

## Missionary Highlight



**Steve & Barb Swanson** – Serve Globally

We came. We visited. We laughed. We cried. We drove 12,000+ miles in our 2001 Buick Park Avenue and visited 37 Covenant churches and five Covenant retirement communities. We took three flights and participated in 3 Lucia Festivals (Seattle, Iron Mountain, Michigan and Chicago). We played the role of tourist and seasoned traveler.

Our ministry partners on both this side of the ocean are just the best! Partners across the United States have welcomed us into the body of their worship, congregational gatherings and potluck dinners.

We have now purchased our return tickets to Sweden for January 20, 2023. We are excited to get back into ministry and are in a process of discernment with our local partners at Wesleykrykan to hear from God together about what are the best ways to invest our energies in this new season that stretches out before us.

This is the season of great joy as we celebrate Christ's coming to earth. We who follow Jesus can celebrate Christmas everyday of our lives – Easter too. We await Jesus' coming back to finish what the Father began so long ago.

### Prayer Requests:

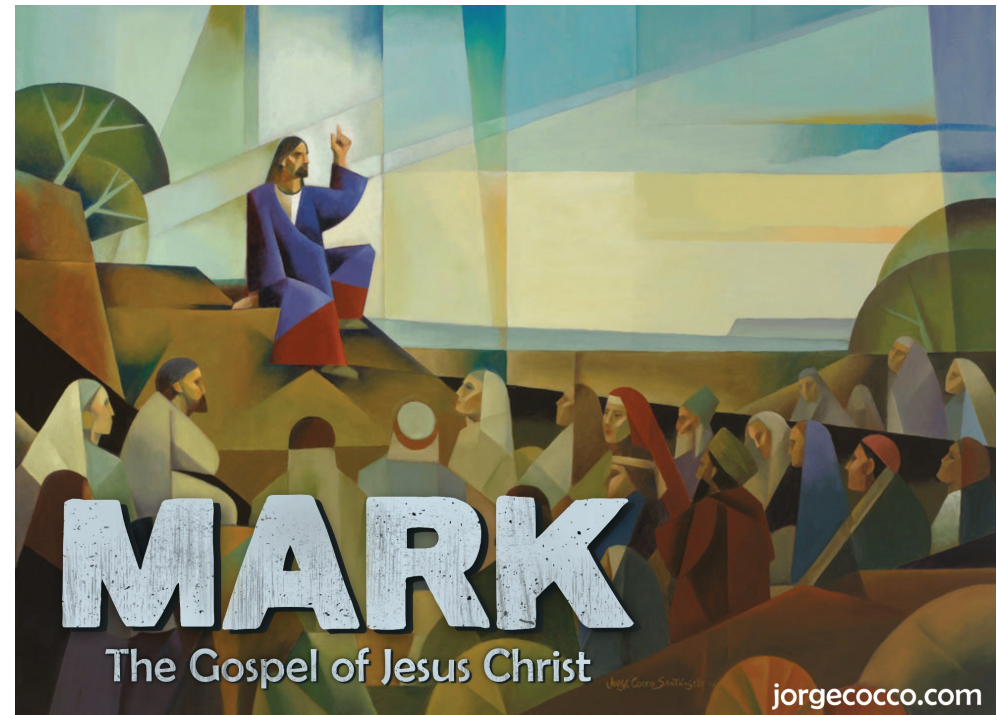
1. For our return to Sweden; that all goes well.
2. The best way to invest our energies in this new season.
3. Also working with our local partners at Wesleykrykan.

December 2022	YTD Giving	YTD Expenses
General Fund (Calendar Year)	\$ 258,589	\$ 274,172
Missions Fund (Budget Year)	\$ 63,450	\$ 50,153



January 8, 2023

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## Weekly Events & Opportunities

- A Parent's Room (back of the sanctuary) and Nursery (downstairs) are available for **families with young children.**

- **Adult Sunday School** – *Reading Moses Seeing Jesus*, in Room 200 at 9:30am. We will be reviewing the first three chapters. The authors, three Messianic Jewish scholars, contend that the Torah's main purpose isn't the Law, but the prophesying of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

- **Community Baby Shower** – All are invited to attend a brunch on Saturday, Jan 21 at 10:30am in the gym for Northern Options for Women, who serve our community families with many services. More details about particular items needed will be provided next week.

NOFW is looking for individuals to assist with set-up, decorating, baking food items and clean up. Please contact Kimberly Dawn Nyborg at 324.1202 if you are able to help.

- **Annual Congregational Meeting** – Sunday, Feb 5 at 11:45am.

Nominees for the Leadership Team:

Financial Officer – Austin Homkes

Administrative officer – Milt Layman

Vice Chair – Andy Hedlund or Wayne Schrock

Nominees for the Nominating Committee: (2 will be elected)

Phyllis Holm

Will Davies

Priscilla Schrock

Howard Hauge

Rod Mortenson

## Jesus on the End of the World, Part 1

Mark 13.1-13

**13** And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" <sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

<sup>3</sup> And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" <sup>5</sup> And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. <sup>11</sup> And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. <sup>12</sup> And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. <sup>13</sup> And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.