

Welcome to the congregations of

# *Sarpsborg and Berg*



«But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the most distant part of the earth.»

- Acts 1: 8

## *Borg congregation*

- 112 publishers
- 8 pioneers
- 6 ministerial servants
- 12 elders

## *Sarpsborg congregation*

- 106 publishers
- 10 pioneers
- 3 ministerial servants
- 14 elders

Below: The yellow van. From the convention held in Skien in the summer of 1960. This red and yellow van was often used in the witnessing work, with brothers and sisters piling in and sitting on wooden benches in the back. The van was well known in the district because of its bright yellow colour and the locals would warn their neighbours as soon as it appeared. The brothers therefore painted it blue, a more common colour for cars.



[sarpsborgjw.org](http://sarpsborgjw.org)

**Password hint:** The first issue of Watchtower was published this year.



Right: Willy Børjesson (spring 1969)  
A pillar of the congregation and also the owner of the yellow van. Brother Børjesson died in 2016.

*Right: Steinar Fordelsen (left) and Tomas Jørgensen (right) are two zealous publishers in the ministry.*



Left: from left, Arild Jørgensen (died in 2003), Michael Davis visiting from Ireland and Romell Andersen, preaching in a rural area.







If we fast forward a bit to 1957/58, the congregation consisted of about 20 publishers. At this time brother Carl Hugo Winther served as the ministerial servant. The congregation also had two zealous Danish pioneer sisters, Betty and Fiff. Leif Olsen became the ministerial servant after brother Winther. In the 1960s the congregation moved to Pellygaten, to a house called «Framtiden». When Iver Syverud arrived in the '70s, we moved to a house called «Håndtverkeren» and some time later we gathered at the Klimabo building in the Alvim area, right next to the E6 highway. We stayed there until we built our own Kingdom Hall in the 1980s on Kulåsgaten. Willy Børjesson was the presiding overseer for quite some time. The congregation was divided in two in the 1980s but after a while amalgamated back to one congregation. Finally in 2006, we were once again split into two congregations, Borg and Sarpsborg.

*Below: Public witnessing at the town square.*

*Above: Field service in the late 1940s.*

Mrs. Borgen came from America in 1906, where she had been in connection with the Bible Students. She came to Oslo and got in contact with the brothers there. In 1913 she married and became Mrs. Borgen. They lived in Ski for some time before they moved to Sarpsborg in approx. 1916. Although it's uncertain when they were baptized, from 1920 to 1925 the Borgens studied with Mrs. Myhre, Mr. Andersen and the Melgård family and these ones accepted the truth. At the beginning the meetings were held at the residence of the Borgen and Andersen families. The Fram building was owned by the temperance society and that building was primarily used for public bible lectures. Brother T. Simonsen was one who held such lectures. In 1930 the attendance at the meetings would have been around 10 persons. In the summer of 1937 or 1938, a convention was held in the Fram building. It's likely that witnesses travelled from Oslo to attend.





Sarpsborg is the third oldest city in Norway. It is a small pleasant industrial town close to the Swedish border. Like many other places and cities in Norway - and in Scandinavia, Sarpsborg has its historical roots from the period people recognize as the Viking Age. Sarpsborg was founded in 1016 and named Borg (Norwegian name for a stronghold). The fortification was surrounded by a wooden and mould rampart and located by the waterfall Sarpen, having one of the greatest flow of any waterfall in Europe. Olav Haraldson, the founder, was given the nickname the «holy», being the king to have «christianized» Norway through bloody battles. This is the same king that some historians believe tore down the London Bridge in 1014 – hence the song «London Bridge is falling down».

Around year 1000, before Olav's landfall at Borg, other Norsemen traveled with their seaworthy ships from Greenland to North America and became the second to «discover» America. Columbus arrived 500 years later. In this area, in Rolvsøy, the «Tune ship», one of 3 famous Viking ships in Scandinavia, was found and can be seen at the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo.



*Above: «Helletristninger»*

In Skjeberg, where you will be served lunch, an ancient wooden figure was found. This was an idol worshipped in the Old Norse religion. A lot of old stone carvings, or petroglyphs (in Norwegian known as «helletristninger»), can also be seen here, usually predating the Viking era. Many other facts of interest could be mentioned about this area. The well-known author Roald Dahl had his roots here. His father's family come from Sarpsborg and traded here. Another Roald is the polar explorer Roald Amundsen, who, in December 1911, together with his men, were the first to ski to the South Pole. Worth mentioning may also be the famous Norwegian author Knut Hamsun who wrote parts of the book «Mysteries» at a former hotel in town. The county (fylke in Norwegian) will in 2020 retake the old viking name of the area -the name «Viken» (thought to pertain to people from Viken, or "Vikings").



*Right: Roald Amundsen*



