

## June/July 2022 Update

It is hard to believe that we have been in Finland for 3 months. Deputation felt like riding a train at full speed. When full support was raised, it came to an abrupt stop. This launched us into the country and caused us to tumble. As we are still tumbling, we know things will eventually get to a normal pace, but it is not there quite yet. Our residency permits were approved in a week which allowed us to wait in yet another line to register in Finland's population system. Our next step is to open a bank account, which acts as an OAuth broker. Much like one would use a social login such as Facebook, Google, or Twitter to log in to a website, the bank account login gives one the ability to identify as yourself. It enables individuals to conduct government-related items without visiting an establishment or talking to a person.

Nicole and I were able to start language school in April. Coronavirus caused all classroom learning to be moved onto Zoom. Unfortunately, our temporary lodging has a slow internet connection which is not fast enough to handle the video chat. Sometimes we lose a word here and there. While we are learning quite a bit of Finnish, we think we will have to transfer to an in-person course next semester.

Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, and businesses are no longer requiring masks. As the weather warms up, more people are looking for a normal life and social interaction. Andrew has had a few soulwinning opportunities in English, however, while Finns know English, they prefer to talk to someone in Finnish. They often avoid a person who attempts to initiate a conversation in English. With Finnish being a difficult language, we can almost echo the words of Dr. Don Sisk: "If somebody said, 'We will give you \$2,000,000 to learn Japanese,' after two weeks I would say, 'forget it.' However, if they said, 'If you learn Japanese, you can tell people about Jesus Christ,' that is enough motivation to keep me going."

Praise: Quick processing of our documents.

Praise: Our container safely arrived in Finland.

Prayer: To be a witness in Finland.

Prayer: To find a meeting place for a church gathering.

Prayer: That we understand conversational Finnish.

Prayer: For Jake to be saved.

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