

Recording Trip to The Sami People in The Land of The Northern Lights.

Joan and I set off to Gatwick airport surrounded by snow everywhere. Many flights had been cancelled due to bad weather conditions the previous weekend. When we arrived at Gatwick the airport was almost deserted with many people not travelling. Our plane to Oslo in Norway went on time and we arrived in the evening where we stayed the night. Oslo was also covered in snow. Next day we flew north for 2 hours to a town called Alta. From there we took the bus north for 4 hours to our destination of Karasjok in the Arctic Circle in Lapland (Sapmi region) home of the Sami people. We were met by Jonathan from the Dutch office who had travelled a few days earlier. He arranged for us to stay with a lovely family. And despite there being 8 in the family they welcomed us in and we loved being with them.



We were amazed by the deep snow and the temperature ranged from minus 24 de-



grees to minus 5 degrees while we were there. The scenery was breath taking and was like being in a winter wonderland was real quiet and only the sound of crunching snow as we walked along. It had taken us 2 days to get there so we were keen to get to do some recording. Jonathan and Roieli had arranged the use of a Christian radio studio. Our language helper Leid Petter runs the radio station and he would do the recordings with us. We arranged to come back the next morning.

This is what we did and as we walked the 4 kms to the studio the temperature was minus 24. We were glad we had put 2 pairs of everything on and we felt well wrapped up in our layers of clothing. I had borrowed a lovely fur hat from our host family and put in on over my own, just to be sure. We also borrowed a sledge and loaded our recording equipment onto this and away. We were able to slide down the small hills...great fun.

We began recording in the studio and it all went well...Praise The Lord. Leid Petter had said



earlier that he had loved our "Good News" script and that it was perfect for the Sami people. When edited we plan to supply it on CD, Mp3 and DVD.

As you may know at this time of year in Lapland they have only about 3 or 4 hours of daylight, so at say 2pm it looked like nighttime. We noticed the cars and buses have no problems in the snow as they use spiked tires and they can travel at normal

speeds, unlike the cars in the UK in snow. The roads were kept very clear with good snow ploughs. The huge river in Karasjok was completely frozen for months and we enjoyed walking across it. People get around with small sledges and powerful snowmobiles. Everywhere with the street lights the snow twinkles like a glittery Christmas card.

Many Sami people work in the service and tourist industry. There are various local crafts and many have reindeer herds.



A family may have about 500 -700 reindeer to provide income for them selves. The meat is delicious. They also use the hides for all sorts of things including shoes, boots and clothing etc. Cross country skiing and hunting are also popular. The Sami people love their culture and many dress in the Sami traditional dress. In Summer time tourism is the bigger means of getting an income.



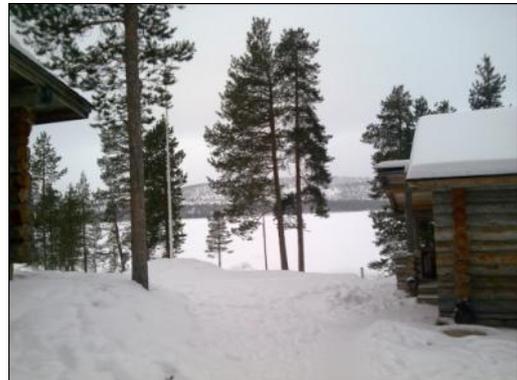
The Sami people are proud of their language and Norwegian is their second language. Sami is taught in schools and the churches have services in Sami. The houses are well insulated and with the shorter

hours of daylight they spend a lot of time indoors. Depression can be a problem and also problems with strong drink. Sometimes people have fallen into rivers and drown and others frozen to death due to this problem. However the people have little or no crime and are so warm and welcoming to outsiders.



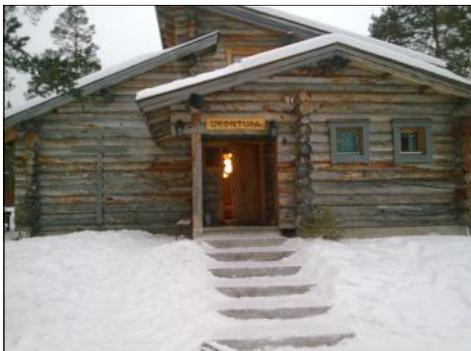
After we had completed the recording we arranged to travel by bus into Finland where the man who have done the original translation lives. We travelled by bus for 3 or 4 hours and met up with him and his fam-

ily and enjoyed learning more about the Sami culture and language. It is spoken by people in Lapland, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Russia plus there are Sami people all around the world. This is good that when we have our new recording produced it can be put on our Global Recordings web site and people can listen to it from anywhere in the world. Also we hope to link it to Sami web sites so that Sami people can hear the Gospel in the Sami. We will also hope to do distribution of CDs and DVDs.



In Finland we visited a local church and we were welcomed warmly and had opportunity to tell them why we were there. They had a church retreat center where we stayed one night. It was a beautiful log

cabin or chateau and we enjoyed staying there one night in front of a lovely hot log fire.



Soon it was time to leave our new friends and travel home. This took 2 full days and now we can begin the editing process and getting the "Good News" delivered to the lovely Sami people. We want to thank our host family and everyone involved with the translation and recording. Also to Roieli, Jonathan and the Dutch office for initiating this project. We loved our time in the snowy land of the Northern Lights.

God Bless you.

Kenny & Joan McKee. www.languagerecordingsuk.co.uk