

FD Visit Iceland, 28-30 May 2010

When we finally had our first skype-meeting Elin (chair region), it was easier to make the planning (Before that we had a lot of mailing and skype-talking). Elin had many wishes for the FD visit and we then knew what workshops to do and what to prepare at home.

The main issue was with no doubt the very tight connection with/dependence on AA and we brought a lot of copies of Bulletin 13 with us. We also brought along some downloaded workshops, some NA videos and the EDM PowerPoint pictures Petra and Veronica created.

Before our arrival a weekend program was announced on facebook and quite many members did sign up on that site. And most of them did attend the mini-convention!!!

We chose to spend some days with the involved members before we started "getting serious" and it was in many ways a great time. Blue Lagoon, road tripping and awesome talks. Valuable indeed! We both stayed with NA members during the stay and it meant it almost was NA talk 24 hours a day.

Friday we started softly with EDM presentation and talked about the importance of having a valid service structure (which Iceland has) and Erik shared his story at the end of the evening.

Saturday work shopping on Leadership In NA and some discussion on the difference between AA & NA. A presentation of our literature, especially Basic Text, The Step Working Guide and How and Why. We talked a lot about Bulletin 13 and why using The Step Working Guide can be better or more valuable than working AA steps. And then we had a workshop on "how to be a good GSR/RCM.

Early in the evening we went to a big public park and had an awesome Barbecue dinner. Some of the members had their children with them and there were a lot of fun, games and it was an unforgettable day! Mmmm...

Sunday more workshops (They were eating us raw, were craving for more non-stop) and Christin shared her story. We had a workshop on money matters. There were some questions about how to handle gossip and rumours and we referred to spiritual principles. We ended up talking about The Step Working guide and a male and female group was settled at the end of the day. It was the highlight of the weekend to see that happen!

There were about 35-50 people there throughout the weekend. And all of the present participated at the workshops and the discussions. We used only material found on na.org. Some of it we changed a bit so it should meet the participants.

We do not believe Iceland is ready yet to participate at the EDM at this time. They really need to get the Basic Text on Icelandic. They do have a structure that is working. Unfortunately AA has a big influence in the service structure as well as in the meetings. It would be a good encouragement if Iceland gets visitors from NA members from other communities from time to time. They really need some NA input.

Iceland is not a big NA community, they do not have more than about 100 NA members, and most of them have sponsors in AA. They need help! We strongly suggest that there will be a follow up FD trip to Iceland next year.

In loving service,

Christin (Norway) & Erik (Denmark)

Erik: Coming home after this FD activity was not easy! Those five days gave me so much and I still feel so grateful to get this big opportunity to serve my fellowship.

Since the summer EDM in Barcelona I have been in touch with Elin, mailing a lot and we also met before the FD visit. Both Conor (x-chair of EDM) and Wolfgang had suggested NA Iceland to get a service sponsor and Elin asked me how Denmark use Sweden as a sponsor and if Denmark eventually could sponsor Iceland. Denmark had a formal request and in April at our service conference Denmark answered with a big yes.

I was more than nervous to go to Iceland and I was so afraid to fail and make it all worse!!! But the second I saw Christin at the airport my fear disappeared and the adventure started. I really think that we did our best and opened some doors. Knowing that two Step Working Guide groups started because of our visit still makes me feel good. It will with no doubt connect people even more and then everything can happen.

I have been in touch with Ási, the literature man, and he tells me that some of his close male friends have left NA because they find The Step Working Guide

is too much and they prefer "the easy way" they offer in AA. But Ási and a handful of brave members continue working the steps the NA way.

I'll visit Iceland in September and hope to do some work shopping up there. After this visit a big part of my heart belongs to Iceland. Thanx for letting me serve!

Christin: I feel like Erik really says it all. It has truly been an learningful and experience. Me and Erik started talking right after Cairo. The thing that made the most impression on me, was how much they wanted to know, and how eager they were to join in on the workshops. It was really an amazing experience. We all had fun doing this. And I must say, I really did not know how much I actually do know about our great fellowship. This trip has changed me forever. And I made new friends on Island. And they really need our support in the future. It is hard to express all this in english, but I am sure you all know what I am trying to say. I still have contact with Elin, and know that some of the girls are working the stepworking guide. You should have seen one of the girls who bought the stepworking guide on Sunday. She was sitting, holding it like a baby all day. And at the end of the day she asked if there were some women that wanted to work it together with her. That was a memorable moment. Thank you for the trust you gave us when you asked us to do this.