



The Northern Light

Revs. Mark & Glenda Alphin, Finland/Iceland

Header photos: Leaders/Trainees praying during Vision Summit; AIM Philip Sword pastoral installation; BUILD A ROOM 2023; UAS Youth-through the Bible in 1 year (2nd time for all)

BUILD A ROOM 2023 | This year's meetings exceeded all others. • Before planning, we wait for God's direction—and then we allow Him to direct every part of the process. When the Lord produces His will for the meetings, the preparations begin! This year, Jesus even derailed *His* plan because *each* attendee was engaged, there was full unity, and *He utilized an opportunity to impart to everyone present*. Typically, non-saints don't attend these meetings but this year, one woman really wanted to come...and she left with a Holy Ghost experience! Only the Lord knows what all took place in peoples' hearts and minds. What we do know is what we both perceived and felt in the room... and *His holiness pervaded everything*. Bishop Jeffrey and Deborah Smith taught alongside us and will also be coming for BAR 2024 (those meetings can't get here fast enough)! *Thank you for praying with us over the years—and for giving to ensure that ministry can continue. We recognize sacrifice. We honor your for commitment. We pray that God expands the borders of every Church, pastor, giving and/or prayer partner; that you would all have open doors in your Community, in the hearts of people who need Him, and that your communion with JESUS would go ever deeper. May He cover, bless, and keep you in every way.*

UAS VISION SUMMIT 2023 | This year's UAS Vision Summit went beyond any other held previously. • We give the Lord thanks every day for the team He has gathered together for ministry in Finland. Truly, the unity being experienced is unparalleled, and it gives us great excitement for the future. When unity abounds, Kingdom growth can explode!

The pastors, leaders, and trainees of Uudet Alut (New Beginnings) got together for a day of sharing ministry visions. Every leader was directed to vet their activities and cast solid goals. We all considered this in planning: *Does it grow the Kingdom in some way?* We don't consider any activity that doesn't build the Body with connection to God or each other in some meaningful way. There isn't time to waste because JESUS is coming soon!

2024 will see an addition of focused ministry to men—on the role they play in the Church, their families, and beyond. Next to children, it's the slowest growing ministry in the Church—but that must change! *We welcome your prayers that men would step up, choose JESUS in salvation, and commit to Kingdom-minded lifestyles. Finland must have strong men that can lead the Church forward into the future!*



Bishop Jeffrey Smith ministering at Sword pastoral installation; Pastor Philip doing first act as pastor in giving a Holy Ghost Certificate to a new "spiritual baby"
Mark ministering on spiritual authority at BUILD A ROOM—Prayer during a BUILD A ROOM session—Prayer during ADVANCE session

ADVANCE | In August, leaders across Finland gathered together in Forssa for a day of training. • Global Educator Rick Hughes shared Real Colors concepts, and we all learned so much about ourselves. This was the second time for some, a first for others—and we *all* learned how to be better and more effective in relationships. We had asked the Hughes for Kingdom-impacting training, and both delivered; they also spent a full day ministering solely to the youth. Strengthening the core of the Church is vital! *Prayers are welcome as we seek to follow God's will while building a firm foundation under the work in Finland.*