



The Willoughbys

reaching the unreached in *Estonia and Eurasia*

November 2009



Dear Praying Friends,

What does “friend” mean in Estonian? I recently discovered that Estonians have a much higher view about who is a friend than we Americans. Think for just a moment – how many friends do you have? One Estonian Christian said that if he were asked that question, he would have to think whether he really *has* any friends. That is not because he is anti-social, but because Estonians reserve the word, friend, for only the closest, lifelong relationships. Anyone else is merely an acquaintance. With God’s help, we wish to become such friends to these precious Estonians!

Preaching at Valkla: In September, I was invited by an Estonian pastor to preach in his Sunday morning service. I gladly accepted, and this sharp, young pastor effortlessly interpreted my message into Estonian to his small town congregation. I consider this pastor to be a valuable contact, and I hope that next time I preach at his church, I will not need an interpreter!

Classes: Angela and I are in full-time language study. Three times a week Angela’s tutor comes to our home so that Angela has less time away from the children. I was impressed when she recently signed up for an additional Estonian class that meets twice a week downtown. She is studying as much as she possibly can, while still functioning as wife and mother of two! I must say, I am proud of her!

- Evangelizing
- Church Planting
- Bible Institute
- Translation

As far as my own language study, I am also firing with both barrels! Three times a week I go to Tallinn University for an Estonian class for Russian speakers. Of course, I don’t speak Russian, but I can still benefit since the teacher only speaks in Estonian. This class is a real challenge for me! Twice a week I also meet with a language tutor to work on conversational skills.

As we have Estonians come over for dinner, and as we pour our lives into learning their language, we hope to become true friends to them. As true friends, we must tell them the truth about sin, eternity, and God’s gift of life offered to all. Pray with us about making true Estonian friends, opportunities to share our faith, and open doors for starting a church in Estonia sometime in 2010.

Ministry Phase:
Language Acquisition

Yours for Estonia,

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