



2005 Year End Report

January 6, 2006

Dear Friends,

Looking back on the past year of Hope International Ministries I can think of many ways in which the Lord has challenged us and I know he has been guiding us at each step. In 2005 we began the steps to expand our ministry in Latvia to include ministering to more children and youth than the past years. In addition to our annual summer camp we added two more VBS camps, started working with a program for college students to minister to youth in Liepaja for the summer, and began to help in leadership training.

Our annual summer camp from July 7 to July 14, this year called "Choice," was geared toward teenagers. We had around 80 youth that learned how a Christian should live and how choices in life with friends, music, thoughts, and deeds affect our growth in Christ. Our team from the US, with 4 men and 11 women, worked together with a host of volunteers from Liepaja to make our camp successful. A surprise treat for camp was a mini concert from the Christian singer from Belarus, Dimitry Dauksh.

At the conclusion of camp we returned to Liepaja to a citywide evangelistic Christian music festival sponsored in part by HIM. Two of our group from the US, Liliya Domnenko and Marina Baranova, sang first and invited all the kids from camp on stage to sing with them. Dimitry Dauksh, with hearty approval from all, led the audience in praising God through his music. Many parents and people from the neighborhood heard a gospel message from Pastor Andrey Sisenis and from Zhenya Barzilov, who had received Christ as his savior two years ago at camp.

During the month of June HIM sponsored three VBS programs in Liepaja lasting a week each where both spiritual and physical needs the children were met. Two day camps were at the Light of the Gospel and one was at the Voice of the Gospel. About 180 children learned about Jesus Christ through Bible stories, crafts, and games. Three meals each day were provided to the children who often don't have that much to eat. Most of these children were from the poor areas of the city and quite a few were from local orphanages.

A new addition this year was the help of the Wheaton College Student Missionary Project. Three students spent six weeks living and working at the Voice of the Gospel church. They helped in many ways with all our camps and were able to develop many good relationships with people from the church. All three of the girls expressed a desire to return next summer!

Upon learning of a training program in Latvia with Christian Camping International, HIM funded a week long camping seminar for 10 people. All the participants learned a great deal and put this knowledge to work at our camp in July.

We continued our support of two pastors from the Voice of the Gospel church as well as funding the weekly AWANA and youth Bible studies from both the Voice of the Gospel and Light of the Gospel for the entire year. Over 100 children are witnessed to each week through AWANA and a number of young men have accepted Christ as their savior through the Bible studies.

In December our founder, Paul Minakov, traveled back to Latvia with another team to give Christmas concerts with a Gospel message in Liepaja. Concerts were held at three churches and two orphanages. Paul also began planning for the 2006 camps.

In 2004 we had sent a shipping container filled with Bibles, clothes, Church supplies, and furniture. It was especially gratifying to see all of this material that was sent to Latvia is still being put to good use from the chairs we sat on, to the tables we ate on, and many other items. On occasion you can even see some Wheaton tee-shirts and sweatshirts worn around Liepaja.

In closing I wanted to personally thank every person who has helped HIM this past year reach so many children with the cause of Christ. As we plan for ministering to the youth in Liepaja in 2006 we ask for your continuing prayers and your continuing support. God willing, we will again have our annual camp along with an expanded VBS program. We have also made some new contacts in Latvia with other Christian mission organizations that are potentially exciting. If you feel God is leading you to minister to children in Latvia please contact us. The workers are few and the fields are white.

Your Brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan E. Stevens".

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



Camp - 2005



Christmas - 2005



Paul & Luba Minakov, Marina Baranova,
Victor & Liliya Domnenko at orphanage in Liepaja.



HIM group with children
in Liepaja orphanage.



Director of Liepaja orphanage saying words of appreciation
to Paul Minakov and Hope International Ministries.

