

NEWS from ESTONIA

- Ron & Judy Warpole -

October 2008

*"Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop
and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains."
James 5:7*

Dear Family & Friends

We send our autumn greetings to each of you! We are having a beautiful and colorful autumn here in Estonia. The view through our windshield during our two and a half hour drive between Tallinn and Tartu changes dramatically each week. It gives us time to reflect upon our Creator and all He has given for our enjoyment. If every digital photo we have taken of an autumn leaved landscape is indicative of our thanksgiving, our God is abundantly thanked.

OUR AUTUMN GUESTS from outside Estonia have blessed our lives. Each one has been an encouragement to us, and we hope we have encouraged them as well.

Jim Noyes, missionary from the Vinogradar congregation in Kiev, Ukraine, was with us for a few days at the beginning of September. He came to renew his living permit at the Ukrainian embassy. Two years ago Jim and his wife Marina invited us to stay with them in Kiev so Ron could bring some special seminar lessons and Judy could speak to the women and help teach some children's Bible lessons. We have a tender spot in our heart for the church in Kiev from our earliest times of worship there all the way back to 1992.

The day after Jim returned to Ukraine, **Royce Sartain** arrived for a two week visit. He stayed with us a few days in both Tallinn and Tartu. He also stayed and visited with long-time friends in the church in Tallinn and Riga, Latvia. Royce was the first, as far as we know, to place ads for Bible Correspondence courses in newspapers in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as soon as it was possible to enter following the collapse of the soviet union. He has worked tirelessly in the Baltics for almost twenty years now, helping to find missionaries and congregations willing to commit to spreading the gospel in this part of the world. Royce is the one who asked us in 1996 if we would consider Estonia. Since that time he has visited often and done many good works that have reached out to the lost and strengthened the saved. Please keep him in your prayers at this time as he has yet another shoulder surgery this month.

For almost two weeks in October our dear friend, brother in the Lord, and missions liaison person from the church on McDermott Road, **Ray Wilson** worked and prayed with us through each day of his visit. Each member of both congregations in Tallinn and Tartu was lovingly and prayerfully mentioned. One beautiful autumn evening there was a candlelight dinner in a little restaurant with Nikolai and Olga as we all celebrated the 13th anniversary of their immersion into Christ. And, during this 3rd visit to Estonia for Ray, he was able to attend the Autumn Retreat. Ray will be sharing his thoughts and observations with the elders and missions committee at McDermott Road ... and with the other congregations and individuals who participate in this work even before we see you all, Lord willing, in January and February.

THE AUTUMN RETREAT on Friday evening and Saturday, October 3 & 4, was a blessing to all of us. We had hoped that Igor Egirev could come from Russia to be our guest speaker. Igor could not come *this time* because he and his wife, who was having some complications, are expecting a baby very soon. Some of you will remember seeing photos of Igor and Ron studying the Bible together during our four years with the congregation in Rostov-on-Don (1992-1996). Igor has been faithfully preaching the gospel ever since that time. When Igor could not come for the Retreat, Ron was happy to be able to address the theme "IAM the Way, the Truth, and the Life." On Saturday after Ron's lesson, five of the seven IAM statements in the Gospel of John that Jesus made were divided between five discussion groups who each chose a leader to report back to the whole group. The autumn weather was perfect so that in-between lectures and eating, young and old-er were able to walk and enjoy fellowship in the beautiful scenes of nature that the camp ground provides.

HOUSE TO HOUSE was how Paul described his times of Bible study and fellowship with the early Christians wherever he went. We too travel *house to house*, but a little differently. We travel between our house in Tallinn and our apartment in Tartu. There are regular Bible studies and many meals shared in both places. At least once a month we stay in Tartu for the week between Sundays. It gives time for the individual members to come and *sit a spell* and ask the kinds of questions whose Biblical answers lead them forward in the maturing process. In Tallinn, we are *in residence* usually between Monday afternoon and Friday morning. The calendar is usually full, and a pot of soup on the back burner. The question this week—coming from church members who don't even know each other—is about *miracles and TV evangelists*. God's words stands ready with answers!

We are truly blessed to be here in Estonia. May you feel yourself blessed because of your participation with us. We send our love and hugs from Estonia until we can deliver them in person ...

Ron & Judy