



The Willoughbys

Reaching the unreached in Estonia

September 2014

- Evangelizing
- Church Planting
- Bible Institute

Dear Praying Friends,

During a recent, historic visit to Estonia President Obama correctly stated that Estonia is one out of only four NATO countries that is meeting their military budget requirements. Though the Russian troops, backed by advanced missile systems that can reach all targets in Estonian territory, stationed near Estonia currently outnumber the entire Estonian Defense Force by about 4:1, Estonia continues to invest in its small army. Some people here have told me that there is no point in maintaining an army at all, but still others recognize that Estonia must do all that it can and hope that in a crisis NATO will come to the rescue before Estonia is overrun. As missionaries here fighting a spiritual war, we face an incomprehensible apathy to the Gospel message, but we know that we must do all that we can and ultimately rely on God's power.

Boys' group: We have recently found that one thing we can do is expand our youth ministry. As a follow-up to our Vacation Bible School, I invited some of the older Estonian boys ages 12-14 to come play soccer and foosball at our building. In spite of their being often out of town at their summer house, we managed to meet about four times in total. This was a major breakthrough with these young people! With school again in session, we hope to have monthly youth activities (girls included) to keep in contact with them. This is an area of great potential.

Services: Now that we are working together closely with the Smith family, we are attending all services at our building. Both Mike and I lead the singing in the English and Russian services. For now I have continued teaching the Wednesday night English Bible study, while Mike Smith preaches in the Sunday Russian and English services. I have also started having Estonian services and preaching in Estonian again, which was long overdue! We have been seeing 1-3 Estonians attend each week.

Profession of Faith: On Friday, August 29, I met with Üllar and his girlfriend, Raili, for a Bible study. They both have been coming to our new services, so I went over a Gospel tract with them very slowly and carefully. Using the "bridge illustration" I made it clear to them they need to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. Üllar said that he still needs more time, but Raili was ready to make a decision. Raili shared Sunday in the Russian service that she decided to accept Christ on her birthday, so now she has two birthdays on August 29!

Marriage ministry: Our marriage discussion group finally met again on August 21. I was encouraged to see a key couple return to the group after a long absence. Though they have been uninterested in the Gospel in the past, please pray that I would be able to share with them again. The next run of our marriage course starts on September 23.

School! Another important development in our lives here in Estonia is that RoseLynn has started first grade in an Estonian school. With RoseLynn going to school and Ryland going to kindergarten right here in our small suburb, we have a much more visible presence in the local community.

Though "no, thank you" and "that's not for me" are the usual responses to the Gospel here, we, like the Estonian Defense Force, are determined to do all that we can possibly do in the face of great opposition.

Yours for Estonia,

Rob & Angela Willoughby
RoseLynn, Ryland, Abigail, Andrew

Ministry Phase: Building a Core of Believers

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