

The History of IBC

In 1978-1985

In October 1978, Randi and Sherri Dodd, church planters with the Baptist International Missions Inc., came and settled in Oslo. What began in their home with a few families led to weekly gatherings in rented facilities at Tåsen tennis clubhouse, evolving into what we know now as IBC, International Baptist Church. The church, at that time called FIBC (Free International Baptist Church), grew considerably and moved to new premises in Sandvika, which is 15 km on the west side of Oslo. It mainly consisted of young couples with children and several men from the US NATO base close by. Several were also Ghanaians studying at Oslo University. There were 10-12 different nationalities. There was focus on studying the books of the Bible, and so this was a great time of spiritual growth. There were two services each Sunday, Bible study on Wednesdays, ladies' Bible studies and several fellowship groups scattered around the Oslo area. Children were accustomed to memorizing Scripture. Many couples went out into the mission field after their time here. Randi and Sherri left for the USA in 1985 and returned to Germany a few years later establishing two churches, one in Berlin and one in Munich.

In 1985-2007

Pastor Jack Slough became the new pastor in 1985. He and his wife, Marilyn, were missionaries called to Norway and supported by the ABWE organisation. Marilyn was gifted in music so an IBC choir began. There was every opportunity to grow spiritually. The number of young children increased, and Sunday school and the nursery were established. Sunday school material was provided by Regular Baptist Press. All our children were English-speaking at that time.

As the ABWE organisation required that Pastor Jack and Marilyn take a one-year furlough every 3 or 4 years, they provided good pastors during this period. IBC continued to thrive.

In 2000 Pastor Bob and MaryScott Burns joined the pastoral team. In 2002 Pastor Kirk and Annette Barger came also to serve and were here for four years.

In 2007 Pastor Jack and Marilyn made the decision to leave Norway and return to the States. Marilyn's eyesight had become a major handicap due to the consequences of removing a tumor from her head, leaving her almost blind.

Pastor Bob Burns stepped into the role as Senior Pastor, and faithfully carried on the IBC ministry. The Burns, too, had furlough periods, and IBC was blessed with Pastor Ted and Marla Allston during these times. Pastor Bob and MaryScott left IBC in May 2015.

IBC is now in a period of transition, seeking its own pastor. At present IBC is being carried forward by the grace of God, blessed with the spiritual guidance and truly inspired preaching and teaching of interim pastors such as Jim Crockett and Joseph Simon.