



Altaristaflan í Skáholtskirkju
Nína Tryggvadóttir, 1913-1968
Mosaic

MN399W ICELAND CROSS-CULTURAL IMMERSION

1-15 January 2010

The Rev. S. D. Giere, PhD
Assistant Professor of Homiletics
Wartburg Theological Seminary
WTS Coordinator

The Rev. Gunnar Sigurjónsson
Sóknarprestur, Digraneskirkja, Kópavagur
Iceland Coordinator

DESCRIPTION

The Iceland J-Term includes five elements that will immerse the student in aspects of church and culture on this island nation on the icy northern fringes of the North Atlantic. In addition to a profound experience of darkness, the group will (1) worship with and meet pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Iceland (ELCI) at the Winter Pastors' Academy at Skálholt; (2) spend time with ELCI clergy in their day-to-day ministry; (3) have conversation with faculty and students at the

University of Iceland, where clergy in the ELCI receive their education; (4) spend time with pastors called to serve specialized constituencies, and (5) partake of the beauty of Iceland's culture and geography.

The trip is led by Dr. Giere, Wartburg Theological Seminary, and hosted in Iceland by the Rev. Gunnar Sigurjónsson. WTS students may be eligible for cross-cultural financial support.

OBJECTIVES

The general and main objective of this course is the cross-cultural experience of being immersed in Icelandic language and culture. More specifically, students are expected...

- to reflect upon their experience of Icelandic culture and church in relation to their own culturally conditioned assumptions about life and church;
- to listen carefully to the voices of those whom they meet and the voices within themselves;
- to think theologically about one's cross-cultural experience of Icelandic culture and church;
- to ponder how their experiences of Icelandic culture and church will affect their own understanding of the *mission Dei* of the global Church; and
- to hone the skill of reflecting theologically in the sphere of public discourse.

ASSIGNMENTS

The primary assignment is to engage fully in the immersion while in Iceland. In addition, students are expected...

- to read and digest the required readings,
- to develop a set of questions that will guide their listening and inquiry while in Iceland,
- to contribute to the course weblog in line with course blogging covenant.

READING LIST

Bill Holm, *The Windows of Brimness: An American in Iceland* (Minneapolis: Milkweed, 2007).

Gunnar Karlsson, *The History of Iceland* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000).

Halldór Laxness, *Iceland's Bell* (New York: Vintage, 2003).

Hermann Pálsson, trans., *Hrafnkel's Saga and other Icelandic Stories* (London: Penguin Classics, 1971).

ITINERARY A LA GUNNAR – PRELIMINARY & SUBJECT TO CHANGE

January 1	Depart North America	
January 2. Sightseeing the city.	Early morning arrival in Iceland. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Breakfast in Digraneskirkja. Sleeping till noon (jetlag) at hosts homes. Trip to Reykjavík City Hall to see a 3-D map of Iceland from there to a swimming hall.	Dinner at Gunnar's and Thora's house with guests and all the hosts.
Sunday January 3.	Sunday Mass with hosts.	Dinner with hosts or Thora & Gunnar
January 4-6. National theological conference.	Skálholt. <input type="checkbox"/> An open talk with the vice bishop in Skálholt, Sigurður Sigurðarson. Academic pastoral meeting in Skálholt. Lectures during the day and talk around the fireplace during the night with Icelandic pastors and professors. Three days spent with a group of Icelandic pastors from different locations. Professor Daniel Olson from Wartburg Seminary will be one of the speakers at the conference.	Evenings with Icelandic pastors in Skálholt.
January 7. "The golden circle",	Leaving Skálholt. Sightseeing, Gullfoss, Geysir and Þingvellir (sightseeing).	Midnight "open-house" snack with Gunnar and Thora.

January 8.	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch with the major in Kópavogur.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dinner in the Pearl at 17.00 with the deans of Reykjavík (Gísli Jónasson and Jón Dalbú Hróbjartsson)
The Culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visit to the historical museum in “the Pearl” (Perlan) at 16.00.	
January 9.	Day off.	
Sunday January 10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sunday Mass in Þingvellir with the local pastor Kristján Valur Ingólfsson.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early dinner with the dean, pastor Eiríkur Jóhannsson in restaurant Fjöruborðið.
January 11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A day at the University of Iceland with professors and students. (arranged by Arnfríður Guðmundsdóttir). Dan Olson will give a lecture at lunch. Visit to the National Museum.	Evening dinner with (undecided)
The University		
January 12.	<input type="checkbox"/> Drop-in to pastors in their local churches. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An afternoon at the bishops office in Reykjavík. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting with the Bishop Karl Sigurbjörnsson. Sightseeing in Reykjavík (walk).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cinema evening and <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pizza with Árni Svanur Daníelsson in Digraneskirkja
The National church.		
January 13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting in Keflavík at 10 am and lunch with the pastor in Keflavík, Skúli Ólafsson. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Blue Lagoon in the afternoon, invited by the dean of Kjalarnes, Gunnar Kristjánsson.	Evening dinner with (undecided)
The rural church		
January 14	<input type="checkbox"/> A trip to Alþjóðahúsið. Meeting with: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toshiki Toma (pastor for immigrants) <input type="checkbox"/> Hreinn S. Hákonarson (pastor for prisoners) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guðný Hallgrímsdóttir (pastor for the disabled) <input type="checkbox"/> Miyako Þórðarson (pastor for the deaf)	The final evening dinner in Iceland with (undecided)
The church in special circumstances.		
January 15.	Departure	