



New Church VBS Liepaja, Latvia 2004



Humanitarian aid for Liepaja churches from the States.



Camp 2004, Liepaja



Baptism



Christmas 2004 in Liepaja orphanages.



2004 Year End Report

Dear Friends,

January 12, 2005

Thank you for your continued support of Hope International Ministries and our work in Latvia for the past year. The Lord has especially blessed us with great opportunity and great challenges. We have been quite busy as you would expect!

Our camp this past summer in Liepaja was our largest yet. Over 170 young people attended our camp that lasted for ten days. For some of the children this was their first exposure to the Gospel, while others were encouraged to continue to serve Jesus Christ. Our crew of camp volunteers consisted of eight volunteers from the U.S. and over thirty volunteers from churches in Liepaja who helped in many areas. An especially exciting event occurred the Sunday before HIM camp opened. Four teenagers, having attended our camps over the last few years, publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ by becoming baptized. Our Executive Director, Paul Minakov, was privileged to have taken part in this joyous service.

A new church, called the Light of the Gospel, opened in a very poor area of Liepaja. They requested help with their Vacation Bible School program, which we readily granted. Sixty children faithfully attended a week long day camp. Some of these children, from a nearby orphanage, were able to learn about their Heavenly Father.

We continued our support of the Voice of the Gospel Church. We helped raise funds to repair a failing heating system in the church building as well as providing monetary support for the full year for two of the three pastors. AWANA was able to continue for another year with over 100 children filling the church with games, music, and Bible verses every Saturday.

An interesting opportunity arose in the fall. A church in Wisconsin had a desire to send Christian literature to Eastern Europe. We knew just the place to send them but to accomplish this we needed a shipping container. In partnership with Wildewood Baptist Church we were able to send a 40 foot container filled with not only 5 tons of Christian books, but also a few hundred chairs, couches, desks, beds, clothes, and many shoes. All these items have been greatly appreciated in Liepaja. Now the Voice of the Gospel Church has enough seating for its congregation, as well as other material necessary for the functioning of a church. Those in need throughout the surrounding community have greatly benefited from materials sent in the container.

We continued our support for Christmas programs this year as well. Paul Minakov was able to travel to Liepaja and deliver gift bags that included a New Testament to 650 children. Christmas parties were held at the Voice of the Gospel Church, Light of the Gospel Church, and at two orphanages.

During the coming year we have many new ideas and high expectations of performing God's work in Latvia. We are currently planning three more Vacation Bible Schools in June as well as our annual camp in July. A further possibility is a teen canoe trip in August. Thank you again for your faithful support in 2004. I hope you will continue to support us with your gifts and prayers during 2005.

Your Brother in Christ,

Jonathan E. Stevens
Secretary, H.I.M.