



The Willoughbys

Reaching the unreached in Estonia

- Evangelizing
- Church Planting
- Bible Institute

November 2012

Dear Praying Friends,

As soon as the communists took over Estonia in 1944, they began implementing a series of “Five-Year Plans” in order to integrate the country into the Soviet, state-run economy. Since these plans had to be implemented quite forcefully, they were responsible for untold suffering, injustice, and cruelty. Though we learned from such communists just how dark the human heart can be, I believe we can also learn from them the necessity of having a plan and carrying it out.

Of course, my plan is to start a church in Estonia—but how? Back in February of 2011 we began having services in Estonian with the hopes that more and more people would come. However, my experience has showed me that I may have gotten it all backwards! We were not able to build our services because Estonians simply do not go to church unless they are already a member of another congregation. After nineteen months of “trying to make it work,” we decided to temporarily cancel our services so that we could develop a more effective plan for starting a church in Estonia. I would like to share that plan with you.

Step 1: Make a positive first contact: We are using our marriage course as a first contact for people who would probably never come to a church service. Through this outreach, we have befriended a handful of unsaved couples, some of whom are now coming to our monthly marriage discussion group. We are also developing a finance course for the same purpose.

Step 2: Share the Gospel: The next step is to directly share the Gospel with these precious souls. For this reason an intro to Christianity course has been translated into Estonian that should be ready to run this winter. I am already using the material in a one-on-one Bible study. Taking this step of faith is huge for Estonians. We have to take them from “religion is irrelevant and even dangerous” to “I am a sinner and I need Jesus to be my personal Savior.”

Step 3: Strengthen new believers: When God blesses and gives these people new life in Christ, the next step is to confirm and establish them in their new faith. For this reason we are using a discipleship course called “Freedom in Christ.” We are already going through this material with three Christian ladies who have allowed Satan to fill their lives with depression, bitterness, and hopelessness. In this way new and immature Christians will be given a chance to become fruitful, joyful members of Christ’s body.

Step 4: Develop a Christian community: At this point we will invite these Christians to found a new church with us and begin having regular worship services together.

Though the goals of the communists were based on humanism and atheism and their methods were destructive, they had a plan and they stuck to it. Keep us in prayer as we carry out our plan for church planting, not for the rebuilding of a new society, but for the rescuing of souls for the glory of God!

Yours for Estonia,

Rob & Angela Willoughby
RoseLynn, Ryland

Ministry Phase:
Building a Core of Believers

Contact Info (612) 284-5981 • rob@eurasiaoutreach.org
Sending Church: Woodcrest Baptist Church • 6875 University Ave NE • Fridley, MN 55432
Mission Address: BIMi • P.O. Box 9215 • Chattanooga, TN 37412

