



# NEWSLETTER 2011



**“Do you know what I discovered: THE BIBLE IS A TOTALLY LIVING WORD - EVERYTHING THERE IS FOR US - FOR YOU AND ME!!!”**

(an extract from a discussion by one of many sharing groups created in Facebook by SU campers after camp)

**Dear friends,**

This newsletter will be a **camp-extra** and I wish I had room for all the stories that happened with us.

### **My heart overflows when I think back to camps 2011.**

The start was in fear and very much acknowledging our weakness. In November 2010 I wrote a letter to our camp leaders team, that due to my sabbatical and grieving period, I am giving the camp work totally to their hands, for I am unable to carry this forward. I was not sure whether the camps would continue, but I was at my resources end. But the team had no such question. They

picked it up and started from the best place - **from prayer**. And not only praying in seminars, but they started regular weekly prayermeetings where they asked God to reveal His will concerning the future, the camp themes, the volunteers, even the dates! Those meetings are continuing also this fall. I have to emphasize this - for I believe this was one major factor that the whole camp work almost like exploded into **several new initiatives**.

In advertising they added to posters and flyers also video and audio ads and created their own homepage - [www.pll.ee](http://www.pll.ee) . Instead of doing less and smaller - they added one more camp (to age 16+). They staged plays and wrote music/ stories and created 7 new games, recorded interviews...And 3 young volunteers risked (in faith) to step forward to carry first time the whole responsibility of the main leader.



## “.....it was not so much skillful leadership as listening to the Spirit and obeying Him.....”

In April 2011 I was asked to join the seminar in order to “officially” bless the new leaders, the core group that had to carry full weight of the preparation work on voluntary basis. **Blessing each** of the 10 members of this core group was holy and moving moment - for during prayer I recognized in my spirit several gifts God had already given to them for this work.

When the camps started it was obvious God had heard our prayers. The young leaders moved in anointing that surprised them and myself and it was not so much skillful leadership as listening to the Spirit and obeying Him, that made the difference.

For me this was the first time to be ordinary team-member - a role, that did not come easily, though other team members said I was much more relaxed and fun to be around than in the days I was the leader :). My official name was “ **camp-grandmother**” and besides supporting and counselling the leaders, I took care of the team and had to be ready to fill in any “gaps” in the program or management- up to cooking.

One of the first big surprises for me personally was to experience that the “**anointing had moved on**”. For years leading the camps I had experienced how God gave the right ideas, words, prayers, solutions, decisions just in time. It was all ready in heavenly realm and I had access to that. Sometimes it meant that prepared events changed on spot - but I knew that this heavenly guidance was always there. This summer - that line was not working for me! I had “anointing” for camp granny role - full measure! But when it came down to leading the team or making decisions - I was like in the wrong game. It was totally alarming! No matter how hard I analyzed, prepared or searched or prayed - no 100% answers. And then comes one of the leaders, half sleeping during morning teamprayer - and gives just the scripture team needed, or says exactly the words that encouraged, or made the best

decisions on spot. “What is wrong with me??” was my problem through the first days. Until I understood - the anointing had really moved, God is giving those things now to the new leaders and I have to learn to operate in a completely new role and settings.

### YOUTH CAMP

The topic and texts chosen by camp team for youth camp was from **Hosea**. “**All or nothing**” was the challenge God gave to His people - and our team passed on to campers. You can see the posters and introductory video at <http://www.pll.ee/noorte>

The subtheme was sexuality and relations between young people, offering them a place to freely ask their questions and get answers based on Bible. There was real threat that issue of **sexuality** with teenagers will overtake **dedication** to God, but this **balance was amazingly maintained** - God and His love ruled over every other theme.

Our activities ranged from simple sports and orientation to several big games including nighttime storm, darkness, horses and torches. They really experienced what could happen if one gives in to temptation and how can you get back from the place where you think everything has been lost.

**God broke through** powerfully during our evening worship times, youngsters just started to weep and repent, fall to their knees, cried and rejoiced in the Lord. Team members were “lead” from one to another, praying with them, helping them, exercising their spiritual gifts the way that was needed. Some couldn’t wait until leaders got to them - they started to pray for each other, nobody was ashamed of their tears, but eager for their friends to get the same blessing.

Over the lake there was held a big rock concert and its sound threatened to “kill” our worship, but somehow all this noise disappeared the moment you stepped inside the

big tent, leaving God into the centre of attention.

The abundant feedback from parents told the same: they got back their children totally changed. But those kids were continuously so hungry for God that using Facebook, they organized the next meeting totally on their own in a month- they wanted more God! And the next event is on the way.

### CHILDREN CAMP

The theme for children camp was **worshipping God** in various ways and its meaning (according to **Psalm 105**). And we expected the same fluent flow, but **encountered the opposite**.

This team was a bit fragmented, also the spiritual battle on the site was much stronger - the weather was extreme, there were several difficult children, one dangerous accident, thefts, conflicts in kitchen, broke down of musical equipment, and a busful of drunk visitors at the same time on the site . One had to fight constantly to get to the right atmosphere, and kids reacted to everything. Instead of being camp granny I had to play church police. First time in this camp, the team was **forced to their knees** on the third day - they were so exhausted that did not want to deal with any child or situation anymore. We called backup help in prayers and in persons - and God directed us step by step to solutions and finally

**to breakthrough:** during the last days about 50 children out of 60 was kneeling at the altar, refusing to leave, repenting, pouring out their hearts to God and needing help in making their decision for God. **Almost every child made some kind of decision towards God**. It was stunning, humbling, awesome picture. And how they worshipped!

What do you say to a young boy who can’t stand still, says that he feels he is so **full of praise**, that he is exploding, that he wants to shout towards God in praise, but there is not enough voice in him...?

Or can you hold back girls who are **overflowing** to extent they just have to dance through the church? We were almost able to touch the great love, our God has for these little ones; Jesus' words: "let the little ones come to me..." got the whole new meaning.

### DEDICATION CAMP (16+)

This **hunger** and God meeting it just **grew** through the next camps. In the third and **pilot** one for 16+ the theme was "**The Story of God**" - where we went through the whole Bible story by telling (not reading) it and discussing the questions raised. This camp was also called "dedication camp" for one of its goals was to **prepare future team** members on their journey and spiritual growing.

Longing to meet God was expressed in young adults' **hunger for the Word**. Even in leisure times you could find them scrolling their phones or reading their Bibles to make sure what Bible really says on various themes. This time effort was made not to make difference between team and campers - we were like one family and it was opening many hearts. Everybody who wanted was invited to serve others and those who came messed up and fearing the rest of the crowd, could have the privacy they wanted. The campsite had a very special atmosphere experienced by all: peace and closeness of God - it was an old farm house near the western coast of Estonia where people had prayed and served God for centuries and from where the first awakening in 1900 was started.

### GOD IS LEADING THEM DEEPER, GIVING SOLUTIONS RIGHT ON TIME.

As in previous camps, the same **outpouring of love** captured the team and campers from the very first day. The surprise was unexpected **spiritual attack** on the last evening towards many. It was manifested in pressing need to withdraw from the rest and unexplained fear that followed, mixed with oppression and hopelessness. "Take it away from me! I can't get rid of it!" was the cry of one girl who rushed in from the darkness outside. What followed could be called "**battle training**". One by one the same tactic of evil with several campers was disclosed and once this was exposed, we joined in prayer to stand against it until it left. Freedom, joy and praise that followed flowed into tearful prayers for the revival in our country.

Though Mattias introduced a **new leading pattern** - much closer to subsidiary model and fitting well with this age group (it also confused the team big time), he also confesses discovering that sometimes it is rather nice to tell others what to do; and that he got encouraged to lead more in the future.



## LEEVI

LEADER OF YOUTH CAMP SHARES:

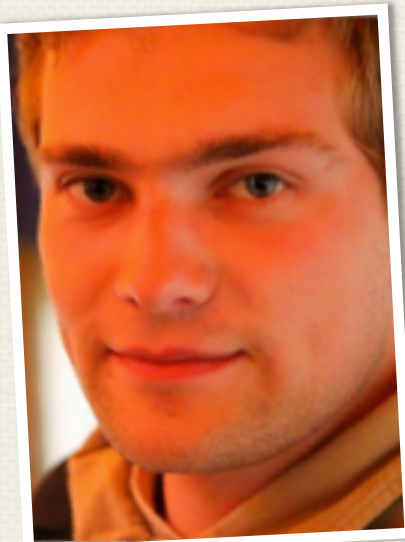
It was amazing, I have not experienced God directing me so clearly as during the camp days! At some point the stress and tension was really big but somehow I was given extra power to keep going. I am thrilled about the team - so motivated, attentive and dedicated, though 30% were newcomers. And they keep sending me messages how all the themes and Bible texts we worked with - still keep opening to them, how God is leading them deeper, giving solutions right on time.



## MARIA

CHILDREN CAMP LEADER SAYS:

This was the most difficult spiritual battle in my life. But we won!! Already in April God showed me like "clips" from the events in that camp, telling me what should be said, a movie we should use, how to handle the issue of worship. I knew He had a plan and He was going to break through but I never thought there would be such a resistance.



## MATTIAS

THE LEADER OF 16+ CAMP:

It was a surprise that the camp took such a shape. Yes, we planned long periods to be with God, but one can not guarantee what will really happen. The hunger of campers for God was amazing - Bible lessons went constantly overtime. The best compliment I received came from young guy sharing his joy, that there was no division between leaders and campers, instead we were all at the same level.

# God has come near... and it is awesome!

Our season ended in September with the traditional

## TEAMCAMP

...and yes, you guessed it: all the teams came **even more hungry for God**. There was **no program**, we did not need any extra activities. Most of the time we just shared, worshipped, waited for God, prayed, served each other in prayer as the Spirit lead us and though many weeks have passed, we are still all **overjoyed**.

You should see the **FB discussions** - campers and teams have opened fellowship groups on their own initiative, they cite and rejoice daily over Bible verses that have opened to them, they encourage each other, testify to their friends at school, share what God' is doing to them, they are totally stunned

about the love that has filled them and they pray for their country and friends...

My heart is constantly overflowing when I am among them, my soul is singing even at nighttime. What is it? The only answer I know is: God has come near....and it is awesome. I don't know what God is planning here for next, but I am convinced that He has selected young generation because of their sincerity, pure dedication and honest seeking and He has started to move in their hearts, preparing them. Those youngsters have no other agenda burning so, than to get closer to God. And God answers to this kind of yearning.

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(national leader SU Estonia)

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**Thank you all for supporting us, for carrying us in your prayers - God knows how big part of the blessing this has been! We were given all we needed: protection from harm, cooks when we had none, transport when the car broke down, finances for those 20 who were not able to pay the full camp fee. God did provide.**

**AND PLEASE PRAY THAT THE "FIRE" STARTED HERE WOULD GROW, THAT THIS COUNTRY - TAGGED AS THE MOST SECULAR IN THE WORLD, WOULD BE FILLED WITH THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF MOST HIGH GOD.**

