



# The Willoughbys

Reaching the unreached in Estonia

March 2019

- Evangelizing
- Church Planting
- Bible Institute

Dear Praying Friends,

I thought the kids would love to have a puppy in the house to play with. I just knew they would spend hours cuddling him, laughing and adoring him. So I brought the puppy home, but it turns out that he and the kids don't agree on what having fun is. The puppy thinks having fun means biting hands, feet, and any other part he can get between his teeth! In response, the kids have been seeking higher ground on couches and picnic tables to escape the "adorable" hand-chewer. Just like church planting in Estonia, a well-behaved dog takes a lot of time and patience!

**Missionary Men's Meeting:** Sometimes we missionaries need to take some time to refocus and recharge, so it was my pleasure to host a "Missionary Men's Meeting" for missionaries here in Estonia. There are not many of us in this tiny country, but we are all facing the same challenges. We each shared about our ministry, our vision, and some of the difficulties with which we are dealing. Then we had a helpful discussion about sharing our faith in this spiritually apathetic culture. The main point of this meeting was to encourage one another to double down and keep fighting the good fight. The consensus seems to be that it was time well spent!

**Services, Bible Study:** Growing our weekly services and seeing spiritual growth in our people takes time and patience. We are just finishing up the letters to the Thessalonians on Sundays and will soon return to the book of Acts. One family was away for a month, so we had fewer coming. We are hoping that Mari will start attending on a regular basis even though she has to take the train and have someone pick her up at the train stop. Geila has come a couple times this year already, so we hope to see Eugene and her family more often as well.

While the one family was gone, we spent some time in the Minor Prophets for Wednesday Bible study. We managed to cover Joel, Jonah, Obadiah, and an overview of Amos. There's a lot to learn about God in these somewhat neglected books! Now that everyone is back, we will pick up again in Genesis.

**Connect Trip:** Each year our biggest opportunity in ministry is Vacation Bible School week in June; this year we are taking things to a new level. Our field director, Ed Hembree, will be hosting a Connect Trip to spend 10 days with us in Estonia. This means we will have about five times more helpers than ever before! In addition to VBS, the team will help us run a youth program in the evenings in order to start a new youth group with the children who have now graduated out of our VBS program. The "seeds" for this new youth group will be RoseLynn and her school friends who are going into sixth class (same age as 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the US) next year. We especially ask for your prayers for that week as we will be doing a lot more planning and preparation than usual.

By God's grace when our new puppy has given up munching on our fingers and toes, we will have seen some real progress in our church planting as well. Pray for spiritual growth in our people, for opportunities to share the Gospel and for new people added to our number!

Yours for Estonia,

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

**Ministry Phase:**  
**Building a Core Group of Believers**

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