



Unbelievably intensive, amazing and special summer 2013 in SU work, has been left behind. And it is truly difficult to join all those bits into one big story - for each of them paints a unique picture of God coming near in His glory, about the transforming power of His Love; presents Him, to whom nothing is impossible and whose might is revealed in deepest weakness.

**In brief**

**Period:** June - September 2013

**Events:** SEOS tour in schools and youth centres with Superhero band, KidsGames (in cooperation with Estonian Children Mission and Baptis Union Children Centre); 4 camps.

**Participants:** In camps - about 250 children, and 43 members in team; about 145 children and 40 team in KidsGames; SEOS tour -team of 9, 4 concerts, abobut 150 young people met.

2 camps were overfilled- we had to send back young people, because lack of room

**Costs:** about € 7500 (camps and KidsGames)+ unmeasurable amount of volunteer work, love and caring.

**Sponsors:** local- about 15 (10 new!), donations: from €10-600; from abroad: Thank you - SU Sweden, SU Finland, Greatwood Trust! Plus: help in food products; services, materials, discounts!

**God's math works:** By the beginning of each camp there was enough team to match the number of children; economically impossible became possible and with surplus; though the prices in Estonia had risen by 10-12% since January.

**Denominationally:** people came from lutheran, advent, methodist, baptist, pentecostal, and freechurches.

**Personnel:** 2 new camp leaders got their first experience; team continues to be in transition period (younger ones are not yet ready to carry; older ones are leaving - we had 2 weddings in the team this summer!) Very thankful for the faithful, dedicated serving from the team - ongoing shortage is from young men; but among campers the number of boys topped the number of girls > God is bringing up a new generation of young men!



## Other important keywords



**Prayer** - the basis and environment of everything. Through the year, faithful and ongoing prayer unites actual team and wide network of people outside. Intercessory prayer, attentive listening to God followed by instant obedience before and during the events. Team preparedness to fight through barriers, attacks, ability to be grounded in prayer in specific situations and take authority. Accepting God's equipment and specific instructions for the tasks through prayer. Prayer flowing from the Word and based on it. Prayer as a weapon to sustain unity, feel the value of every message; serving each other in prayer. Courage to step out and pray for releasing, freedom, healing, forgiveness, salvation, transformation into the lives of young people. Unlimited praise to God, who has heard and answered so many prayers; and our deep gratitude to all of you who have interceded for us, carried us in your prayers!

*Bits: After serious failure in one evening program, the team was kneeling and asking guidance for the next step from God. First, one by one, came strong need to repent - we had not followed signals given to us - but after that, freedom and joy filled us, as well as courage to express every little detail given to anyone in prayer. A new action plan was coming together from these details and though radical, we felt God was clearly guiding us forward. The feeling of restoration and joy triumphed over the fatigue and depression that filled us before. Next day was proof how dangerous it would have been, if we'd followed the old plan.*

*\*\* Praying before the camp, we got clear message to build a real prayer-altar to the camp and keep at all times fire burning and one team member praying there. This prayer watch changed the whole atmosphere of the camp, an openness and blessing started to flow, direct messages for the team and program. Though the team was small, people were ready to give up meal times, pressing to be nominated to this "prayer watch", for it was so nourishing and restoring.*

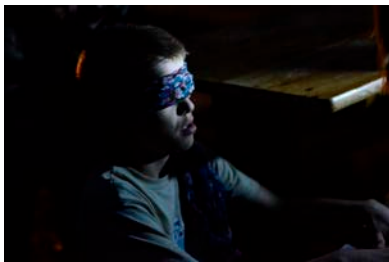
## **Weakness and power**



Probably there wasn't a team member, who during the camps didn't experience isolation, anguish, great tiredness, depression, even sickness - up to suicidal thoughts. In one camp I wanted to name the team "a band of broken vessels". There were moments when absolutely nothing seemed to work, many were discouraged to tears and were fighting the urge to give up and leave the camp. "I am totally empty, can't feel anything, have nothing to give, I can't do it, I have no strength, skills, I am not worthy, it's pointless..etc" - were the "discs" played in our minds over and over. This made serving really a struggle. "One just has to keep going on faith..." said one young man in team meeting. But maybe because of such weakness - we were also witnessing God's powerful work - often in unexpected moments, places and ways, irrelevant of the program. Children and young people just turned towards God, came to faith, were changed and changed their ways, renounced their sins, rededicated their lives - during mealtimes, game times, mentor times, spending the night praying together instead of sleeping. "I don't get it, it is unbelievable, I have lost count how many already - they just keep coming to God out of the blue..." - was a comment I kept hearing through the days.

*Bits: Worship was rallying up in the big tent, when I heard screaming from the outside: "I've had it! I'm gonna burn it all down here - you can all go to hell...! Keep away from me ..."* This young lad had come with 2 friends straight from the rough ganglife in Tallinn streets and had decided to leave camp there and then. His friends had secretly bullied him through the day, and now he was crying and shouting in obscene language, running from me and after quick call to his carers I realised he needed strong medical treatment. Team members gathered around praying - for we also realised enemy's plan to wire him up so he would be sent away from camp environment. Finally he agreed to speak to me, and come with me back to tent if nobody else approached. We managed to be there barely 5 minutes when he ran out again. Following him I found to my surprise - a circle of young campers behind the tent - praying and this guy standing in the centre of that circle! How this happened - I don't know, but bunch of teenagers suddenly got to their heart to go out, and start to pray. When the evening ended - a totally different lad came in, face shining, smiling, absolutely determined to hug everyone in the tent. Hugging rally continued through the next days, and nice words and compliments and smiles to everyone - you would not recognise him for the same person! And it continued at home - his carers told he has remained a different person

## ***Broken generation***



We see more and more the destruction and imprisoning influence of evil in the lives of young people and even children. Desolation, hopelessness, witchcraft, addictions, sexual abuse and violence are issues that one does not expect to meet in a christian camp, however there were not one camp without growing number of these cases. Intrusion of such evil together with attempts to rob, destroy and wound, becomes more and more apparent also among churched children. We can't share those stories, for they are told in confidence and are private, but we can and want to testify about God, whose deeds bring awe, who works in hidden ways, through unusual canals, but powerfully restoring and renewing everything that's been destroyed. There are growing number of children and young people who make us stand still - for just last year/ last month, they were in the pit of darkness, without any hope, and now - you can't believe your eyes... "Look at him/ her...how is it possible..?" were remarks I heard again and again. "God is so great, so powerful!" Please keep praying for this growing generation, pray for an environment in schools and homes - the devil is attacking even the most vulnerable and defenceless. Pray that their future would not be robbed, that their chains would be broken.

## ***More God!***



Not more program, entertainment, even chilling or loud worship - but more of God, longing to experience Him, hearing His voice, feeling more how He changes my heart, touches my life - this was silent but overwhelming "cry" of the campers, in all ages. We could sense this expectation, from the very first day and with it also a fear: what if He doesn't come? If it will not stay? God wanted to come, touch, speak and change - so much, that in our prayers before camps, again and again we got a message "I Myself!" Almost an order to give Him full freedom to act, make room - and He didn't tell us, what or when or how He was going to act. We just knew we had to purify ourselves, make room

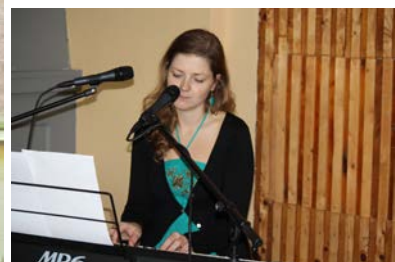
for Him, trust and wait in prayer. And He did come - through barriers in hearts and minds, through unbelief, freeing, filling, encouraging, forgiving, healing! There are too many stories..."Seek me and you will find me!..." This promise was filled again and again.

**Strengthen the foundations!**...was another clear instruction that was given to us during preparation time. So the teaching this summer was very basic, about practical Christian living. How can the seed take root, what are the dangers, what is fruit and how can we experience it in our lives, how the Word works in our lives; what is sin, redemption, love, forgiveness, hope - here, every day for us, how do they function; from what to abstain, what binds us, how to stay free etc. But in every camp there was a second big message that we had to pass on: confirm the love of the Lord! Live it, explain it, pray it.

*Bits: 2 young men made agreement during their trip to the youthcamp, to help each other not be influenced by the teaching or anything else that happens in the camp. They have attended for many years, and experienced God very powerfully before, but back at home they lost the contact with Him and the blessing and life became even more miserable for them. So to avoid the disappointment again - this time they came "prepared", and this was the first message I got when I greeted them: "You do it very well, but this time you cannot play with our minds or hearts" they said "we're here just to enjoy great company and pick up some wisdom." We didn't oppose, but started to pray constantly. And pretty soon the first "cracks" appeared in their armour - God started to touch their hearts, giving us some very serious and hard stuff to say to them as well. I wish, I could describe the breakthrough that came on the last day -when the older of them finally decided to trust and give God once more a chance, when he abandoned...He stood there on the stage, a big strong lad, praising, smiling, crying and pleading: "Please don't repeat my mistake, don't try to be strong and mighty on your own - the freedom God has for us is so much better, please trust Him, give yourself to Him!! " It has not been easy for them now - back at home, but we keep fighting for them and with them.*

*\*\* In the middle of the second eveningprogram in children camp, God gave suddenly very clear instruction to make an open invitation for repentance. That there are several children who secretly are carrying the burdens of guilt, sin and blame and they need help. This was quite radical - to invite those small ones in sight of everyone - to come up to the leaders for confession and prayer and while the first song played I sat there and prayed that God would give them courage. During the second song the first one came. Then another, then 3 others...Some burdens were really big and serious, some have been dragged along for years. The tears of relief testified about freedom and joy God gave them. Some said, they were afraid to come, for saw that so many started to cry, instead they confessed on their seats. Others saw the joy and this encouraged them to come. Many needed a strong hug or long embrace to confirm - this is done with, it is over. But all were set free and this night we had such a celebration it was hard to get them to sleep.*

## **Worship**



We are created, "wired" to praise God - and we felt young people's thirst for this during the summer. There was no difference whether the person was 7, 15 or 23 years old, - one

could almost touch this deep, thirsty expectation to meet God, from the first sounds of worship - and worship times grew longer and longer, for we didn't want to leave from His presence. Worship united us, changed hearts and atmosphere, was also a weapon when breakthroughs were needed. This all meant enormous responsibility for the worship teams - to be prepared, to keep going, to be sensitive and obedient - and they experienced several attacks.

*Bits: During one event worship team was "paralyzed" right on the stage. They just couldn't open the mouth to continue singing, didn't know the words, the band kept playing the same bridge again and again, they couldn't communicate with each other, even couldn't pray for several minutes. It was very awkward and discouraging to see. Total and sudden paralysis. And just then I heard some very young girls in the crowd who sang in different tune a totally different song louder and louder. First it was disturbing - for they seemed not to care what the others were doing around them - they grew louder and happier, not even very musical, and apparently just couldn't keep the song inside. I observed and asked "Lord, what is it? What do you want us to do? What is happening here?" In an instant I was reminded a verse from Psalm 8 "Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." (v 2) This was battling through praise! And these 3 girls, probably not even aware of it themselves, were breaking through the siege of enemy. One by one the others around them started to join, the band found fitting tune, finally even the worshippers got their voices back. We were able to continue.*

## Equipment



It was nervebreaking and trustbuilding to get the final equipment for each camp almost right by the last minute. By the right day, we had everything we needed - but one day before we usually still lacked several things. **The cooks** were a special case this summer. We had agreements by early spring, but some weeks before the camps, the "changes happened" which resulted in immediate need to find replacements. And crowd who needed feeding was not small. But God sent them - and in 2 cases cooks were non christians, very dedicated and extremely good - one of them works as a main chef in one Tallinn restaurant! At the same time God had also provided a special, praying kitchen team for both of them - mission minded (one was working as missionary), loving and perfectly matching. So kitchens turned into mission fields. The food was excellent and abundant, we could almost sense the blessing that flowed from the kitchen, and the cooks had more and more questions about God - by the end of the camp both said: please tell us when you do camp next year - we want to be there!

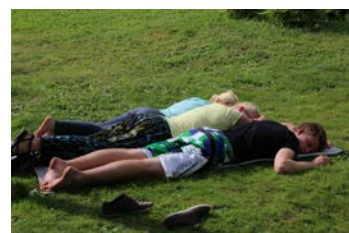
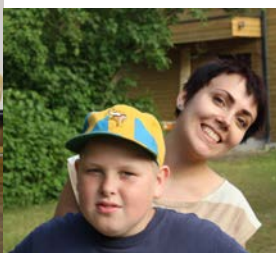
In bigger camps we needed **trailers** for all the equipment- and "found" in the last minute 2 persons who were happy to lend theirs!

**2 publishing products** were most thrilling among this God-given equipment: For the SEOS and Superhero summer tour - SU Estonia in cooperation with Estonian Bible

Society published a booklet “**Sõna**” (**The Word**) for unchristian youth - to be shared freely during concerts and school events. First, the donors wanted to print a number New Testaments - but we felt it would have been wrong strategy. So we had to design a special booklet for unchristian beginner to start reading the Bible. It contained 7 books from the Bible, with introductions, comments and additional material to help to get into it. These were made available at events to those who were interested, but not pushed on anyone. 2000 copies came out in June and by the second tour in October almost all were gone! So we have to start the next edition!

The other was “**Big Bible Challenge**” that got out of print literally on the last day before KidsGames. And it was such a joy to “equip” and bless every child with it during the KG and also in children’s camp. We have never before been able to distribute so much God’s Word to hundreds and hundreds of young people during one summer. Please pray for blessed fruit and coninuing use -for both of these publications!

Once more we want ot thank you, dear friends, as well as every supporter, interceder, volunteer and helper - we have been amazed, stunned and humbled by His greatness! We praise Him, who has given us privilege to be part of His work and who by coming near, has blessed and changed so many lives. May He be very bear to you all!!



More picutres: <http://www.avatudpiibel.ee/galerii>