## SU Estonia





We should really call the PLL (Bible reading camp) year 2016 "**an explosion**". It all started with a feeling, that God wants to expand the work... Lead by this hunch, the team organised "**An opening fusillade**" - an event, where all were invited who wanted to know more about PLL, join the team, watch videos about camps, worship and pray with us. It was not very crowded evening, but it was a landmark and God was already

preparing "the explosion". And then it started to happen, through all **8 camps**, with growing speed and challenges.





Suddenly we had a certain feeling that we need to do a relationship camp -" Winter wonderland", and already in February, right around the Valentine day there was about 50 people gathered, bringing all the guestions they had struggled with about love and relationships. It was amazing to hear the testimonies and journeys of young married couples and their encouragement, but also the stories of doubts, loneliness and fear of broken relationships. Young people were eager, painfully open and honest asking their questions. To learn about the biblical basics of God's provision and main skills for relationships and see how the fear, that real love, a true and blessed relationship isn't possible any more in this world,... fading. At the last service where we let the Bible speak to us about Love, and God encourage the doubting hearts, one could see how trust in His Word was built up again, mistakes repented and new beginnings made possible.

As the camp seminars were in full swing, another thought started to press in...: There should be a **Horseback riding camp**! What?? And suddenly- there appeared horse-farm owner, who was a christian, but had a non-christian horse team and who had prayed for years to start christian riding camps!.What a challenge - 2 teams: horse team (non believers) and camp team (believers,); horses and 22 children together, that was an explosive mixture! This was truly place where several (new and rather young) leaders had to do things they had never even thought they would do. Where children did not pray only for themselves and loved ones, but even more for their horses; how several very dangerous moments were kept safe probably by angels; how there was always enough food and good weather, how a network of

christian horseback riders was born; how lives and hearts were changed in God's presence. We remember especially 2 "trouble kids" who were sent to camp by their church in hope, that something would influence them to behave better. They got very "influenced" indeed, gave their hearts to God (among many others) and are now active volunteers back in their home church!

In the beginning of the year, there was clear need for a **printed leaflet of a prayer**, our team had started to pray already last year in growing numbers. It was called "**Battle gear**" and based on Ephesians 6:10-18. Praying daily through it as an act of obedience and submission to Christ, the person "renewed his/her mind" and almost literally "put on" his/her spiritual battle gear - and doing this made always

## life for me; of standing up to th and not giving any ground to evil Eph 6

Shield of faith In the name of Jesus I lift up the shield of faith against every flaming arrow of the evil one. Faith that is the substance of things unseen, and the evidence of things hoped for. Lord, I thank You that the righteous shall live by stat.

## word of the Spirit

I take up the sword of the Spirit that is the living Word of the Lord. His spoken Word and written Word, that is sharper than any earthly weapon, able to review, erstain, retailate and recreate by the power of the Spirit. Lord. I thank You that Your Word never returns empty, but will accomplish and achieve the purpose in every matter for which it was ent. the 55316-11





Battle gear Eph 6:10-18

## Helmet of salvation

I take captive every thought, word and action to be obedient to Christ, as well as my old nature, that has been stripped of its power over my flesh by a circumcision, not done by human hands, but by the Messiah in my heart, and I will put the Messiah in my heart, and I will put the Messiah in my heart, and I will put the Messiah in my heart, and I will put the Messiah in my heart, and I will put the Messiah in my heart, and I will put the Messiah in my heart, and I will not be put to share.

Breastplate of righteousness lask Your forgiveness for any offense I have committed against You, by thought, word or action (or lack thereof) knowingly or unknowingly, and ask that the precious a real and significant difference in the day. And as more and more young people mentioned that in their testimonies in different churhes, the churces started to order these from SU office. And so many more were helped and blessed by this! Little did we know, how badly we needed to fine this skill in the battles waiting us in summer!

Even before the summer could begin, we already had experienced a big loss in our ranks - 2 main leaders had to leave their posts, due to unresolved personal issues. This left us with gaping holes in leadership and meant extra workload to the team and SU's national leader. In addition to that, the team unity was under special attack throught the camping season. Strong, effective pairs, who had never had troubles before, suddenly were unable to trust or work together, were confused about lingering talks, discouraged by the enemy; strange inside groupings appeared and opposed one another. We needed all the strength and humility, to decide to still love and trust each other, to ask forgiveness and let go of personal agendas, we needed to repent repeatedly until the peace and unity was established again. This was very subtle, confusing, and took a lot of energy. But even this did not stop the explosion.

More than **350 young people** passed through the next, our main 4 camps (2 children camps, a youthcamp and Dedication camp) from June - to August. Three of the camps were overbooked, though there was none extra advertisement effort. In camps - God wanted us to



teach the basics of personal faith; to give the children the ability to notice in His principles that are working in daily life and given us in Bible stories. Children who came to camp found



themselves in the middle of the secret and complicated

"spy-system" and then discovered they were also "spies", with tasks to save and help others....for God. "**My Daddy is Boss**" was the name of the program and every child got their personal agent liscence after passing the tests.

"God's hidden wisdom" was the theme of the youth camp - how to find it in young peoples own lives, how to seek it, how to appply it, why does it make the difference, how to battle your fears, ingorance, doubts. From the very first day the young people's thirst for God was so tangible and obivous, that some of the fun activities were skipped in order to serve these youngsters in their need. It became quite "normal" that while the program was on at the stage - at the same time in some corner a team member was praying with a young person, who could not wait until the end any more. When our guest speaker started to tell the simple, but powerful message of God's salvation, but in rather old fashioned way - most of the team was afraid that this was too "dry food" for the campers - yet the opposite happened and God's Kingdom got several new "babies" this evening.

Another "common" thing was that young people randomly grouped on their own initiative to pray for each other, not even asking the team leaders help. There was a very special 13-14 year old boys team - whose biggest treat was to help in kitchen chores! They were super - effective and handed in their request to serve next year in the kitchen as part of the camp team! One of the biggest thrills was to follow how the 2 camp leaders - Hanna and Andreas (both first time leading and very different) operated as a team. In 2015 Dedication camp Andreas had got a message from God, that He wants him to lead the youth camp in 2016. Andreas himself had several issues and battles in his life and sometimes he wasn't even sure - he will proceed as a christian. Yet - this serious calling from God, made him participate in seminars, inspite of his personal troubles, and for the first time give himself fully to the work...In spite of all this he still tried to quit right before the camp - and it was a miracle he finally came to fill his role. But the best was to see how God blessed him and the camp through him!

There are so many stories to tell - about the newcomers from Fusion camp - highschool students who had never heard about God, but who got really near to Him; about the big game, where we discovered that many teenagers did not understand the concept of the holiness of God and felt

really embarrassed getting one to one with "Him" during the game; where they had to go through the experience of "birth" and "death" almost literally - cutting all their well made plans; about the social theatre performances where suddenly we all were "in the play"



and testing our motives. And the letters and feedback from parents - like about one young man, whom God really touched in the camp and who after 2 weeks got baptised in his home church! The explosion continued in **Dedication camp.** Usually this is smaller camp for young adults and possible new team members this year God expanded it in numbers and into the camp for different teams. Instead of our "traditional way" God wanted us to serve and pass on what our team had learned - to other teams from other ministries or different churches all over Estonia. So, once again the number of the campers exploded and the place we had picked became too small and then we really thanked God for the big tent He had given us last year! The synergy, and serving one antoher, the daily "downloads" from God right into our program and making it a perfect whole; all the different ways searching the Bible; the baptisms in the stormy morning sea, the non christian cook who almost became a christian, the miracle of having enough food and the spiritual gifts operating through growing numbers of teams it is just a small glimpse of these days. And it was very special to discover how we as different teams can support each other. We didn't mind the rain, or that the sewage system almost broke down, or the babies in the camp.... God was in the midst of us - Immanuel,

and took us deeper and higher in His love and all the teams went home confirmed in their calling and encouraged to start the new season.



There is no room to speak about the **Team camp** (in Septmeber) - a special celebration to God there and a Bible marathon we tried for the very first time; but we have to mention the **training trip of 14 leaders** from our core team **to Croatia**, made possible by **SU Croatia** and **Leadership Lab International** in the end of October. We went with hope to become more united and effective as a team, and learn new skills. But God.... used Steve Meeker and his team in amazing ways to really stretch us and give us so much more! It was like a camp made for us - all 5 days - one task, challenge or game after another - every one of them

revealing some truth about our

team, its strenghts and weaknesses. And of course, we exploded there was well - individually, experiencing our limits, as a group - seeing we needed new ways of operating, spiritually - once again amazed by God's truths in the Scriptures. The place, the people, the fellowship and the blessing through challenge - all soaked with love and caring - this changed us all, also as a team and it is far from being finished yet! Several of us needed a miracle (financially, getting free from work) to get there; and there were miracles happening as we travelled. But the first fruits of this trip are already showing in different ways the core team is operating; some leaders are going



back to more thourough training and we experience weekly a continued support from Steve and his team!

The end of this "exploding" camp-year is almost at hand... and God has enlarged our "tent" in so many ways! His latest "explosion" was this: instead of having bible and prayer night once every week (as the team has been doing non-stop for last 2,5 years) - team members gather now 3 (!!) times every week (one night just to worship)!! The hunger, the thirst for God has exploded as well!!

In numbers: through 8 camps, close to 400 children and young people were served this year in the camps, together with teams, 526 young people particiapted. We spent 15089 € just for camps (preparation costs not included), plus € 3653 for the teamtraining. Close to 60 team members grew into better leadership, deeper into the Word and relationship with God!! God has equipped us with food, means and funds, just when we needed. We want to thank every donor and supporter, every person who have prayed; SU Europe and Greatwood fund; SU Finland; T-Tammer OÜ; Tabitha Mission; BDP Estonia OÜ; Veski Mati (Balti Veski AS) and others!

We are amazed and humbled at His feet, and love Him so much!

Mari Vahermägi national leader