



Glocon

...the Global and Local Community Conversation

WEEK 12
Denmark
June 2-8th, 2012

Foreword: appreciating, encouraging and sharing local community story.

Denmark is the tenth country for Glocon. This is a synthesis of several local community stories, and personal initiatives, adding to 23 other local community stories so far. Each shows responsiveness of people and organisations. The 'themes and sub themes that matter to us' are the core of the Glocon learning. We offer sincere thanks to local and country hosts, and to the local communities, which show us the future.

The **background to Glocon** is described in the concept note, on 'Affirm' website.



See www.affirmfacilitators.org;
www.facebook.com/glocon.affirm;
www.facebook.com/Glocon Participants

From beginning March, the first Glocon Update is available through the www.affirmfacilitators.org website, the facebook page, and facebook group. Email robin@radermail.net to receive the Glocon Update directly to your email address

Key Sections

- *Glocon visit team members*
- *Glossary*
- *Process*
- *Where are we now? Future?*
- *Transfer*
- *Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us*

Glocon team members



Glossary

TSA-The Salvation Army

GP-Glocon Participants

SALT-Support and Learning Team

Background

Since 2003 the 'integrated mission' approach to social action has been explored in Denmark by Salvation Army colleagues who were linked with international health, including post tsunami community counseling, and HIV experiences. The entry point has been family 'health', with family workshops as a catalyst. A core element of these formation processes has been facilitated group conversation. On occasions, follow-up to home and neighbourhood has happened, and is now widening through other entry points, such as homelessness.



Process

Day 1 –Saturday 2nd June, 2012 –greetings, process discussion

The Glocon team met to work out how to map a journey of 10 years in Denmark that shows communities with family fragility, capacity, faith, and future. It was agreed that the timeline could be formed by adding together several specific neighbourhood stories from different locations.

Day 2-worship; home visit – Bachersmindenevej holiday caravan park



The purpose of the Glocon visit is to thank the local communities, to encourage, and to share progress in response to family wellness and other concerns.



Bachersmindenevej

People know me because all the children come to me. They come because I keep the Salvation Army red shield in my window. People end up here because they have lost homes. I am okay here, so I take care of others. I love the way the Salvation Army is not just Christian, but working in the name of Christ. I want it to be known for the joy we have. –Dorrit (*centre, above*)

Day 3: Monday 4th June, 2012-Community conversation

Tingbjerg/Bronshoj



Underneath these problems is a fundamental issue of neighbours from different culture backgrounds learning to relate to each other. -Alison

Here (at the Lutheran church) we try to build bridges between cultures in our neighbourhood. We should integrate. I try to say, we all have difficulties, if we help each other we all benefit. -Ulrich (pastor,church)

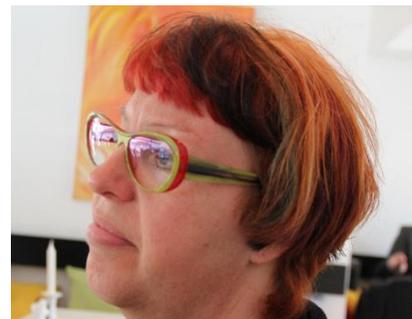
I see so clearly that if we could work together from 2 different churches we will demonstrate the respect and cooperation that we want to see in the community. -Lone

Could we greet neighbours of different cultures and say hello across cultures? Yes, we have done it, and we can do it here. -Sonia (retired Salvation Army officer living in the neighbourhood)

I have worked with children for thirty years- the challenge is to find out how to show love to each particular child. -Sonia



So many different cultures here that the school struggles to integrate. There is no shopping district or coffee shop because of vandalism. - Masji (social worker, church)



We are working with women in the community who work as contacts for their particular culture group. There has also been a group formed of parents, started after a young person was killed when one parent said 'enough is enough'. They are reaching out to other parents of young people, including those whose kids have been involved. -AnneSophia (Social worker)

They say my apartment building has the biggest problems, but we don't see it so much. I know my neighbors, we still help each other. But we don't call the police against neighbors – that is not safe. – Annett



When we did not need the family workshop group any more, with our children older and independent we wanted to do something that would help people get on well –so we formed the social network. We now have 152 members.-Jytte (*one of the coordinators of the 'social network'ie local CBO*)

I helped to start the neighbourhood action of parents. Now we are the biggest group of this kind. – Aihua (*local politician, former local area mayor*)





Day 4-Tuesday 5th June, 2012
Frederiksberg

Melita is a community kindergarten, with a link to a local school in Brazzaville Congo.

Now we are growing tomato plants to sell, to send money to the school in Congo. In future we hope to have maybe a little land at the old folks home near here, to plant a community garden. -Helle



We have a vision of formation through fellowship, with the children when we are here together, and with the parents when possible. -Ulla



We have influenced others without trying, just by relating. Each connection brings new possibilities and ideas and energies. –Helle

**Day 5-Wednesday June 6th,2012
Copenhagen**



We are trying at the City Mayor's office to find ways to share knowledge about building better relationship-applied to issues like foreign homeless people, youth who are homeless. I am inspired by the (SALT) approach. We have funds...we need documented examples ...let's



have coffee and talk. -Jonas (City Counselor, Office of the Mayor, Copenhagen-on paternity leave from studies yet he came from home with his little girl -to meet the Glocon team)



Someone said that SALT is too simple. Actually we make it too complex in our own minds – it is a matter of daring to sit down with someone and listen. –Hanne

I go to some programs that support mothers who are in difficult circumstances. Now I volunteer at the camp as well. Volunteering is a way to share my experience with others in a way that is helpful. After the first time I came back on a cloud. I had found resources in myself that I was able to share with others, and I had room to listen. –Susanne





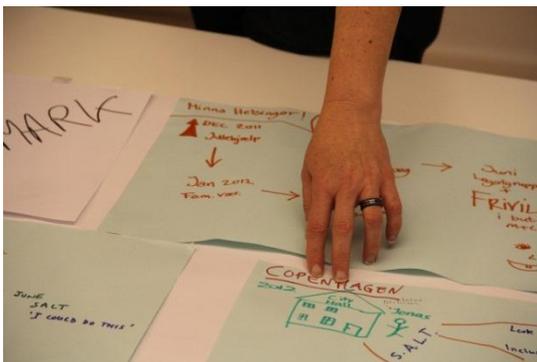
I feel I have something to give by saying 'I have been there. I see you.' -a volunteer



We do the family workshop once a month –but it is not enough.- Charlotte

We are all part of a bigger picture. If home and neighbourhood are included we cannot go wrong.-Ian

We give patience, love, acceptance, listening. We gain satisfaction, experience, relationships, a network. -family workshop volunteers



You are more than volunteers-you are contributing to a deep vision that reaches far. You are 'volunteers plus!'- Ian

Day 5-Thursday 7th June, Helsingor



I'm a helper and also a recipient of help. I'm open, I'll talk to anyone. I have my sense of humour.
Do people talk to each other here? No-this is a dark neighbourhood- people are watching each other.
Could you do SALT visits? Yes- I think I could do that.
-Dorthe

We can understand SALT because it is also what we do in our family workshop group -Tanya

I am so much better because I am allowed to contribute by working here in the kitchen. -Mia



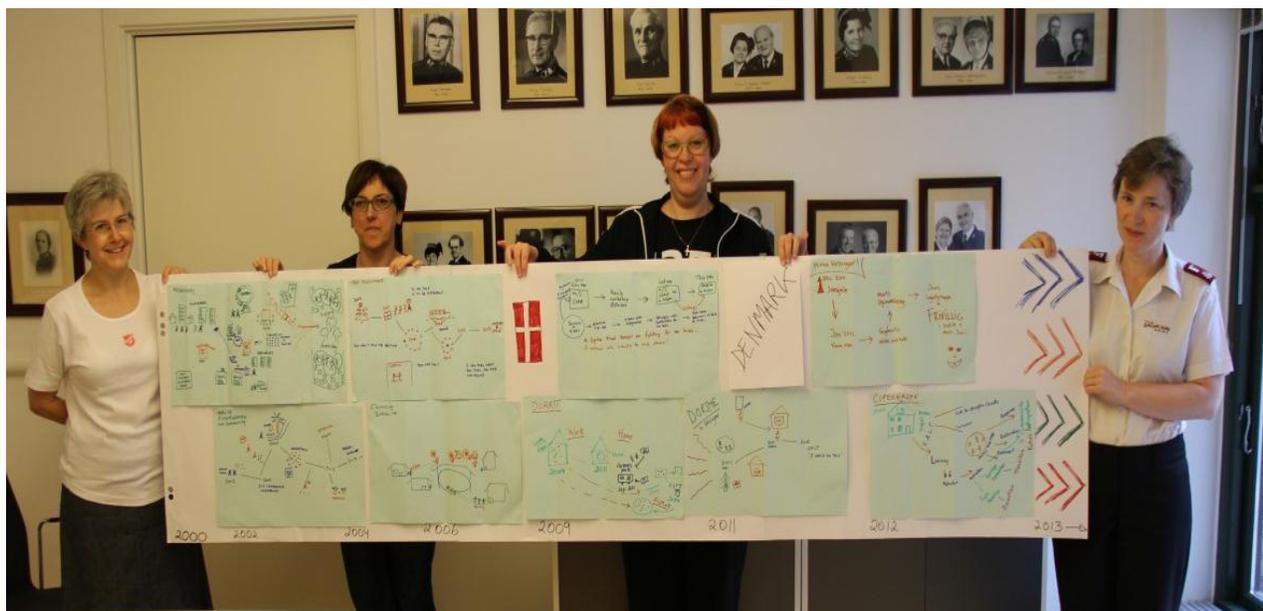
I heard the description of GLOCON and the countries that have been visited, and I wondered whether our problems are too different. Then I thought that the human experience is the same.
-Minna

Every problem has its label, people hear the label and think they know what it is, but the inside experience is always different. Someone is finding a way to keep going. -Alison





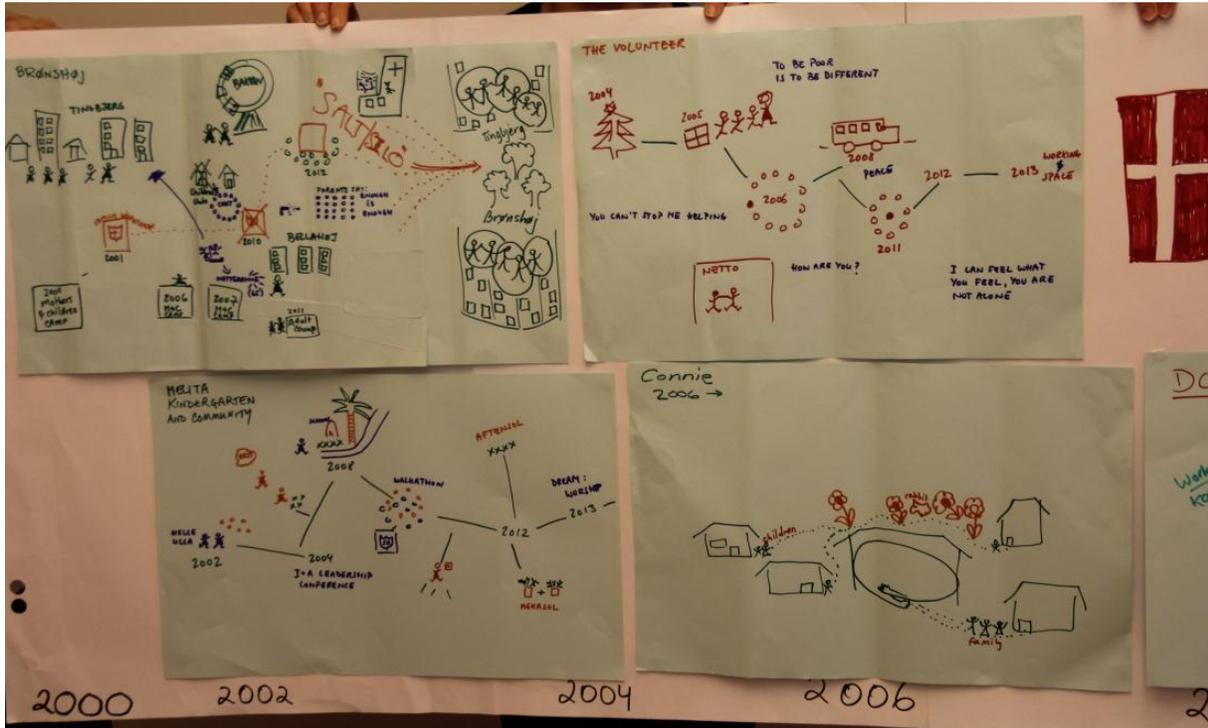
Day 7-Friday 8th June, 2012-Copenhagen reflections-and Denmark timeline



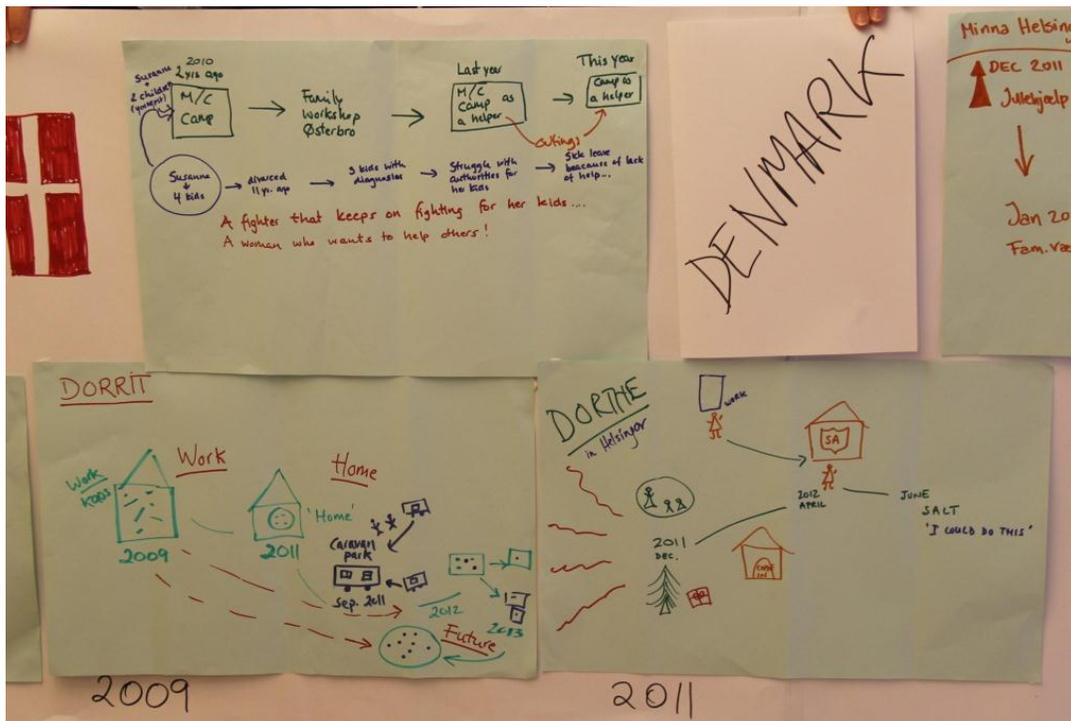
It was amazing to see how quickly they (community members in Helsingor) saw the Glocon idea, that they (and we) are part of a global voice in 2012. -Joan

We are looking for a fellowship that is local and global as well. -Lone

Home visits helped us when we met the group- we had a better idea of the situation, and people were more comfortable. There was a real energy together. -Alison



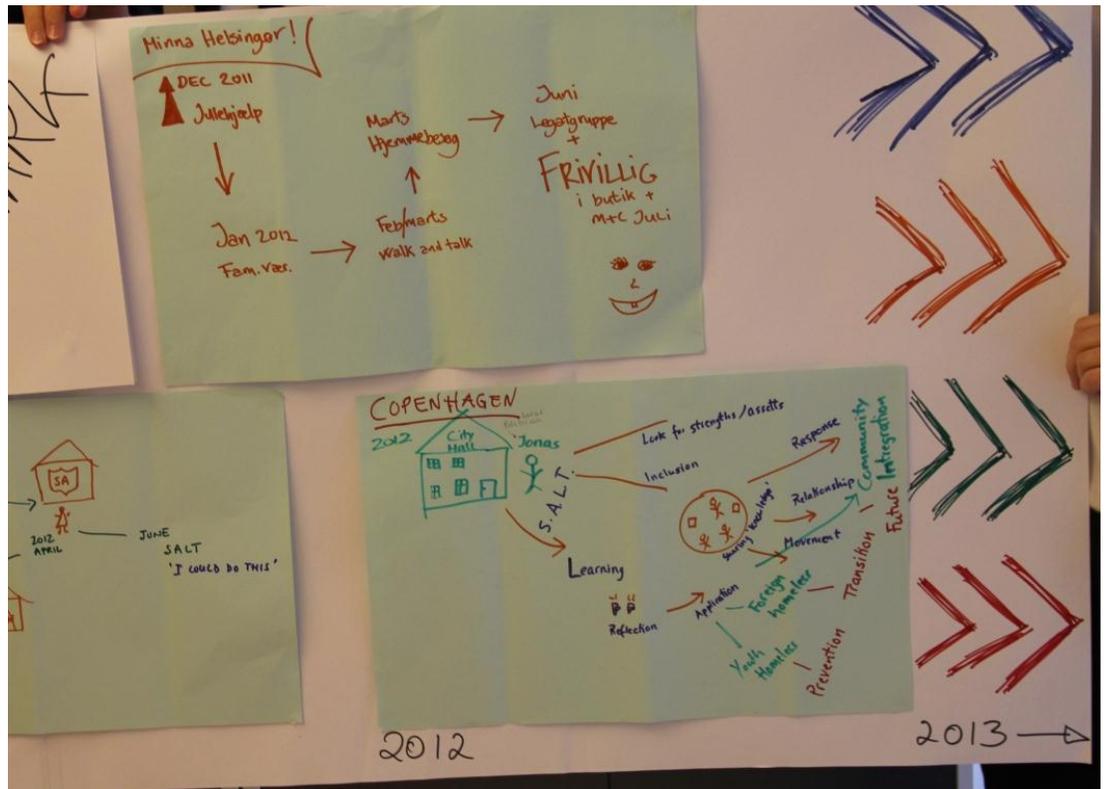
Everyone enjoyed the home visits, both the people who hosted, and the SALT teams. Some had wondered why we wanted to do it, but by the end of the visits, they would say, 'This has been good!'





We saw the intertwining of life experience and faith and grace in a natural but focused way. -lan

The government is concerned about homeless people, but who will go and talk with the homeless people to find out what are their concerns? This is an opportunity for SALT!



Reflections about ways of thinking and working:

- Watch for 'pop ups'--surprises happen. Personal stories suggest opportunities.
- Dare to have a conversation; sit down and listen.
- We are respecting people, instead of pitying. Everyone can do something to keep on living even in difficulties.
- Let faith be in the conversation
- Celebrate success when we are able to hand over to others.
- The difference we have seen between places is not in fragility or capacity locally –but in the attitude and behaviour and belief of the 'providers'

- Professional skills should be used to serve the natural aptitude and capacity of local people and other team members
- We want to learn from local experience and apply immediately



Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us

Note that each visit will add to the analysis of a theme or themes

Indicators of movement(s)

- Local community initiated action, self -assessment, and transfer
- Invitations back home
- Community to community transfer
- Adaptable organizational strategies
- Spiritual and faith motivated initiative
- Children, youth, family, adults, elderly: Inter-generational accompaniment
- Health and social and community change

Denmark Week 12- Copenhagen and Helsingor: Living a life as a poor or socially excluded person seems to be directly connected to ill health. The more isolated a person/family is, the more diagnoses and problems with bad health. The two are interconnected in a way that affects prospects of living a better life. We experience

that being part of a community and being supported in ability to contribute, people get better. Relationship building and conversation leads to faith discovery. Actually we need to explore the work of Grace on the health of a person. Healing comes through faith lived out in community. Faith is discovered through shared exploration.

'I am so much better because I am allowed to contribute by working here in the kitchen.' -Mia

In Bronshoj, two women who have been judged (by themselves and others) unable to work are running a social fellowship for 152 people. How should we read this? A suggestion is that the systems of the social welfare society could create dependency, reinforce their weaknesses and prevent personal initiative and creativeness in taking responsibility in personal life situations. (Joan Munch)

Care to change

- Ownership
- Home, suffering, hope, neighbourhood
- Caring presence which motivates expanding change

Transfer

- Community to community
- Global SALT
- Leadership acknowledgment

Faith foundations

- Caring by being with
- God present in situation in grace
- Responding to loss, pain –pathways to trust, faith, hope

Facilitation team

- Organisational transition
- Discovering shared concerns with partners (common ground)
- Community as lifestyle
- Mentoring by participating

Learning from local experience (SALT)

- Humility-disposition and character
- Connecting local community and organizations
- Facilitating movements
- Based on strengths