



Avatud Piibli Ühing

Scripture Union Estonia

Newsletter 2012

Year 2012 was special, year of jubilees for SU Estonia. We celebrated 20 years of SU work in Estonia and 10 years of campwork. I had thought long and hard how to make celebrations really joyful and festive, having really small resources for that, but God's generosity surprised us even before the year started.

Surprises from God

In the end of 2011 I received the message, that SU Finland wishes to bless our campwork with a gift and immediately it was clear that finally we will use it to solve our long lasted problem of music equipment. So far we had loaned everything from different churches and individuals, but as the number of camp events grew it was becoming very difficult.



Our music team researched for couple of months to put together basic, but durable package with best price. It was one ever memorable evening in June when we felt like children on Christmas Morning, opening different boxes and packages from Musikhaus Thomann. Joy and sounds of worship has filled rooms, tents, halls- even stadium and hearts, inviting hundreds to raise their voice in praise and worship. This gift has brought blessing to us and others in more ways than expected and therefore the worship team felt called to organise in the end of last year 2 worship and prayer services under title of "Meeting place", for everybody. We have learned: many breakthroughs are stopped because people don't praise. And **we do have God, who is so worthy of praise!!**

In November 2011 it was high time to sell SU's old car and though not in very good condition, the sales was done within first week already! We praised God for this and continued to pray for the new one. But the message given was: "Wait". I waited till the end of the year, then January 2012, February; in March it was getting tough for one event after another brought this need up continuously. Because estonian market was very small, I had asked around from European movements - but the answer was the same: not possible for so little money. Finally in the end of March our agent called: there is a suitable car in Germany! But when he got there, the car was sold 2 hours ago!! "What is it God...?", "You gave us promise...", was my prayer. Next day the agent calls: another car had just come to the market, but it is 1000 eur above our

possibilities....and he managed to negotiate the price down! If he had not been there at the moment, we would've lost also this car. But God knew, and provided - also with additional funds from ERF and local donors. Every time I sit into the car, or give it out for projects - my heart sings thanks and praise: this has been God's grace, His gift to us!



At camp leaders meeting in January, I felt strongly that the camp team needs deeper and more Bible based teaching about Holy Spirit and serving in spiritual gifts. God had come very near to us in last camps, yet our leaders came from different denominational backgrounds, with sometimes rather confusing ideas, so there was great need for central, solid theological base, if we wanted to follow the guidance of Holy Spirit and serve and teach in truth. Then I remembered **Bob Ekblad**, (from SUI Bible Forum in 2007) who uniquely combines thorough theological training and practical experience in ministering along the lines of charismatic spirituality.



I knew Bob's calendar was full, and we had no funding for anything, but together with SU Latvian leader Anita, we wrote to Bob asking, if he would consider coming and training our teams. Bob answered that he can give 4 days for 2 countries, and encouraged us to trust the Lord about funding. Right after that, SU Sweden blessed us with their gift, which totally covered the funding for our seminars! It is amazing, how things became possible with God! During those 2 days our team was given strong biblical base and got basic training in spiritual warfare and gifts, along with lots of personal encouragement and prayer. And the following summer proved how much we needed every bit of it!

Jubilee Assembly

On May 26th in Swedish-Estonian Church, in Tallinn we held SU Estonia's 20th anniversary festive service and celebrated the 10th anniversary of our camp-work.

New SU Europe secretary, **Monika Kuschmierz** was celebrating with us and almost 60 friends, volunteers and workers had gathered together. After the service we had fellowship meeting where reports about the history as well as current work were heard in thanksgiving. The number of the people that have been involved throughout the years is amazing. We rejoiced with camp team

leaders, SEOS leader, and over greetings from partners. The day continued with

pilgrimage of "Hope" to our campsite in Nõva and fellowship meeting.



Throughout the preparation period I had prayed, that on this day the name of the Lord would be honoured and in the centre of all events, that it all would not be so much about the people, but Him who is doing amazing things in our midst. And He was with us! He was the One who had allowed to start SU in our country, He had called in people, carried, inspired and blessed the work, and His Name was filling many hearts with praise on this day. I love to celebrate like this!



Living Hope

With no additional staff it was challenge to carry out the 1st, Listening Phase, so we distributed the questionnaires to our members via mail and decided to use every

event possible. We discussed hope during our Jubilee festivities Pilgrimage; some people sent back their forms by mail; the biggest "listening" was done in camps.

It was encouraging to see that estonian children and young people were hopeful and their hope for future was so firmly connected to God. But there were also children who couldn't name/draw single good thing in their life, at the same time the list of bad things was extensive. Although there are more than 50 000 children who can't get proper food daily in Estonia, none of the campers were afraid that they can't get the next meal or get desired education. At the same time they worried much about family relations and environmental problems. In the top of their list of bad things were violence, loss of employment, obscene language, hostile relationships and becoming homeless. Most of them felt calling to spread more of the Good News to their friends, but also felt helpless in expressing themselves.

Malaysia gathering was truly inspiring. The proof, that such an extensive reasearch could really work, that listening to God was actually happening not only locally but also around the tables, and the feedback of first results of the wrestling with issues, the presentations we heard - it all gave assurance that there is no reason to loose hope, for SU has ability and will to change and God was speaking to us! There is still much we can do! There was also a lot to take home to process further, share and pray about concerning the next steps locally. The presentations were truly challenging, I loved the worship times, celebrated the young leaders involmment and enjoyed every moment of fellowship! It was encouraging and humbling privilege to be part of it!



Camps

In 2012 more than 250 young people have participated in different camps, including a team about 40 young people of whom many served in every camp.

In December the team marked, that this year there haven't been a single month without one or several camp events happening. The number of team events and trainings has also increased, a new generation is entering the team, and challenges are growing.



We held children camp, teenagers camp, dedication camp, team camp, extreme camp and media training. Also 3 people attended International Youth Leaders training camp in Austria in March and the leaders of this camp visited us for training in December.

If we could call 2011 a year of God's closeness and Love, then **2012 was a year of battletraining and warfare.**

Already during preparation period we received message to organise 2 week 24/7 prayer and fasting watch that included the whole team, right before the first camp. Pretty soon teammates received messages of warnings and encouragement, we were given strategies, specific enemies and attacks were identified, weak areas revealed, Word was given for specific situations etc. Great need for repentance emerged within the team together with very clear guidance in practical steps.

Attacks were there from the very first day: attacks towards team unity, individual faith; young team was attacked with accusations, threats and fear, confusion, desperation, depression, inferiority feelings, old sins, riveting etc. There was constant need of individual prayer support, prayer groups, helping somebody to keep standing firm or break free. It reminded of building the temple during Esra's time -

with weapons in one hand while building with the other.



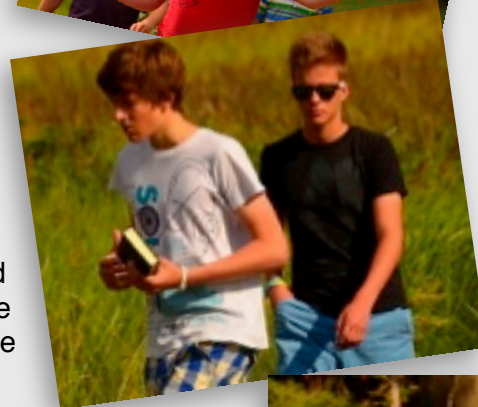
One of the most powerful lessons was learned about the importance of keeping up the unity; identifying and resisting together the enemy.

First time in our history we had 9 year old demon possessed child in the camp; there were direct demonic attacks in many camps; several hidden bindings and painful secrets surfaced. All the teams had to learn to fight for their ability to serve as well as for the children and young people under their care; learn how to practically use spiritual armory (Eph 6) given to us. It was clear BR camps were a threat and we were resisted in all fronts.

But we also saw amazing victories! God's Word, the blood of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit - these were not mere words any more, but a lifeline. So many hearts were set free, lives were given to Jesus, wounds healed, spontaneous prayer groups just formed within the campers, getting deeper into the

Word grew into such hunger, that mealtimes and playtimes were abandoned. All the commentaries, lexicons, and other BR aids were in high demand; worship and prayertimes extended into early morning hours. Holy Spirit transformed hearts and lives, and camps were filled with blessed, worshipping young people who longed more God. God also provided resources - camp places, food, finances, specialists, even boats! And though after every camp we felt we'd given all, we couldn't wait

the next one to begin...





SEOS The year in schoolwork has been very busy, the organisation has become more structured and lecturers more professional. A new homepage was launched (<http://www.seosonline.ee>). Big job was done applying the existing programs to the state curriculum. At present there is

no other organisation in Estonia offering such deeply valuebased behaviour changing program and the demand from schools is still growing.

Cooperation with others have brought good results. **2 big concert tours** through schools in different towns with the band from Scotland have enabled to create out-of-school-events, where the message about Jesus has been freely proclaimed. **As a result 5 alpha courses** have been started with new youngsters, and several have given their lives to God.

From the fall SEOS started to ask small fee for every lecture and though the schools have claimed they have no money, everyone has paid this fee. But finances remain the biggest challenge, there was no money left for salaries in the end of the year; inspite of several applications handed in to local and foreign funds (and many turned down), the future looks grim. **Please pray for the funding and for the possibility to continue this**



Ohter meetings

In February, national **leaders of Nordic movements** were invited to "Hotel Mama", in Oslo, Norway. Subregional coordinator, Jorunn Sjaastad was the host of this very practical meeting about discussing the work in each country. It was much needed time for sharing, discussing, expressing joys and burdens and also getting to know each other better, finding new ways of cooperation and supporting each other.

In March new concept of Publishing Ministry was introduced to those in **Start-up Conference** led by Michael Jahnke, in Marienheide, Germany. For SU Estonia this meant new light and hope in otherwise rather "dark" landscape of publishing possibilities. The possibility to publish Big Bible Challenge and E100; openness to new ideas, help offered in the process, flexibility and scope of possible development - wiped away a lot of discouragement coming from previous experience and being a small movement.

In April it was a joy to be part of **SU Finland's volunteers and staff workers training days**, in Orivesi. It is a big thing to have true fellowship with other movements leaders and board. To tell about the work in Estonia and most of all express the gratitude for the support given to us over the years. The warm welcome, sharing the Word and prayers is giving strength and encouraging in a very unique way. A special joy was to meet Anneli Fanta, the former national leader and prayer partner.

Our latest joy is over the renewed homepage, that fits with any screen and contains now also the archives of our internet notes! Tarmo and Kristjan Lilleoja, thank you!

www.avatudpiibel.ee

(there you can also find detailed bank information)

Our God has been so good! It has been amazing year.

We are deeply indebted to everyone who have been supporting our work in prayers and with funding!

We have been astonished about the generosity and love showered upon our work!

Special thanks to those who have given out of their own limited resources! You have made us rejoice, praise God; encouraged us to trust His providence and keep up the work even when it has seemed hopeless.

We pray we could be of some support and encouragement to you, serving with what has been given to us. May our Lord bless you and fill your needs abundantly according to His nature! May He be your hope, protector and provider in 2013!

Mari Vahermägi