

Children's Ministries

Dear Friends,

In the 1800's there was an evangelist by the name of Charles Spurgeon. He was such a powerful preacher that many people came to know Jesus.

I wanted to share a few quotes that he made about evangelism.

"Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter".

"If there be any one point in which the Christian church ought to keep its fervour at a white heat, it is concerning missions. If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate Luke warmness, it is the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world."

Here we have News Pages from the Baltic Union. When you read the stories, you realise that most of what they have been doing is outreach and evangelism in one form or another.

Bringing the gospel to children in a way they will understand and enjoy. This is what we have been called to do.

Ellen White says at the very beginning of her book Evangelism:

EVANGELISM, THE VERY HEART OF CHRISTIANITY, IS THE THEME OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO THOSE CALLED TO HERALD GOD'S LAST WARNING TO A DOOMED WORLD. WE ARE IN TIME'S CLOSING HOURS, AND THE ADVENT MESSAGE, PROCLAIMED TO MAKE READY A PEOPLE PREPARED FOR OUR LORD'S RETURN, MUST SWELL TO A LOUD CRY REACHING THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH.

Thank you to all who have the vision and desire to spread the gospel in innovative and creative ways. May these News Pages inspire you to do your bit in spreading the gospel of Jesus.

Blessings to you all,

Clair

Clair Sanches-Schutte
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NEWS FROM THE BALTIC UNION CONFERENCE

Alla Nõmmik, Children, Women and Health Ministries Director
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Children's Ministry work in the Baltic countries in 2017

Children's Ministries leaders of three conferences that constitute the Baltic Union, Marite Lipska in Latvia, Vilma Marušauskiene in Lithuania, and Allan Randlepp in Estonia, are very dedicated to God and to their work in church. They come up with novel and innovative ways to make the church a pleasant place for children, organise different camps and festivals, and also serve children outside the church.

In February 2017, a seminar was organised in Riga together by Children's and Health Ministries about how to conduct children's health exhibitions. Participants of the seminar learned about 8 health principles and received practical tips for organising such events for kids. In Riga Latvia, there was a "Rainbow" festival for children and teenagers on 22nd April. The theme of the festival was



"Road signs in your life". It was the eighth children festival, but we have never had such large number of children – almost 300 children from all over Latvia, aged 3 to 14, had come to Riga, many of them from non-Adventist background. During the event, children walked through stations, where they learned about God's commandments, watched a play about it, listened and sang in a choir and watched the exhibition of drawings they had made during the year. Altogether 208 drawings were presented! When leaving, every family received a fridge magnet, which can now always remind them of God's commandments.



In summer 2017, children and youth from all three conferences, who love music, gathered in a border city Valka-Valga to practice music, give concerts, make friends, and record a CD called Amazing Grace, which has 12 songs on it. The players enjoyed making music together so much that several of them mentioned that the best part of the camp was rehearsals. Many participants noticed that their skills and technique had improved during the camp.

Several concerts brought variety to camp life. On Wednesday, the orchestra visited Seda retirement home. On Thursday, they planned to give an outdoor concert in Valka, but rain interfered and finally, the orchestra drove over the Estonian border to perform in Valga's Rimi shop. "The concert in Rimi was surprisingly fun," said the main organiser Hans Soosaar, "I think that it was even more fun than it would have been in the open air. The sound was very good and I don't know how many people would have visited the outdoor concert, but here, people were passing all the time." Listeners, who liked the music, gave the players lots of sweets.

On Friday, the participants were able to be like superstars because they all drove together to Turaida castle to film a music video. A fun day was made even better by a trip to the Sigulda adventure park, where children and youth were able to try out slides, test their skills on a climbing wall, jump on a trampoline, or shoot arrows. The more adventurous ones also tried out the roller coaster. Saturday began with concerts in the churches of Valga and Valka. "The music was really wonderful," said a young pianist Emilija Reznikova. "It touched my heart every time. When Amazing Grace was played, I realized that we are here because of grace. The whole camp took place only because of God's grace." The camp ended on Saturday evening with a festive concert in Valka Cultural Centre, where about a hundred listeners were gathered. The orchestra conductor Raeli Florea and the organiser Konstantins Reznikov believe that the future of the orchestra is long and interesting. "Maybe with the CD and the video we can share information," says Konstantins, "not only in the Baltics, but for example, in our Division and in the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists, so that more people would know about us. The orchestra could perform in special events or worship services".

The CD can be bought at the concerts of the orchestra, but in the future also at: <http://pood.advent.ee>.

A video can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBiZpzCOYf0>



During summer, there were three camps "Follow the footsteps of Jesus" organised for children and teenagers in Latvia. These camps were especially for non-Adventist children. In total, 71 children and 19 young people participated in these camps. God's blessings were seen throughout all the events.





In 2017 Karen Holford, the Family Ministries' director of the TED visited Riga and presented five of her books that were translated into Latvian. She explained how to make most of the ideas given in her books. Participants of the seminar could try out different ideas and received the material that they could use in their home churches.

There are two churches in Latvia who organise Messy Church events – Liepaja and Aluksne. Families from different backgrounds participate in the events. In Liepaja, there are about 42 – 100 children each time with their parents, and some with grandparents. In Aluksne about 20 – 25 children come every time.



In summer 2017, Clair Sanches-Schutte visited the Estonian conference to conduct Messy Church and Girls for Christ trainings. The young church plant in Tartu has taken Messy Church as their outreach tool. The first advertising event was on 25th December that gathered many children from outside the church. All of them received Christmas gifts and together with it the invitation for the first Messy Church event in Estonia on 11th February.

Girls for Christ materials are being translated into Estonian and can hopefully soon be delivered to churches to help women to mentor young girls in their discipleship path.