



Hope International Ministries NEWSLETTER

August 2005

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers, you did for me. -Jesus

Matthew 25:40



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Wow! The busiest part of the summer is over and we are back home safely from camp in Latvia. Praise God for that. I flew to Latvia through Germany the day of the London bombing and even with the high security alert in Europe our trip was smooth and without any difficulties. So, thank you very much for your prayers.



My friend Andrey

Since the number of children who attend HIM camps has grown every summer, we increased our ministry activities this year. We supported three Vacation Bible Schools with 2 local churches for younger kids and our main camp focused on teenagers. We were able to reach out to 150 children through VBS and 80 teens in our camp. We were also very blessed with unusually warm weather for Latvia and no rain for the entire week. The young people had a great experience with Bible lessons, swimming, camp games, and a worship service every evening.

We had 14 people on our HIM team from the U.S. representing five different churches that included three Wheaton College students who spent 6 weeks working with the young people in our camps. A special blessing for our camp was two talented Christian singers, Marina Baranova from Pennsylvania and Dmitry Dauksh from Belarus who helped us fill the Latvian forest with God's praise. Each night I can tell you that through music and testimonies the Lord worked in many hearts of these young people and we can see how their lives have been changed. Please continue to pray for these youth that they would grow strong in Jesus Christ.



*Top:
Marina Baranova*



*Right:
Dmitry Dauksh*

Your co-worker in God's fields,

Paul Minakov

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Renee

On July 8th, I boarded a plane with 5 other members from Harvest Bible Chapel, Glen Ellyn, IL for my second trip to Latvia.

My decision to return to Latvia - after a back injury last year while on the flight was prayerfully made. This year as last year my prayer was to "Serve," and my prayer was answered. GOD is so FAITHFUL.

My time in Latvia was filled with laughter and joy. The smiles and hugs from many of the same children from last year filled my heart. Language is no barrier when one has love in his or her hearts.

The first day of camp I was reunited with my special friend Andrey AKA Spanky as I nicked named him last summer. Andrey has a special part of my heart, he lives in the Children's Home with many other orphans-he was born in jail never knowing his mother or any other family members. Last year Andrey prayed with Paul to accept Christ-the change in him was instant. Andrey and I have kept in touch through letters and cards, his life is not easy and his letters often make me cry but he knows how much God loves him and that helps him get through another day.

On my last day in Latvia, I began to cry-I remembered hearing God say "For I know the plans I have for you" says the Lord "Plans to give you a future and a Hope." It wasn't until the tears dried up that I realized God was calling me to work with "HIM" Ministries to give the children of Latvia a "Future and a Hope."



Harvest Bible Chapel Team

Paul Minakov is an amazing man, his love for Latvia is beyond words. Paul is praying that God will bring in the financial resources to provide Educational Scholarships, host families for summer exchange students and for land to build a camp.

Andrey is only one example of how God is changing Lives in Latvia. Thank you to all my supporters to made this trip financially possible for me- and for all those who prayed for me I send a big THANK YOU! and GOD BLESS.

Renee



Greg

The trip to Latvia for me further ingrained my need for God to be in charge of my life. The camp and its surroundings were as beautiful as the Alaskan wilderness. Our team was focused and blessed, and the children were as beautiful and fun as any I've ever seen. What a blessing it was to join them in singing praises to our Lord Jesus Christ and get to know them over the week. I felt immense prayer coverage the entire time I was on the trip and I know that God was truly at work at our camp.

It was truly a blessed time in my life that I will never forget.

Greg

The Lord was so good to me in allowing me to go to Latvia this summer. I would love to tell you briefly about my time and the highlights that I took away from spending time in Liepaja with the students.

L=LOVE= From the time I stepped into the airport in Riga I felt loved by the Latvian people. Two people had sacrificed their time and money to come and pick our team up and show us around the city. They were very welcoming and friendly. Then we got to spend time with the people from the church who took a special interest in getting to know us Americans as well. When we arrived at camp the students also opened up to us and included us in their culture. What a neat thing that even when many of us couldn't speak Russian, we could still experience the love of Christ through all these people.

A=AWESOME= One of the first places I got to see when arriving in Latvia was the Baltic Sea. For me there was an overwhelming sense of awe of God's creation. What a great time of worship and prayer I had there as I prepared my heart for the days ahead with the students at camp.

T=TOTALLY FUN= At camp we laughed a lot with the Latvian students. We had fun trying to pronounce Russian words and the alphabet, dancing, putting on skirts, playing games, singing, talking, and spending time together. One night in my cabin we had a friendship party where we just talked and laughed and ate at midnight. It was so fun to bond with the girls in my cabin.

V=VARIED= It is a great thing that God has created each of us uniquely and differently. I really enjoyed getting to know many different people. I think the thing that God showed me was that even though we are so different we as people all have the same basic needs, even thousands of miles from each other.

I=INDELIBLE= This is one of my favorite words. It means permanent and cannot be blotted out. This word describes well, the thing that God impressed upon my heart the most was the simple, trusting, and genuine faith of the Latvian believers. Some of the people I met had faced so many hardships and trials in their short lifetimes. However, I always saw them lean on the Lord for their strength and leading. To put it simply, I was very challenged and convicted by how I saw them walk with the Lord and depend on Him for everything. He was their life!

A=AMAZING= The whole trip can be summed up in this one word **AMAZING!** I loved spending 10 days with these students who taught me so much about our Savior, even if they didn't believe. I count it a privilege that God provided for our team to serve and learn along side all these fantastic people. How blessed I am that I got the opportunity to see God soften hearts that were hard and change people. I look forward to the days and weeks ahead when I can hear from and learn more about the people I met in Latvia. **HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!!!!**

God Bless,

Heather



Heather





Dmitry Dauksh, soccer coach and Christian singer from Belarus.



Concert in the park.

