



The Willoughbys

Reaching the unreached in Estonia

- Evangelizing
- Church Planting
- Bible Institute

July 2014

Dear Praying Friends,

Every five years Estonians gather en masse for an event that more than anything else defines what it means to be Estonian. The Song Festival was celebrated on July 5-6 with over 100,000 people in attendance, nearly one out of every ten Estonians. Hundreds of local choirs from all over Estonia combined into a grand choir of about 30,000 voices. They sang about their devotion and love for the land wearing national costumes. They sang about freedom from tyranny. Speaking of the most famous of their choir directors, someone commented on Estonian TV that they have a kind of a god status among the people. Someone else said emphatically that this singing tradition is the Estonian faith and religion. Though we are happy that they have this rich tradition, we are here to tell them where true hope and meaning can be found.

Kuningriigi kroonikad (Kingdom Chronicles): Our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) was again a great success! Every day we had between 12-18 children in attendance from ages 7-14. I had fun wearing a knight costume all week, while fellow missionary, Matt Graziano, helped me teach in Estonian and modeled some real armor during the lessons on the armor of God. Matthew and Sarah Majewski from Lansing, Iowa, were an indispensable help with games, crafts, and general planning. The weather cooperated until Thursday, when the typical Estonian summer weather took over (that means cold and rainy). We still managed to get outside for a couple of games, though.

The best part about this year's VBS is the potential of starting a youth group. As some of the boys who come to VBS are getting to be 13 and 14 years old, I am afraid that we will lose them to the world, since our program is meant for younger children. I have already begun meeting weekly with these pre-teens/teens for foosball, soccer, and lessons on biblical manhood. I want to inspire them to say no to the temptations of the world and say yes to taking a stand for God. Of course, they still need to take the first step of receiving Jesus as their Savior. Please be in prayer for these Estonian boys.

Marriage course: The spring run of the Five Love Languages course was also a success. All five couples committed to meeting for the next monthly discussion group. Two of the couples who came are unsaved, so it was probably a rare experience for them to see people who are true believers in Jesus Christ.

Smiths return: The Mike Smith family just returned from a six month furlough, and we are planning to begin working together with them more closely. I would ask for prayer concerning this partnership because we have all heard about missionary teams that did not work out. However, it can be quite lonely working alone in a country with an apathetic attitude to the Gospel. I also realize that my own gifts and strong points are more suitable in a team setting rather than being a "one-man band." My desire is that more people would come to Christ as a result of our working together than would have otherwise!

In a secular land where hope and meaning is sought in song festivals and in every other place except God's Word, we plead for your prayers that God would open the eyes of precious Estonians that they would see that "hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

Yours for Estonia,

Rob & Angela Willoughby
RoseLynn, Ryland, Abigail, Andrew

Ministry Phase:
Building a core of Believers

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