

Mission Week Helsinki 2022 report

On the 27-29th of April 2022 the students of Helsinki saw its first Mission week ever. The event was a collaboration between the Swedish-speaking student ministry **Studentmissionen** and the Finnish-speaking student ministry **OPKO** in Helsinki.

The week

The Mission week lasted from Wednesday to Friday. On Monday we had a launch meeting to get the Christian students engaged. Swedish-speaking, Finnish-speaking and international students showed up and wanted to help out.

The actual Mission week started on Wednesday morning by handing out free coffee at two nearby campuses and inviting people to the evening and lunch events.

Our speaker **Mark Taylor** and his wife **Ruth** travelled to Finland from America. Mark held four evangelistic talks about topics such as eternity and the existence of God.

All events were held at our venue “Cor-huset”, a student facility in the middle of campus. We had three evening events with games, talks, food and discussions and two lunch talks with free lunch.



Photos by Felix Lindvik

Every morning a team handed out free coffee and flyers, inviting students to the lunch and evening events.



Photo by Felix Lindvik

Mission week was the first event that the Swedish and Finnish-speaking ministry did together. New friendships were created over the language barriers.

Each evening event started off with games to break the ice. The final night we had to play outside because we didn't have space inside.



Photo by Felix Lindvik



The real heroes of the Mission week were the kitchen team, preparing and serving snacks and food every day!

Our talented students performed live worship every evening.



Photo by Felix Lindvik



The attendance got higher by each day. On Friday evening the Cor-House hosted over 50 students. Many of them non-Christians.



What happened?

Every morning started with the Christian students praying for the day and each other. But even before that the kitchen team showed up to prepare lunch.

After prayer a team would go out and hand out coffee and flyers to advertise the Mission week. Some of the people passing by showed up at the events, others just enjoyed the free coffee and discussions at the coffee table.

Some of the coffee discussions were fruitful in themselves, letting people open up and talk with someone about their life and the big questions.

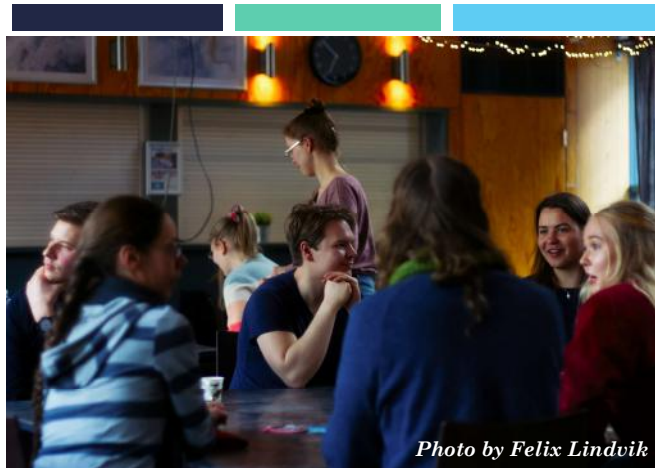
Many of Christian students invited their non-believing friends to the events and completely new people showed up by just seeing the advertisements.

The first night made the whole Mission week worthwhile because a girl accepted Christ that night after a long discussion with two Christian students.

The discussions that followed the talks were the heart of the event. Many non-Christians had a lot of questions which laid the ground for interesting discussions.

Mark, Ruth and the Christian students made a great effort in engaging with everyone who showed up. Some discussions lasted for hours. Our goal was to make everyone feel seen and heard.

Please pray that the seeds that were sown in the hearts of the students will fall in good earth and continue to grow.



After every talk there were discussions in small groups followed by a Q&A. There were many interesting discussions between the Christian and non-Christian students.

Mark and Ruth were a corner stone of the Mission week. Their heart for the Gospel and the students was a true blessing!



Photo by Felix Lindvik

What's next?

The Helsinki Mission week turned out to be a success by God's grace. The experience of organizing one Mission week will make it easier to do it again.

If there was scepticism towards the concept that is washed away and the people engaged are eager to do it again, perhaps more so this time.

The Christian students in Helsinki are now familiar with the concept and the aim is to do another Mission week next spring!

But first, there will be a Mission week on Åland Islands this summer in collaboration with a team from Norway. Stay tuned!

Jonathan Vik, Studentmissionen