

MethodESTonia

No. 3 / December 2011

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust." { Psalm 91:2 }

Dear friends of Estonia.

I wish for you a blessed Advent season and a Peaceful Christmas!

I am glad to release a fresh MethodESTonia edition into your hands. Please use it in the advertisement boards in your local churches.

The year 2011 is almost history; time has moved very quickly. This year will go into history as a year when the Estonian Methodists took quite a big step forward - we prepared a Development Plan for the Estonian UMC from now until 2015. We began this year, January through June, with three area vision days. In June, the Annual Conference accepted and confirmed the Plan. We immediately started implementing what had been suggested.

The whole process has taken effort, but it has given back energy to the church's general and local levels. We are filled with new and fresh energy to take the church to another level—to function as a church, reach out, and fulfill our mission. I hope that we will be able to give more details about it in February, when we gather for the Friends of Estonia meeting in Nashville, TN.

This edition focuses on the mission that took place in Estonia during the summer months.

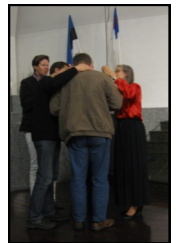
Thank you very much for being part of the ministry in Estonia—both with your prayers and with your financial support!

May God bless and guide you in the days of the new 2012 year!

Yours in Christ,
Taavi Hollman, *District Superintendent of the Estonian UMC*

ARM Team Visits Estonia

Late September thru early October Aldersgate Renewal Ministry (ARM) team visited Estonia. The team consisted of brothers and sisters from the USA and Great Britain.



This team served our pastors and lay people in various places of Estonia, beginning with a seminar titled "Lord, Teach Us to Pray" in Parnu Agape Church and finishing with the "Life in the Spirit" seminar in Tallinn UMC. While in Estonia they visited Parnu Agape, Voru, Viitka, Tartu St Luke, Johvi, Kohtla-Jarve, Sillamae, Aseri, Narva and Tallinn UMC. They also had a short visit to Camp Gideon. This was a very blessed time. The ARM team helped us discover what Jesus had promised to His followers about the power from Heaven. This is a step forward toward the renewing church.



ARM Team from USA and Great Britain

Progress at Võru UMC



the next
Friends of Estonia
meeting is:
February 17-18

Please go to
www.friendsofestonia.com
for more details

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Camp Gideon—Finishing it's 19th Summer

Camp Gideon just finished its 19th summer. This was a special summer for us. There were 14 different events—including seminars and camps for children, youth and adults. Especially noted is (1) the Summer Conference for the UMC of Estonia and (2) a special children's camp for kids from Russia (in a telephone call later with the organizers from Russia they told how kids were missing the camp after returning home).

In the camps there were people from different denominations and from different countries. Guests were from America, Brazil, Great Britain, Australia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia & Israel. God gave to us a good friend, Mike Cantrel,

from St James Methodist Church in Athens, Georgia who is a link between us and others. Their group visited camp also and helped to organize Russian kids camp. He is trying to find support for renovating one house as a Mission house so that missionaries from Russia and from other countries can come and rest.

Although the camps are over, work is still going on. Builders finish work in White building. The heating system is being prepared for winter. The artist is painting the walls of children houses. The Mission Bus from Germany will be used for outreach in Jõhvi and Narva and will stay overnight in Camp Gideon.

We want to thank all who have prayed for us and to those who have sent financial support. Special thanks to Asbury UMC in Tulsa, OK, St James UMC in Athens, Georgia, Estlands Committee in Norway and Haavald Salten, Conference Board of Estonia UMC, and Taavi Hollman.

With best regards,
Artur Põld



CAMP GIDEON

Testimonies from Kids from Johvi Church

Amina: I liked being in the camp. God has changed me in the camp. I want to come here again.

Gabriella: I like camp Gideon. I spent really good time in the camp. I liked to take part in the games, competitions and skits. During the camp God taught me to pray and it became easier for me to do it. God has changed all the kids. I would really like to come here again.

Martha: My name is Martha and I liked the camp, it was really funny and wonderful. I really liked the games and crafts. God has been working with me in the camp. He kept giving to me strength and energy to play every day and pray more confident. God's changed the kids in the camp, their obedience, and mood. I'd like to come here every year, because I liked it here.

Natasha: I really liked camp Gideon. It was very funny. I liked everything in the camp. God was helping me. God's changed my attitude to all the people during the camp. I'd really like to come in the Camp Gideon again.

Nikita: I liked being in the camp. God has touched me in the camp. I began to obey the adults. I'd like to come here again.

Dasha: I liked the camp very much. It was funny interesting and nice here. I liked that we had played every day, been doing different crafts. Every day God has been helping me in different activities. God's given me the new friends in the camp. I would really like to come back here.

Yanek: I liked the camp. There was no fighting here. The crafts were interesting. I'd like to come here in the winter.

Tallinn UMC New Organ Completed

On Sunday, October 30th at the 10am Worship Service, the Hugo Lepnurm Memorial Organ in Tallinn UMC was dedicated.

That evening the church hosted an organ concert where 5 organists—four from Estonia and one from Sweden—played. After the concert, the Belgian Embassy financially supported the reception for about 100 invited guests in our church cafeteria.

We would like to thank each of you that gave support for the new organ. We have paid the taxes but are still missing some money for the Belgian organ builder. Fortunately he is

flexible and will wait until this debt is paid.

A video clip about the opening concert was shown by the Estonian News Channel called Reporter. Please go to the following address to see what went on during the dedication: <http://www.reporter.ee/2011/10/31/kuulus-meister-ehitas-metodisti-kirikule-oreli/>

Unfortunately it is in Estonian, but you will still get a glimpse what was going on. The lady with the roses is the Vice Chairman of the Estonian Parliament; in the video she congratulates the Belgian organ builder, Guido Schumacher.



The Hugo Lepnurm Memorial Organ, Tallinn UMC

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Brazil + Estonia = Missions

The Evangelism and Inner Mission Board of the Estonian Methodist Church, in partnership with the Methodist Church of the First Region in Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) organized the 5th Brazil + Estonia Inner Mission. The mission trip happened between July 21st and August 1st to different parts of Estonia. There were 5 Brazilian team members, and this year the Estonian youth took part in the mission trip not only supporting the team with translation, but also as part of the mission work. A total of 15 youths joined the Inner Mission. The team spent their first three days in Saaremaa for training and Bible study before starting their mission.



Haapsalu – July 25th and July 26th

The team's first mission in Haapsalu was visiting the Children Home. It was the third year the Brazilian team was invited there, but for the Estonian team it was a first time visit. The program in the Children Home comprised games, dramas, face painting, music, dances and handcraft. It was a great morning and our youth testified the love of God during the time they had there. Still on the same day the team went for an outreach on the streets of Haapsalu, inviting people to our program, which took place at the Free Church of Haapsalu. The evening program was a blessing, people came for prayer, and there was openness and freedom at that place. On July 26th the team had their first free day.

Paide – July 27th

The plan in Paide followed just like the previous days. First we went for the outreach and in the evening the church program. But the strategy was changed based on the previous experience we had in Paide in 2010, when we found openness among people. Instead of only inviting people, the team was sent to share the Gospel on the streets. The result was a full church in the evening, with church members and new visitors. The Spirit of God was really working during that program, organized this time only by the Estonian youth. It was their responsibility to prepare and deliver the entire program. The evening was really touching, people took part, the interaction was good and the team could spend some time praying for people. Children were dancing, adults had a good fellowship and it was just like a big family.

Võru – July 28th and July 29th

The team went to Võru Special Care Department, where a service was held. It was a blessing to spend time there, praying for people, worshipping God and talking to them. It was a blessed and very sweet moment, especially for one man who accepted Jesus. In the evening we had a fellowship at Pastor Tea Land's country house, where the youth of Võru and Viitka joined us for the evening. Even though it was a moment of fun and interaction with the youth, as we took time to worship and pray we really felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. It was a great experience at that place with a touching moment with God. On July 29th the team took part in the opening of Võru Mission Days. During the opening we could express our worship to God, share testimonies and communicate with people.

Viitka – July 29th

In the evening we went to the church of Viitka for a youth evening. The experience in Viitka was really interesting, because only 4 young people came to the church, plus one teacher, invited by one of them. But we really felt that the time we spent there was important for those who came. They felt part of the group, took part in the worship and prayer and in the end they were hugging and blessing our team, although they are not church members. This impact was really positive, because we felt like they got closer to the church and certainly felt part of the community, part of the body. It was a great testimony and certainly they were brought closer instead of scared away. The team really worked together to include them and make them feel comfortable, even noticing that one of them was clearly drunk and another one

was smoking outside. The Spirit of God really gave them wisdom to work through.

Aseri – July 30th and July 31st

Our team was expected in Aseri to support the children camp happening at the Methodist Church. During the days our work was defined by the church leadership. On Saturday Evening our team was taken to visit the rehab center in Aseri. There we shared some testimonies, drama, songs and prayed for people. It was a great moment of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in that house. On Sunday morning the team was still supporting the children work and in the afternoon during the service we were invited to share testimonies, worship and specially pray for people. It was a powerful moment with God, when the entire team was praying and anointing people.

Camp Gideon – Aug. 1st to Aug. 7th

After the team left Aseri they went to Camp Gideon to prepare for the Summer Conference. From this moment on the team work was over, but we still had the chance of praying together, working together and spend time during the days. The testimonies we heard from the Estonian youth showed us that this time was really guided and used by God to rise up a group of young people who were changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Although we had different backgrounds, cultures, ages and languages, all of them mentioned to feel united as a family with the entire team. The connection among those people was very strong. In 12 days of intense work we had no conflicts in the team and every difficulty we had was taken by the entire team to work through. In the end of 12 days people were impacted, changed and clearly touched by the Holy Spirit.