



Remarkably big part of SU Estonia's work is done with the help of nearly hundred volunteers. In the beginning of new year, we never know how many volunteers we will have for any activity and how much they are willing to dedicate their time. Also the tradition of volunteering in Estonia is not that strong as people are used to in western countries. So we can only pray and trust that God will call and send enough people at the right time. And so far He has done that faithfully!

VOLUNTEERS

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Therefore during autumn and winter time our focus is strongly at volunteers – training them, meeting in different events, putting together various programs, chilling together, calling new ones etc. Our priority has also been to organize at least one event per year as a retreat for them – where they are served and can chill without having any responsibilities. In **September 2007** this happened as **a weekend** in a very special boggy area called **Soomaa**. It turned out to be exciting time – first time 2 teams, one the camp team (older and bigger) , the other much younger team of Fellowship of the White Rose – met and shared their dreams and

experiences together. And there was also third team – the “older wise men” from the board – who had long time wished to really meet those many youngsters who carried most of our SU programs. The agenda of those days were first and foremost – freedom in all we felt we'd like to do! Not to be bound with any schedules, responsibilities, performing etc. So we had plenty of time to sing, pray, share, have all kinds of fun, learn first aid, walk in the big bog, swim, eat etc. It was truly moving to hear young people share – why have they become SU volunteers and what have they experienced in this work. A call from God, wish to do something for others, learning new things and trying oneself in new areas – were some mentioned. For many the highlight has been experiencing God's guidance in many real and challenging situations, and total dependency of Him. And of course God's calling to come and serve. Young volunteers found the board members quite “OK”, who for the evening sat down at the floor among others and shared their journey with SU.



BIBLREADING CAMP

BRC

Started again **in December** with Christmas chill. Lots of happy hugs were exchanged while youngsters from different parts of Estonia met, some had come down even from Spain! And of course – we started with prayer and worship, best way to celebrate our Lord. Also a new structure of making camps was introduced – one which is giving new young leaders much more responsibility and room for initiative. We truly enjoyed the fellowship, ending the evening watching film “Indescribable” – a powerful message that stayed with us for a long time. Seminars in **February** and **March** were full of intensive work and brainstorming, centered around the Bible message we felt God wants us to pass on this summer. Our joy has been over many newcomers to the team - almost 1/3! - most being former campers who now want to give their share.



In **October** FWR gathered together to FWR Autumn Day, for during summer they have mostly communicated via email. It was day full of fun – with games in Tallinn Old Town, running around, having tea and interesting conversation about young people and FWR. Everybody said they want another such day to come soon. From **November till January** FWR was busy training the second group of facilitators. Out of dozen young people we got 9 new members to the team who described the training as highly motivating and professional. Very soon they all had to try out in practice all they had learned. From the end of **January** 2 teams started programs at **SOS children's village** and **SOS youth centre** – both homes for children and youth who can't have their own home. Majority of those kids have painful background and many of them have seen more of life's darker side, than the young facilitators. And this makes the challenge even bigger. The programs are ending in March, but already 2 other have started to run in schools and there are other schools

There are more volunteers and in the next issue we'd like to introduce to you the ones in prayer team, BR materials internet team, radio work...But right now we just want to praise God for everyone supporting us – with skills, time, finances, prayers. We wish you all true joy in the risen Christ!

We thank every supporter from our hearts!

You can join in, supporting us by:

Praying for us, joining as volunteer and by giving:

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waiting their turn. It has been struggle – for the facilitators to find time and prepare themselves to go out every week; for project leaders to organize logistics, share the one laptop and data projector and keep up the team spirit. There have been attacks and setbacks spiritually, and amazing prayer answers.

Argo: "Facilitators are really pleased, for students have come along, listening well and experience the facilitators are getting is unique. Yes, we wish for more facilitators, but we also rejoice over each and everyone we have, because their lack in numbers is balanced by dedication and developing skills. As there is no similar project in Estonia we will not be out of work for a long time."

Hanna: "Last 6 months have been intensive development time for FWR. Especially in situations when the orphanage kids tell you about things you've never seen or experienced. Then the only thing to do is trust God and share what you have. Accept the critics, but concentrate passing on the message. And I believe one of the biggest things we've learned is to do that. We are still changing the materials according to the feedback from all events, but we can clearly see and hear from facilitators, that more important and influential than good material, are the relationships created during the programs."

Both project leaders have got additional trainings and a cartoon artist **Elina Sildre** have given us help with visual materials. We have also started cooperating with another Christian youth organization Freedom: Youth Movement. We are still looking around for short and fitting video clips as well as writing projects for financial support.