You've shown me that it pays every step of the way.

A postscript conclusion I had to make about Orville and Kathryn Kleven. I thought about their venture of faith in coming over to Scandinavia to preach holiness. I thought about their leaving a full slate for evangelism in their homeland. I thought about their separation from many loved ones. But I couldn't feel sorry for them.

For they were actively serving God and to the best of their knowledge in the center of His will. Now God was giving them fruit for their labors and already there had been a small harvest. But obviously it is only the beginning. And I thought further, What a joy, what satisfaction, what peace comes from being in the center of the divine will!

War clouds are looming once again on the European horizon. No one knows exactly what the future holds. The conference tables don't seem to be producing the answers so desperately needed. The question is often raised, "When will the battle of words become a battle of weapons?" There is a sense of urgency that has gripped all of our hearts, knowing that time is indeed short for the fulfilling of our task.

What a challenge gripped my heart as I recently heard Brother Kleven pray the following in their family worship! "O Lord, in spite of the threats of men, our confidence is in Thee. We know that we don't have to live, but we do have to remain true. We'd rather die on the battlefield than to be caught napping."

It's an exploration that has the blessing of God upon it. As further discoveries are made in the future into the far corners of Scandinavia, a concerted prayer effort on the part of God's people will be desperately needed that the days ahead might be as significant as has been the progress to this point. Explorers in the field of prayer, explorers from age nine to ninety are needed to help in the development of this project. Can we count on you?

6

The Unexplored

The cities of Europe have been established for centuries. Property within the cities has been handed down from generation to generation. To secure that property is no easy task. If and when it has been secured, then comes the endless procedure of going from one "bureau" to another. Requirements which must be met to meet the city codes are very stringent. Lack of room means height is demanded of the buildings.

Knowing all of this, from experience acquired in Germany, we found ourselves rather intrigued with the possibility of finding something already built that would fit our needs on a rather permanent basis. Yet on the other hand we wanted to be sure that it was the right thing to do.

Rev. Orville Kleven began checking out everything he could get information on in the way of lots, other buildings, etc. We found the situation much worse than we had anticipated. Denmark has taken in its share of refugees. The city of Copenhagen is crowded to capacity, and in the process of rapid expansion. It sounds rather unbelievable, but only two possibilities in the way of lots were made available to us. One of them was very far out and couldn't be considered at all. Another one had an old house on it that would require much repair and yet would have been too expensive to tear down. It, too, had very poor connections as far as public transportation was concerned. Much time was spent in scouting around from September until December. The "wanted to buy" ads of the newspapers were utilized as well as the services of professionals.

We kept coming back to where we were. It appeared that this was the most logical and perhaps the

only move we could make at the present time. Complete details were presented to the General Board for their consideration in the January, 1961, meeting.

The Department of Home Missions explained the Copenhagen situation in the February 8, 1961, issue of the *Herald of Holiness*.

"At the time of the annual meeting of the General Board the following specials were approved by the Board of General Superintendents for overseas home mission fields:

.....
"\$10,000 for Copenhagen, Denmark.

"... in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, we have a home missions church with Rev. Orville Kleven of Eugene, Oregon, as pastor. We are negotiating for property that includes a house with an annex that will make an excellent chapel. Money is needed for the down payment. Requests for these building needs were included in the asking budgets from the fields, submitted to the annual meeting last month. But these field askings (from all overseas home mission fields) were \$100,000 more than the budgets for the present year. In order to bring these askings within anticipated income, all new property items had to be cut to the bare minimum... Token assistance for property is provided from Alabaster funds, but it is insufficient to meet the needs of these items. They have, therefore, been designated as approved specials and count on 10 per cent giving. They must not take the place of General Budget giving, for this giving supplied the vital lifeline for both home and foreign missions."

Our time was running out on our option to buy. We were faced with a decision. It became possible for us to borrow the necessary money for a down payment,

that we might be assured of these permanent quarters in Copenhagen. With a strong faith that someone somewhere, or that groups of persons, would catch the challenge of Copenhagen, we began negotiations for the purchase of Rodovrevej 47, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Our faith was honored, for in the summer of 1961 correspondence was received from Dr. W. D. MacGraw of the Oregon Pacific District in which he stated that they had officially voted in their district assembly to assume the \$10,000 project for Copenhagen. What a heart-warming message this was to both the Klevens and the Johnsons, as our own district stateside was evidencing its confidence in us in this tangible way! How many times we have remarked to one another as to how great and wonderful Nazarenes are! The loyalty of our people to our overseas thrusts may be equaled by others but it is not surpassed.

The church had to have permission from the government of Denmark to purchase any property. This process was begun shortly after the Klevens arrived and permission has been granted. Then we had to have further permission to purchase the proposed piece of property. A letter from the attorney in Copenhagen dated March 20, 1961, says, "The Ministry of Justice's final permission to the purchase of the property has been obtained."

What will all of this mean to the Church of the Nazarene? In the first place it means we are well situated and firmly planted in the city of Copenhagen, one of the great cities of the world. It means further that the impression of permanence will have been successfully made as to the future of our work in the minds of the people. But it means more than that. It means we have built a launching platform from which we can move out into other areas of Scandinavia.

It is quite generally agreed that Denmark is the most difficult of the Scandinavian countries in which to

establish a free church. This we have been aware of constantly. Yet reason convinced us that Copenhagen is the most logical city for a beginning because of its strategic location, as well as strategic importance in middle Europe. It is possible, for example, that attendance in the same amount of time in Norway might run about double that in Denmark. This is of course only speculative thinking. But the truth of the matter is that the fact we have begun in Denmark does not exclude any work in Norway. Rather, to the contrary, someday the church will move on into that wonderful country as doors open and divine leadership is received in the matter. We are content, however, to hold tight until such a time as God may lead in that direction.

That Norway will be an open door eventually to us we are quite convinced. In January of 1961, Brother Kleven had an invitation to preach to a rather large holiness group in Oslo, Norway. This invitation he accepted. His message was received by a very appreciative audience. Contacts have also been made in Sweden.

Norway is a country of four and one-half million population, and Sweden has eight and one-half million inhabitants. With other Scandinavian countries included there is a total population of eighteen million in all combined. What a challenge this offers the Church of the Nazarene!

As was earlier pointed out, the relationship between Norway and Denmark is very good. This could perhaps be partly due to the fact that both of these countries were occupied during the war. Norway actually suffered more in some respects from the Nazis than did the Danes. As they retreated from Norway, the Nazis destroyed a great deal. The Norwegians, too, were very active in their resistance.

As the Nazis moved into Norway with their armies, they also moved in with their occupational leaders. The latter were coming into the harbor by boat. The citizenry

were incensed at what was taking place. There on their harbor was an old cannon that had been sitting there as a monument for many years. The ironic fact is that it had been given to them as a gift by the Germans in earlier days. A group of people reactivated the cannon, loaded it up, and fired. They actually sunk the ship, a feat about which the Norwegians enjoy boasting. But this brought accompanying hardships to the populace. It seemed as though the Nazis intensified their activities again them.

So perhaps it is because the Norwegians and the Danes shared their hardship that they feel rather close to one another to this day. One gets the impression that the Danes, especially, do not feel the same kinship with the Swedes. There seems to be some feeling that, because Sweden remained neutral during the war, perhaps they collaborated somewhat with the Nazis. Yet the Swedes allowed their country to become a haven for many, many Jews. This fact is appreciated by many in the other two countries. Then, too, Sweden was able to provide some food for Norway during the trying years.

In the light of all this, one can safely feel that there is a brotherhood that exists among all Scandinavian countries, making it possible for the church to consider the expansion of our work in all of them as a unit project. So while we talk about having begun our work in Copenhagen, Denmark, we have in actuality begun our work in all of Scandinavia. And we will not be satisfied until we have touched all corners of the Scandinavian countries.

On a recent trip to Copenhagen, Brother Kleven and I ate a noon meal one day in a restaurant. We decided to order a selection of their open-faced sandwiches. We thought these would be forthcoming on small pieces of bread and that three apiece would perhaps be sufficient to make out a good lunch. But when they arrived, we saw that any one of the three sandwiches was a complete

meal in itself. Underneath all of the meat, cheese, fish, and relish were little enough pieces of bread all right, but the covering for the sandwiches covered the entire plate.

On another occasion I was taken into a Danish home where the lady of the house insisted on serving coffee. Danish hospitality came to the fore once again and we were loaded with delicious things to eat. And it was only a coffee hour!

The offerings in the church services are worthy of mention again, for this generosity of the Danes reflects itself also in church giving. They want to do what they can for themselves and for others. Their first Easter offering was over 700 crowns. This is about \$100—not too bad, considering their newness to the Church of the Nazarene and at the time just a few months old!

I have come to the conclusion that the Danes are a generous people. But for their generosity, they expect something in return. They expect generous portions of the Word of God. For one hour and a half I have observed them eagerly enjoying a service of holiness evangelism. Their generosity then has been further expressed as a number of men and women have sincerely offered their lives to God.

Scandinavia is without question one of the great challenges offered to the Church of the Nazarene today. Those of us who are privileged to actively participate in the development of this project on this side of the Atlantic will do our best to follow it through to its greatest potential. The effectiveness of our work will be enhanced as homeland Nazarenes participate with us by their sacrificial giving and prayers.

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:15)

