



The Willoughbys

Reaching the unreached in Estonia

July 2016

- Evangelizing
- Church Planting
- Bible Institute

Dear Praying Friends,

What do these places have in common: Egypt, Canary Islands, Thailand, Italy, and Grandma's? All these places (and more) will be full of Estonians during the summer months! There seems to be an obsession to see the world that was once closed to them during the Soviet occupation years. Estonians who are still stuck in town dreaming of their turn to go on vacation are almost sure to be away on the weekends either to do endless gardening at their summer cottage or relax at Grandma's country home. This has a big impact on our ministry.

June VBS: In spite the "vacation fever," our VBS, Camp Kilimanjaro, was a great success! We had 16 different children come. All of them live right here in Peetri. Angela organized the craft time and snack time, while I acted as VBS leader, taught the lessons, and led assembly. Chad and Sarah Choquette came from South Carolina to help us as well as visit some distant relatives in Estonia. Chad obviously loves kids and did an excellent job organizing all the games as well as whatever random task I threw at him unexpectedly! Sarah taught daily interactive English lessons and was a big help to Angela during craft time. In addition to the Choquettes, we had one more helper, Roland, a teen who is now too old to come to camp. I asked him to return as a helper. His main role was playing as our puppet during the lesson time. He also ran my PowerPoint slides and helped in many other ways. Pray for Roland, as he has not yet made a decision to follow Christ. At the end of the week, we invited the parents to attend a short ending program where the children recited Bible verses, sang some camp songs, and received awards. I was pleased to see that the parents of three campers decide to come!

Follow up for our annual VBS is always difficult, since people start their summer vacations about that time. Most Estonians go to their summer homes on the weekends, so inviting the children to Sunday School does not work very well. This year, we invited them to a Wednesday morning Bible Club at our home. We finally had a couple of kids come on the first Wednesday of July.

Services: Our Sunday attendance is also very low. Since camp ended, we have had almost no one coming to our services. Unfortunately, this trend will not likely change until the fall.

Fall plans: With the whole country of Estonia in vacation mode, there is not much left to do but plan for the fall! In addition to regular Sunday services and occasional children's outreach events, we have four ministry possibilities for the fall. I may try to run our "Five Love Languages" marriage course here in Peetri, which has been successful before. Also I have been spending many hours preparing a Bible overview course to offer to those who are interested in the Bible on at least an academic level. Third, an English club for adults would likely be successful in creating new contacts and building relationships. Last, this may be the right time to finally offer the Dave Ramsey finance course in Estonia. This would also be a point of contact in the community. Since it would be far too costly to put Estonian subtitles on the lengthy DVD video sessions, I have decided to leave them un-translated and to only translate and print the workbooks.

Although we have no plans to start a church among vacationing Estonians in Greece or Vietnam, remember us in prayer as we take advantage of the opportunities we do have as well as plan our fall outreach activities!

Yours for Estonia,

Rob & Angela Willoughby
RoseLynn, Ryland, Abigail, and Andrew

Ministry Phase:
Building a Core Group of Believers

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