



TEP Children's Ministries News

January 2017

My best wishes for a wonderful healthy, happy and especially faith filled year to you all. God continues to bless in many ways and we at the Trans-European Division office are blessed by the many stories and reports of God's continued blessing in our work for Him. We are continuing with reports from our different fields and hope that the stories and reports will inspire each and every one of us to continue the great work we have all been called to do. Many times we don't see any results but that doesn't mean that they are not there. One of my favourite books is Just a Minute by Wess Stafford. In his book he talks about how just one minute can make a difference in the lives of someone. Whether it is positive or negative. My prayer is that we will make positive "Just a Minutes" during 2017 so that God can work in the lives of all those we come in contact with.

Blessings to you all,

Clair



Orchestra camp

From 23 to 30 July in Jõhvi, Estonia there was a camp for kids who play musical instruments; this is the fourth year. Besides Estonian children and some friends from Latvia were also participating. Before the concert which was given on Sabbath by the participants of the camp, the organizer of the camp Hans Soosaar, talked about how the camp was started; a couple of girls from Tallinn did not want to participate in worship alone, and out of their concern grew a wish to include others into their music making. After some time, the first instrumental music camp was organized, which by now has already become a tradition. Latvian youth participated in the camp for the second time. The size of the orchestra has changed over time. When it all started, it was more like a band, but during years the membership has increased. Also, the number of the pieces of music has grown. First the orchestra was named as a children's orchestra, but since the oldest players are no longer children, it is now called a children and youth orchestra.

Besides the rehearsals, children and young people can do some other interesting activities. "I liked all the places where we had outings – the beach at Toila, the castle park, a mining museum in Kohtla and a fortress in Narva. The park was amazingly beautiful and the mine with its long, dim underground passages occasionally created a feeling that we had entered a fairyland dwarf empire," Ly Kaasik said. "In addition to this, it always gives a lot of joy if a piece of music that has caused me difficulties at the rehearsals, comes out unexpectedly well at the performance", she added.

The conductor of the orchestra Raeli Florea, said that compared to previous years, the quality of the orchestra's music has become better. "Orchestras that play together for years take after their conductor," Raeli said. "For one thing; they personally know each other much better. Yet, they have also developed a lot as musicians during these four years. And as I have always said, a musician must have three ears – two for the neighbours each side and one for him(her)self – this skill has now been acquired by the participants," she added.



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"On the one hand, during these four years, a lot of children have joined the orchestra and for the freshmen everything is still quite new. On the other hand, it seems that the orchestra as a whole, now better know each other and are used to playing together. I am probably not the right person to evaluate this, but as Raeli gives us more and more interesting and complicated pieces to play, one can conclude that our playing together works better and better," Ly added to Raeli's comments.

As usual, the camp ended with a church concert. Before that there was an open-air concert in the yard of Narva fortress and on the Jõhvi Town Hall Square. "The performance on Friday in Narva was very useful; I could see what needed more repetition and paid attention to at the Sabbath concert. Playing in the street, where the sound goes in all directions, teaches us to listen. For the orchestra player, it is very important to understand that you are not alone; that you play with others," Raeli claimed.

After the Sabbath worship concert, where Susanna Soosaar gave a sermon, one friend from Latvia said that as next year happens to be a little anniversary year for the orchestra, it would be a good time to think about releasing a CD. Raeli thought that it was not a bad idea at all, rather something to be considered. "If Hans and Konstantin can help the project to take off, then our orchestra is a part of what we as a church have, and I think, it is doable", Raeli said.

The arrangements for the orchestra are written by Rein Kalmus. According to Raeli the concerts would not be so beautiful if Rein had not written the arrangements. "These are not difficult, but they make a good sound. Great 'thank you' goes to Rein that we have him and he is willing to make something new for children every year – we are very fortunate!"

After the concert and camp each child got a thank-you-card with a Bible text and some sweets.

Health Expo for children

In Latvia, one of the biggest events in CM Department in the second half of the last year was Children's Health Expo in Rezekne in July 2016. It was organised by a team of church volunteers led by Marite Lipska the CM leader of the Latvian conference. Around 200 children came to the Expo, accompanied by their parents. The event took part in a local city park, and our Heavenly Father blessed us with a very nice weather.

At the gate to the park, the children were registered and they were given a card that they used to visit all the health stations. There were 8 health stations in the park and at each of them the volunteers from the church gave presentations about the importance of different aspects of healthy living. The presentations at the stations included activities and things to touch and taste to make it more interesting and memorable for the children.

After the Expo, all children were invited to see a health spectacle prepared by Latvian Adventist church members in a small festive ground nearby. The spectacle ended with a spiritual message about God's love for every child in a beautiful song.

In addition to a good weather, God provided us a photographer. When the photographer, who had been invited to take pictures of the event, cancelled in the last minute, the Rezekne's church pastor and his wife faced a challenge. Yet God who hears sincere prayers for help, answered their prayers by sending a professional photographer to the event, who was just passing by while people were gathering at the park, and became interested in the event. So, he asked a permission to take pictures and ended up taking a lot of beautiful shots, including a video of the event.



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The majority of the staff in the teen programme are young adults who are brilliant role models for the teenagers. They involved them in activities and time of worship. In addition to the children's groups and teen groups there's also a group for the young adults and the adults.

This focus on the children and teens when planning the programme has resulted in children and teenagers asking their parents to come to camp with them and the size of the camp has grown from around 300 participants to nearly 700. It's a highlight of the year for many and several have started inviting along friends and family for a week together at our Summer Camp.



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Summer Camp in Lithuania

This year they travelled in time using a time machine, and the kids got to know different Bible characters through the day. It is a day where the children get to meet others from around the conference and experience a programme that is especially targeted towards them. There were 40 children participating for 5 days in the camp.



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More pictures from the camp



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This is a photo about another children's camp in Lithuania - in Zvirblaicai.



There was an event in Lithuania, which emphasised God-given spirituality, where parents could come with their children. While parents were listening to lectures, children had their own activities. In the first picture, you can also see Vilma Marušauskiene (in a blue dress) who is the leader of the Lithuanian CM Department and one of the main organisers of these CM event in Lithuania.

