



The Willoughbys

reaching the unreached in *Estonia and Eurasia*

September 2009



Dear Praying Friends,

This summer in Estonia has been beautiful! In July and August the days were sunny and warm with the temperature rarely going above 75 degrees. The only drawback to such an ideal summer is that it is quite short! With the summer at an end, we intend to continue our quest of learning Estonian.

University Class: In the month of July, I had the opportunity to take an Estonian course at Tallinn University. This intensive course was a real challenge for me since it was slightly above my level. Another challenge was that the ten other students in my class were from Hungary, Turkey, England, Czech Republic, Latvia, and Poland so each of them spoke Estonian with a different “foreign” accent! Did you ever wonder what Estonian would sound like with a Turkish accent? With rare exception, we spoke only Estonian in the classroom.

This fall Angela and I plan to double our efforts at language study hoping to be able to begin doing ministry in Estonian sometime in 2010. Angela has been meeting with a private tutor several times a week since my summer class ended. It thrills me to see how much she is improving her skills in Estonian. One of my philosophies as a missionary is that family comes first – especially my wife! Fluency in the language is just as an important part of adjusting to this new country for Angela as it is for me. I will also be meeting with a private tutor this fall.

- Evangelizing
- Church Planting
- Bible Institute
- Translation

New Friends: We are delighted with the people that God has been bringing into our lives lately. We are gaining new Estonian friends, believers and non-believers alike. We certainly need Christian friends, but what a joy to think that some of our unsaved friends may come to faith in Christ! Pray that God would teach us how to reach the hearts of these precious people and break through the barriers of language, culture, and the result of 50 years of occupation by an atheist government.

New Goal: Pray with us about our new goal. Although we will never stop learning the language, we hope to complete our full-time language studies and transition into church planting sometime in 2010. This will require some determination on our part, since Estonian cannot be learned by accident! With so many people here who can speak some English, we must commit ourselves to using Estonian as often as possible – even when English would be easier!

Please pray that we can complete our full-time language learning phase in 2010!

Yours for Estonia,

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Ministry Phase:
Language Acquisition

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