



Dear friend,

Some years are different than others and in 2010 for SU Estonia /APÜ the special trait was intensity of events up to Christmas time. This is one the reason our newsletter has been so late, but we try to make it up. So, prepare yourself for a longer version this time.



Some events from the 1 Quarter: The year began with 8 camp team members participating in **international youth camp in Rougemont**, hosted by SU Switzerland. They came back inspired motivated, excited and ready to give more to local work.

Then followed **2 seminars** for united camp teams locally and our joy was to include several new members to the team.

In February the first BR camp was held **for adults** – a tradition that's forming from cooperation over the years with the worship choir of the biggest, St Olaf's church in Tallinn.

Preparations of several big events filled the springtime; the last camp seminar was held in April, from then on each team worked on their own trying to follow and implement the guidance got in prayer during previous seminars. Alongside a smaller team was working with preparation of sites, finances, management and program details – here my joy was to have **Signe Laur and Marii Reimann** as helpers and future leaders beside me. Without their time and dedication preparations would have not been completed.



Children camp

With a heading; **"Are you comin..?"** children were invited to join in the personal faith journey. The camp was held on western coast of Estonia in Pullapää, Nõmme 28.06-2.07.

We were thankful to use the local Lutheran church campsite – which was not ready built, but gave enough shelter and also privacy as well as variety of natural surroundings.

I am looking at a big paper cross the office wall, covered with different colored fingerprints, each of them marking a child who yearned to get "hot" for God (not just go to church), who came forward and was touched by Him. We had children who first time heard about God, those who decided not to go public, but made their decision to follow silently in heart and we learned about it later. Also those who thought God doesn't have anything to give them, but discovered the opposite – so those marks on the cross are just part of the picture.

What it means to be on the faith journey was discussed in bible groups, one of them held in English, lead by our foreign guest this year **David Wright from SU French speaking Switzerland**. David met our team in Rougemont, and coming to Estonia was really worried about the language problem – but there was no problem! Instead those oldest boys in his group had amazingly good fellowship. David was also one of the organizers of the Big Game, where children had to apply everything learned about faith journey, but also use all their courage, battle skills and team spirit. David said this camp gave him possibility to grow in faith, he was especially thrilled by the traditional 1:1 mentor time each day—which turned to be "saving straws" to several children.

There was **so much amazing** going around for us all: like seeing 12 old boy, leading a workshop attended by the team leaders; speak with a 11 year old redhead, who carries along a big altar size Bible, loves it and spends most of the free time with it, and tells he is at present reading books of Apocrypha, who knows better his Bible than many adults; getting back joyful and happy 13 year old, who

threatened to run away from the camp; seeing 6 year old sharing how God speaks to him and that what happened if he had not listened to Him. Most amazing for me was experiencing the love of God, holy and powerful, mightily approaching children every meeting, yet holding back until children themselves opened and invited Him in. No wonder several parents reported later about “changed” children, spiritually newborn, also about the secular neighbors who insisted of sending their children to camp next year.



Youth camp

This was the very first camp held on **our own campsite** in the woods of Nõva. My big prayer was that all those 60 and more youngsters would “own” this campsite as theirs, though nothing has been built on it yet.

We were using Nõva school as basis, local historical wooden church as our worship place, but most of the time apart from Bible lessons we were on “our campsite”.

It is a miracle that such a large group of youngsters, “armed” with 2 chainsaws, more than 15 axes, saws, knives etc, all came out unharmed each day; that in spite of gruelling heat and hordes of insects on them – they were able to cut down tens and tens of trees, **built a “prayer place”, way to the water, clean big part of the river**, and build an earth closet. Enn Laansoo, leading the work, was very much impressed by the great leadership and efficiency of small teams, as well as dedication of the young people. It seemed they were really building with an idea of making it their own and already spoke about coming back there soon.

The theme of this camp was **“Third!”** – pointing to our goal to learn what Bible teaches about the third person of Trinity. In the first day we learned of Jesus as our cornerstone and also buried a **cornerstone** to the site, **under the cross**.

The **big team game** of this camp included bicycles, radio transmitters, maps and GPS’s as aids to all groups, scattered on 10km² around the forest and beach. It was a **team training challenge**, that many big corporations have not been able to complete, and our trainer was testing the differences between the behaviour of Christian and secular teams in the conditions of high pressure. It occurred the behaviour pattern of Christians is different - in the situation where after 5 extreme hours of seemingly failed communication, unfruitful attempts of solving the location and code of treasure, 5 minutes before the deadline time, where everybody else had been giving up – Christians had the courage to risk with everything, praying and counting upon the help from God. And we did it! We got the treasure and amazed the professional game leader.

We were not so victorious on mentor times – several serious addiction cases came up, testimonies of brokenness that forced us to our knees. I still see the picture of the last **service in Nõva church** – packed with youth and their parents. One after another they voluntarily came to the microphone to testify how God had healed, restored and his love become real to them –physically, spiritually; I see some “translating” to their parents what is happening in the church, for parents are first time “in”; I remember youngster who knew nothing of God, saying out loud: “ And you know, if you have any problems, **I strongly suggest prayer** – cause this God really hears...” I remember how singing and praying went on and on, for it was so good to praise Lord! I remember thanking God in tears, feeling the spring full of preparations was worth it all!



Our **General Assembly** took place early summer, in June 12, first time in our campsite. Because of the distance from Tallinn – our numbers were smaller, but we were joined by local prayer group who had prayed for our camp centre for years there. After meetings, where **new chairman Lauri Beekmann** (from advent church) was appointed, leaving **Enn Laansoo to lead the campsite development**; we all went to the site, cleaned some of it, **put up a cross, planted a briar bush** (cause the name of the site / centre is "Briar") and in united prayer **blessed the site** and work that will be done on it.

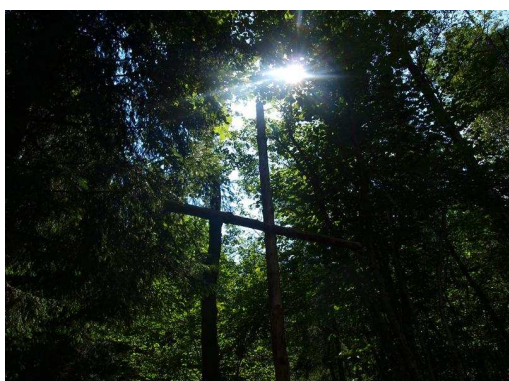


KidsGames, the **very first in Estonia**, initiated by SU and in **cooperation** with **local CEF** and **Baptist children centre**, in the end of August was the big finish to summer events. It was held in **Tartu** – the second town in size in Estonia and we were very happy to have **cooperation of 7 local churches**. **Jakob Rimmel** and **Risto Nigol** as program leaders did a really great job, as well as **team** of more than **45 people**. Every day of the event's 4 – **around 140 children** were present, in spite of rather hard spills of rain. We were surprised by daily **increasing number of Russian speaking children** – and in the end run out of team leaders who could speak Russian.

Local people from surrounding block houses were first very suspicious about the big tent, Christian music etc.

But already on 3rd night some came to offer food and company to tent guards and several adults sneaked in during days to listen to the program. **Children, 90% secular**, who didn't think/know much about church or faith, were truly excited about this kind of **"doing church"** – though they themselves never recognised it as churchgoing.

We pray their way on to local Sunday schools will result in deeper relationships. Many of them asked would we come back- next week, month, year...We pray this could be only start, through which other churches would be encouraged to use this excellent "bridge" in their local communities.



The main chain of big events was ended in **October**, by **dedication camp for all SU volunteers** in all projects. The **message** that came through various speakers was a **serious** one, focusing on **cleansing** and **clearing issues in our relationship** with God, as well as stressing the readiness for spiritual warfare and the mightiness of our God. Very special was

the **pilgrimage** on the local nature track, prepared by young people themselves.

The common "miracles" of all events mentioned, were **prayer answers** concerning human resources, equipment, food, finances, ideas, energy and people who would help us in their prayers. Always – we had the exact amount needed of something waiting on the way, exactly when we needed whether it was cooks, or extra food, facilities to use etc. Just one of them: Greatwood support for camps – that enabled several children and young people to take part in our camps – who without it were not financially able to come.



There are several news from the former **Fellowship of the White Rose** – now separate organisation called **SEOS** (meaning Your Life You Decide). We hope soon to present also a new homepage – www.seosonline.ee. The team as well as the main program has been renewed, SEOS has its own home / office now Vineyard church; Mari Metsamaa (

Mari Tambek) has reduced her working time **project leader** with 100% has really been a **Anthony Jessop from UK**, a young man from God to come to Estonia and work with for service and has established good network youth. In his report of SEOS from September following:



under the wings of Tallinn the former project leader married in summer and now to 25%, but our next **new** prayer answer. Welcome who years ago felt a call young people; has a heart and contacts with local to December Ant says

"SEOS September – December 2010

In the first four months of the academic year, we have been busy forming the new organisation, recruiting volunteers, reviewing, updating and creating resources and finally, actually speaking with young people!

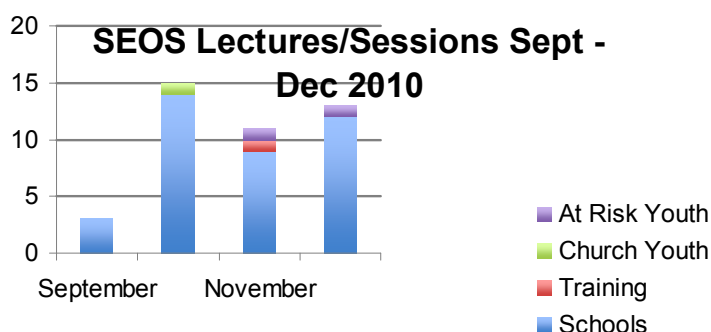
We are currently working on becoming more integrated with the Estonian school curriculum, which will give us more credibility and also make us more useful to the schools. We are also in need of more volunteers, so recruiting has been a high priority. We already have three people wanting to join the team, which is great news.

Regarding lectures, since SEOS launched in September 2010, we have done:

- 42 x Lectures/Sessions - 1132 participants

This breaks down as follows:

- 38 x Schools Lectures – 1058 Students (6 of these lectures are yet to be done in December so the number of students will increase)
- 2 x Youth Work – 14 'at risk' Young people
- 1 x Children's Workers' Training – 20
- 1 x Church Youth – 40



It's encouraging that, other than at the start of the academic year, the numbers have been reasonably steady. Many of the schools that we are involved with are asking us to increase the frequency of our visits and are also recommending us to other schools in the area. It is also interesting to see the effect that our work is having, not just on the students, but the teachers and youth workers as well! Many are seeing how their lifestyles are destructive and are understanding the scale of the problems associated with the issues we cover (currently addiction, self-image and sex and relationships). Our hope and prayer is that people will find that Jesus is the answer they are looking for. We are always looking for

opportunities to share this and we appreciate your prayers as we look to take biblical principles into the world.

2011 is already looking like an exciting year. We will be working regularly with the Tallinn City Centre Youth Centre from January, taking a less formal but more long-term approach. This will mean spending time with the young people there on a weekly basis. If it goes well, we could have an opportunity to work in all of the youth centres in Tallinn.

In February, we will 'officially' re-launch as SEOS, where the whole team will get together and we will present the new resources and lessons plans. We also hope to get some of our supporters and partners together to pray with us. Later in the year we hope to launch new topics such as bullying and a dedicated alcohol topic.

The future looks very exciting and your continued support is a real blessing."



News come also from our **prayer team**: the **leader** of it for many years, **Marit Jõe** – has moved to work and live in Raahe, **Finland**. God has guided her through series of amazing prayer answers and we are sure she will be His tool also there. Thank God for everything Marit has done! But our **prayer team needs encouragement, new leader** and also increase of numbers for the challenges in this work.



Some news are more serious. Inside the big team of **authors of radio notes** as well as the **translators of internet notes** there are warning signs of **exhaustion and tiredness**. It is harder and harder to find new volunteers for these tasks, and several of those who promise to come then cancel in the last minute – leaving "holes" to programs. It might be a sign that we need renewal of the format, but certainly we need new solutions emerging from prayers.

The **publishing of Sunday school materials** in our homepage **has been put on hold** – because of the lack of people. And this is truly regrettable, for we have lots of "raw, translated" material, but nobody to work with it and churches are still asking for new materials.

Because of the sudden death, my son, Jonatan, in October the flow of tasks and events in SU work was cut through. Since then I have not been able to operate within usual plan or pace. One of the forced outcomes in November was **giving over camp work to the core team of young leaders** – all of them volunteers. I have followed with fear and prayers – whether it means the end of this work, but thank God this group has taken over with zeal and energy, organized the first seminar, thrown in several new ideas. They have surprised me so much! But there is long way till the actual camps, they are all very busy in studies, new families, in their churches and at present nobody is leading them – though I'm here advising. So I ask your **prayers in this new development; for protection, for inspiration, for blessing, for growing into wider and more capable and mission orientated camp work; and for key people to be joining and rooted in.**



Because of this "cut", a personal need to take a sabbatical period has emerged. It still needs a miracle to happen in a way that will not hinder SU work, and therefore more prayer support.

I want to thank every person and organisation, SU movement and friend who have so firmly and faithfully supported in prayers and with finances, yes, helped to carry us through challenges during this intensive, yet so blessed year!! God has been mightily with us and may He be with you the same way!

With heart full of thanksgiving; Mari Vahermägi