



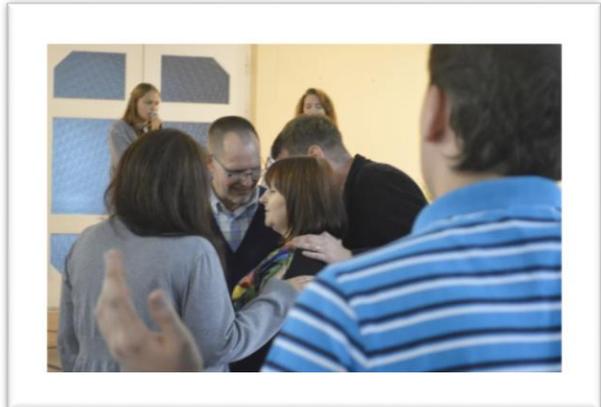
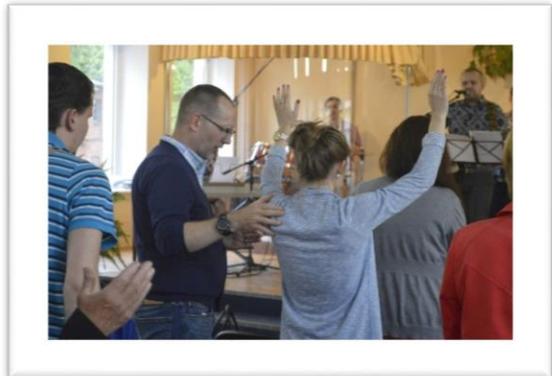
September 18, 2017

Dear Friends and Family,

We've had a very exciting July and August! Here is a quick summary:

WORSHIP SEMINAR IN LIEPAJA

Very shortly after returning from the US, MaryBeth, Amy and I drove to the town of Liepaja where I taught a Worship Seminar at Emmanuel Church. The seminar took place on Friday evening and all day Saturday. It had originally been planned for the members of the church worship team, but many other members of the church attended. We also ministered at their Sunday service.



The Lord encouraged and healed several during our stay in addition to the worship team being taught and instructed in trusting the Holy Spirit to direct and lead them during their services. The pastor gave us the open door to return as our schedule permits.

LIVE TO OVERCOME YOUTH CAMP

As you'll remember from our last newsletter, we had a team coming from the USA to help serve and participate at a summer youth camp in Dobelnieki.

Three adults and five teenagers from our home church in New Jersey arrived on July 20, and spent the next two weeks helping the "Live to Overcome" youth camp. About 100 young people from many different countries came to the camp. For the youth, each day was filled with tent services, activities, and evening prayer and ministry. Our adults served in the kitchen with 4 other ladies from Word of Truth Church, and prepared 3 meals a day plus an evening snack, for 120 plus people, over of the course of 8 straight days.

During the camp, many young people gave their lives to the Lord, received prayer and healing from a variety of things and on the last Sunday, 10 people were water baptized.



Personally, I want to thank the whole team: Christina, Angel, Amanda, MaryBeth – I know you'll remember affectionally your blisters from peeling potatoes! Rebecca, Marissa, Corinne, Ryan, Troy, Amy, and Cole – way to go – a job well done!

HOPE FOR CHILDREN

After the camp, the team was also able to serve at "Hope for Children" in Bolderaja. For one day, we split the team into two groups – one stayed at the Hope for Children facility where they played

and ministered to the children there while the adults prepared them a meal – the other team went to clean the one room flat of woman with six children. It was an eye-opening experience for them.

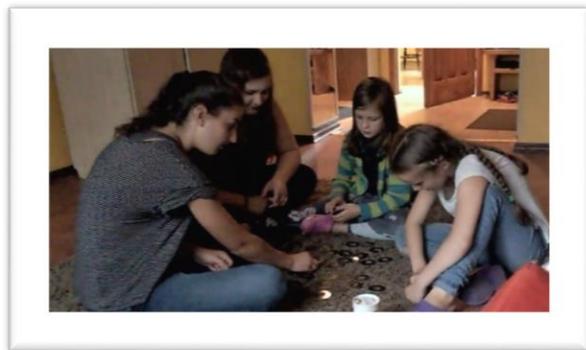
The apartment had no electricity except where a neighbor had drilled a small hole in the wall to run an extension cord so they could have one light to turn on during the night. The flat had a very tiny kitchen and bathroom that each had a small strand of lights run by AA batteries. The apartment complex itself was dark in the halls – and filthy inside the hallways and the apartment.

The main room had three sets of bunk beds for 6 kids and a small sofa that the mother slept on.

The mother works various low paying jobs but makes very little money – much less than even \$500 a month.

While Kristiana (the Hope for Children manager) stayed with the kids to clean – I took one team member and we went to the store and bought this family additional cleaning supplies, hygiene products, bedding, kitchen supplies, food, and a water purifier.

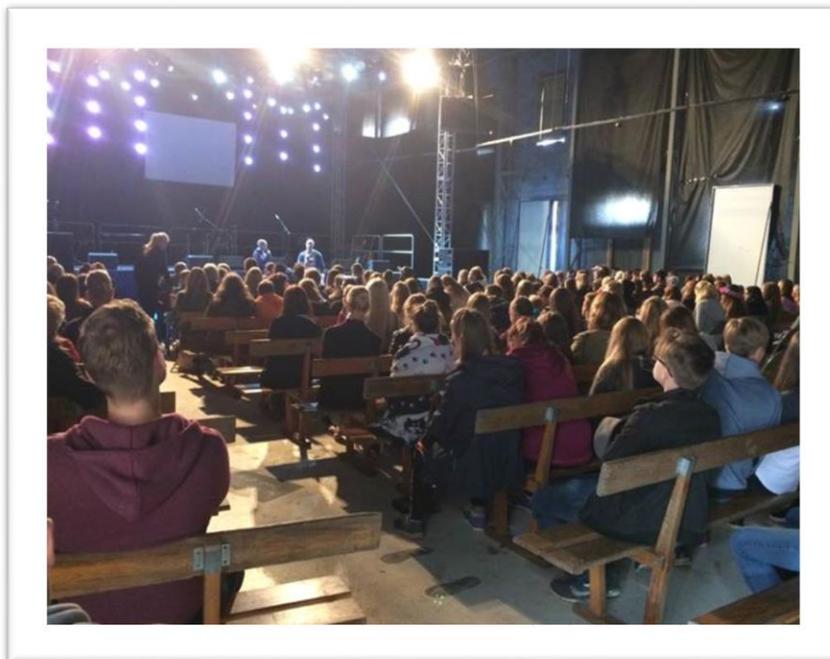
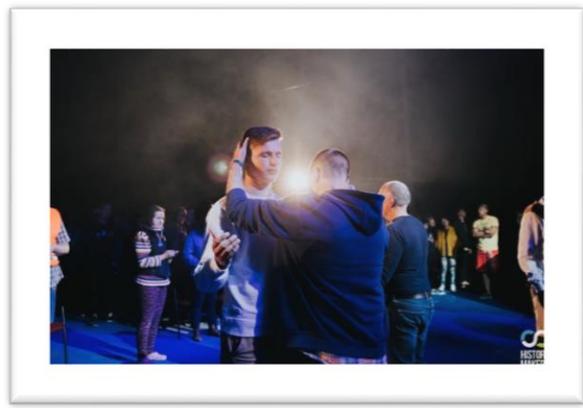
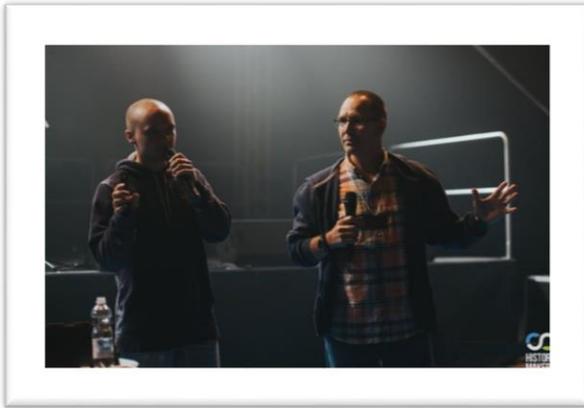
The next day, Kristiana called to tell me the woman had called her crying after she returned from work to find her apartment cleaned, food in her kitchen, new bedding, and other new supplies. Kristiana had tried on several occasions to minister to this woman, only to get a very cold response. Now the woman has met with Kristiana! Kristiana will now find other ways to help this family and to minister to this single mother.



At the end of our time with Hope for Children, one little girl blocked the door refusing to let the team leave. Finally, although with some tears, she opened the door. It was amazing to see the power of love and its quick impact on the hearts of these children. I encourage the team to continue to pray steadfastly for all those you met and ministered to in Latvia.

HISTORY MAKERS YOUTH CAMP

After the team returned to the US, we began to prepare for the History Makers (HM) Youth Camp later in August. This is one of the largest summer camps in Latvia, with 500 plus young people from Latvia and other countries in Europe participating. Cole was a participant, Amy served on the HM serving team working in the café, I taught several sessions, and MaryBeth and I spent our free time counseling and praying with individuals. Throughout our week we had the pleasure of watching so many young people come to the Lord and receive salvation, healing and encouragement.



CHURCH PLANT IN VENTSPILS

We closed out the summer by spending a couple days in the town of Ventspils with our friends Mauro and Julia. Mauro and Julia had worked at the Baltic School of Ministry for many years as the Dean of Students and one of the Administrators. Over the summer they moved to Ventspils to plant a church. While there we met a woman named Tania and her daughter Dana. Julia had previously met Dana at a youth camp. We spent a Thursday afternoon having fellowship over a meal and letting them show us their city. We left on a Friday and the following day, Tania and Dana joined Mauro and Julia in their apartment for their first Bible Study. I'm happy to report that since then they have continued to meet every Saturday afternoon! The Bible encourages us not to despise small beginnings and we are rejoicing in this quick increase from 2 to 4 individuals for this new church plant. Please join us in continued prayers for Mauro and Julia and their efforts to reach the lost and hurting in Ventspils!



WE ARE ON THE MOVE

Over the last couple of weeks, some people dear to us have been diagnosed with cancer. Some of you have already been praying for my friend Dan Arendas who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. As I was praying for Dan I couldn't stop thinking about two scriptures:

John 15:13 *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*

1 John 3:18 *"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."*

Considering these verses and with prayer, we have made the decision to move back to the US so that we can be near our loved ones, and help them in any way possible. So, on October 9th we plan to fly to back to NJ and on the 10th I will head down to NC to spend time with Dan.

Now, we have no idea whether we will live in NJ or in NC - all the details right now are unclear. We are taking comfort in the following verse:

Acts 20:22 *"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there."*

In this verse, the Apostle Paul shares that he was "going but not knowing." In his case, many people thought him crazy, and many people tried to persuade not to go. But the part we find comfort in – is that he was going but not knowing the details. We are trusting that God will order our steps and work out all the details as we move forward in obedience and faith!

We have already spoken and prayed with Bishop Nikolais, Danny from BSM, Kristeps with History Makers and our closer friends here. We gave notice to our landlord and need to be out of our apartment by October 6th, and this past week we started the process of selling or donating our stuff - plus all the other things required for us to leave on October 9th.

I know our decision may surprise some of you since we have so many open doors and great relationships in Latvia. We will still be continuing our work here but for the time being I will do it on a traveling basis. I already know that I will return to Latvia in the month of January to teach at BSM, ministered at churches and help with the History Makers winter conference.

Please keep up your fervent prayers for my friend Dan and any others facing health challenges! God hears are prayers and is a healing God!

As always, we greatly appreciate all your prayers and support – we could not do what we are doing without you – you share in any rewards credited to us!

Financial gifts can be made through www.Celebrationcc.com or mailed to Celebration Community Church, PO Box 140, Columbus NJ, 08022. Your gifts are tax-deductible.

Blessings and love!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "oug" following it.