

NORWAY & LATVIA REPORT 2011

SPIRITUAL GENERATIONS OF LABOURERS LIVING AND DISCIPLING AMONGST THE LOST



Thank you so much for your support this past summer; we are very thankful for your prayers and support, without which none of the good things that we were involved with could have happened. Below are some highlights from the trip and some stories of what God has been doing in us and through us. We are deeply indebted to those who have ministered in this country and especially at this camp over many generations and we are privileged to co-labour with the Lord in this work and have been acutely aware of His help, presence and power.

Testimonies from the team

"It was a very challenging but also rewarding time. I have never felt so broken before (which was not much fun at all) but I am so glad that God did break my heart for them. I learned more about God's heart. I got a glimpse of how much it hurts Him to see His children sad. I also learned to take comfort in the fact that these kids are in the Lords hands."

"I've been really seeing that God can use me for His work. I also found that I do have it within me to trust and depend on God. Being an older role model for others has been a big issue for me having not had any myself and so I've worried that I would have no clue or be inferior in some way. I believe God has shown me that I can be, through relationships with one of the kids at camp. The bond we developed together was very special."

"I learned that God is a patient God who is willing to wait until I'm ready to open my heart to Him but also a God who is firm in reminding me that I have to! I learned that His plans for me are perfect but sometimes confusing and scary; He's answered a lot of prayers these past few weeks with an answer that was not at all what I was thinking but it always worked out for the best."

"I learned a lifestyle of living with the people you minister to. I saw how important it was to just hang out with the guys and have fun. It shows them that you're interested in them and their hearts...and I'm more inspired to redouble my efforts to have quality time with my non-Christian friends back home."

Fruit in the Lives of our Latvian Friends



Many of the relationships we have in Latvia stretch back up to six years. One such relationship is with Cos who we first met in 2006 and who became a Christian a few years ago. When we first met him he acknowledged that *"his God was distant but our God was near"* having had a background in the Russian Orthodox Church like many we meet at the camps. One evening towards the end of the week after campfire another young man Philippe (18) who has just left the orphanage shared that he wanted to commit his life to Jesus. He had actually committed his life to Jesus the previous year but he acknowledged that he had done so with wrong motives. This time was different and after several of us prayed with him he asked Cos (who had been translating for us) if he would disciple him. What a blessing to be part of that critical moment in both Philippe and Cos's lives!!

Towards the end of the trip we had the opportunity to attend the lake-side baptism of four of our good friends (Tima, Katija, Ivan & Julija). This was such an unexpected blessing but such a joy to be there for. Tima is one of the children of Anatoly and Ruslana Koval who are responsible for the camps that we help at. These are young people who we have known for many years and it has been so encouraging to see them come to faith. This was a significant step for all of them to take and for Tima especially as he finally committed His life to Jesus during the past year after years of resisting. It is people like them that have been our motivation to keep going back to Latvia and it is a great privilege to see them growing in their faith in the Lord.

We could write about many others but space does not allow... suffice to say that God is developing a growing number of young believers who are starting to impact the next generation.



Please pray for the ongoing work in Latvia

- Please pray for Philippe in these early days of following Jesus and especially as he looks for permanent work & accommodation having left the orphanage at the start of the summer. Please pray for Cos as well as he seeks to draw alongside Philippe and help him grow in his faith.
- Please pray for those baptised (Tima & Katija and Ivan & Julija) as they continue their journeys with the Lord. These young people (amongst others) have huge potential to be foundational in reaching their generation and the next. Please pray for us (and others) as we seek to help them grow as disciples themselves and be fruitful as disciple-makers.
- Please pray for Patrick Noonan (Maine, USA) who is preparing to move to Latvia on a four year assignment with the US Navigators. Pray for God's provision, timing and all that needs to happen before he moves. Pray too for Patrick as he will be travelling to Latvia in October for several weeks, Norway for a few days and then joining us in UK in November where he will be speaking at our weekend away.
- Pray too for us as a family (pictures alongside) as we continue to evaluate our ongoing role and responsibility in Latvia and seek God for how He would have us continue to serve there. Currently that has been through summer trips, several trips to Latvia during the year visiting friends, as well as having those friends visit us in the UK each November. We don't envisage this changing imminently, indeed God seems to be continuing to affirm a calling to this country but we have been ministering in Latvia for the past six years and feel it is healthy to evaluate this alongside our responsibilities back in Southampton.
- Pray against spiritual opposition; once again we (and the team) have found ourselves right on the frontline of a spiritual battle. The experiences connected with this continue to be a huge challenge for us and so we would ask you to pray for protection both for us and for others who we are taking into Latvia during the coming year.
- Thank God for His provision of finances for all those participating in this year's trip. The UK team really enjoyed tackling the Three Peaks Challenge as a fund-raiser and are so grateful that God answered our prayers for safety both in transit between the mountains and on the mountains themselves... suffice to say we faced some 'less than ideal' weather conditions on the peaks. After all it is not much fun climbing Scafell Pike in darkness, rain and gales!
- Finally please pray for others involved in the ministry in Latvia; please pray especially for Ole-Magnus and Kari Olafsrud who are responsible for the Navigators ministry in the Baltics and pray too for others who God has clearly been giving a heart for Latvia (Olav Humlebrette & Ingvill Aa, Adam Collett & Kate Marshall, Derek & Eva Leaf and more).



Thanks again for your prayers and support... we all appreciate it!!

All our love

Steve & Debs



Our Calling: To advance the gospel of Jesus and his kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling among the lost.

The Navigators, Turner House, 54 The Avenue, Southampton, SO17 1XQ,
Tel: 02380-558800, Website: www.navigators.co.uk / www.sotonnavs.org

The Navigators UK Limited, a Company Limited by Guarantee, is a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales No. 1099148 and a charity registered in Scotland No. SC038484. Company Registration No: 4429021. Registered Office:
54 The Avenue, Southampton SO17 1XQ.

The Navigators charge an administration levy on gifts of 7%