

The History of IBC

1978-1985

In October 1978, Randi and Sherri Dodd, church planters with the Baptist International Missions Inc., came to 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 grew considerably and moved, in 1980, to new premises in Sandvika, 15 km to the west of Oslo. It mainly consisted of young families and men from the US NATO base close by. There were also Ghanaians, students, from Oslo University. There were 10-12 different nationalities. There was focus on studying the books of the Bible, and this was a great time of spiritual growth. There were two services each Sunday, various weekday Bible studies, also for ladies, 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 returned to the USA in 1985 but later moved to Germany and established two churches there.

1985-2015

Pastor Jack Slough became the new pastor in 1985. He and his wife, Marilyn, were missionaries called to Norway, 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 ABWE required that Pastor Jack and Marilyn take a one-year furlough every 3 or 4 years, they provided good pastors during these periods. IBC continued to thrive.

In 2000 Pastor Bob and MaryScott Burns joined IBC. In 2002 Pastor Kirk and Annette Barger also came to serve and were here for four years. Both pastors were also from ABWE. In 2005, IBC moved into rented premises at Rud, Sandvika. The move to Rud was an enormous blessing for IBC. We owned nothing in the old building, absolutely nothing, yet we were convinced this was where God wanted us to move to.

The whole church family was on Family Retreat at Hurdal late October 2005, when Jack shared the exciting news that they had found a suitable building.

We prayed as a church, and then made the vote to step out in faith and leave where we were. It was a unanimous decision. First Worship Service was held on December 18 2005.

In 2007 Pastor Jack and Marilyn made the decision to leave Norway and return to the States. Pastor Bob Burns stepped into the role of 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.

2015 to the present

From May 2015, IBC was in a state of transition: it was now seeking its own pastor. For this purpose, a 'Pastor Selection Committee' was established. In the meanwhile, IBC was blessed with the inspired preaching of interim pastors, particularly Jim Crockett and Joseph Simon. During the summer of 2017, Joseph Simon was asked to submit his application as Pastor, which was accepted. Pastor Simon was elected as Senior Pastor on 25th June and inaugurated on 20th August, 2017.

On 7th November, the rented premises at Rud were destroyed by fire, which started in another part of the building. Within four days, an agreement had been made with Bærum Baptist Church, at Stabekk, to rent its facilities while new premises were being sought. Thus, the present location of IBC, at Holtet, Stabekk, may be considered as temporary.