

Dear Pastors, Church Families, and Friends,

I would first like to begin with a note of thanks for your prayers, love, and support of our ministry here in Lithuania.

We wanted to provide you an update highlighting main activities. It is our prayer this update would be an encouragement.

Ministry & Orphanage Outreach Activities:

April 15, 2000 Easter Outreach Alytus Orphanage (183 children)
Sept. 2, 2000 Fall Outreach Alytus Orphanage (183 children)
Dec. 16, 2000 Christmas Outreach Simnas Orphanage (100 children)
Dec. 16, 2000 Christmas Outreach Alytus Orphanage (183 children)
Dec. 22, 2000 Christmas Outreach Zarasai Orphanage (175 children)
June 16, 2001 Spring Outreach Zarasai Orphanage (175 children)
Aug. 31, 2001 Back to School Program Vilnius Orphanage (65 children) (New contact for us!)
Dec. 2001 (Special focus day . Dec. 23, 2001) Christmas SS Outreach with Vilnius Orphanage Children (approx. 40 children)
Dec. 26, 2001 Christmas Outreach Kaunas Youth Prison (32 orphanage boys, ages 14-18 years old)
Jan. 12, 2002 Medical Supplies Project Vilnius Orphanage (65 children)
Feb. 10, 2002 Special SS Outreach for children Valentine's Day... Jesus Loves You! (26 children)
Mar. 31, 2002 Easter Outreach Vilnius Orphanage & SS Group
Sept. 8, 2002 Back to School Project Vilnius Orphanage (65 children)
Apr. 20, 2003 Easter Outreach Vilnius Orphanage & SS Group
May 11, 2003 Lithuanian Television Interviewed on Lithuanian Television Program regarding our work here in Lithuania
Aug. 31, 2003 Back to School Program Vilnius New Test. Church and Vilnius Orphanage
Dec. 2003 Christmas Outreach Program Multiple (Dec 20th Spengla Orphanage 108 children ... New contact!)
Jan. 2004 Bible & Bible Covers Project (Ongoing) Vilnius New Test. Church and Vilnius Orphanage SS group
(Each child after memorizing and quoting selected passages receives a complete Bible OT & NT and Canvas Bible Cover. This program is separate from normal SS)
Jan. 31, 2004 Ongoing Winter Provision Project Panevezys Bible Study Group (Socks) (approx. 20 adults)
Feb. 20, 2004 Ongoing Winter Provision Project Siauliai Baptist Church childrens group and church city afterschool outreach (Socks)
Mar. 27, 2004 Easter Outreach Program Spengla Orphanage (109 children)
Mar. 30, 2004 Orphanage Easter Program Vilnius Orphanage (73 children)

**Notes: Alytus, small town on Polish border, Lithuanian community.



Simnas, very small Lithuanian community close to Polish border.

Spengla, small Lithuanian community close to Belarus.

Panevezys, city known for its Mafia connections throughout eastern Europe, located north of us.

Siauliai, located towards the Baltic Sea.

Zarasai, small Russian town on Latvian border.

Vilnius, capital city, where we live.

Our family is continuing to sponsor ongoing evangelistic outreaches and programs in a number of orphanages in Lithuania. We present a Bible lesson/message to these children, play Bible games, and help to provide for their physical needs (i.e. shoes, socks, underwear, clothing, school supplies, etc.). Additionally, each gift for the children is accompanied by a tract in their own language. At age 18, orphans are given the equivalent of \$500, shown the front door. The suicide rate of Lithuanian children raised in orphanages is 60-75%. These children represent the future of Lithuania. (Lithuania continues to hold the record as the country with the highest suicide rate in the world. Time Magazine European Edition, Nov 2003). It is so important to share with them the only real, and lasting hope ... Jesus Christ.

Summer Outreach Camps:

June 23-29, 2000 High School and Jr. High School English Camp Theme: Studying English with God's Word (Campers: 60 total children)

(Daily Topics included: Counting to Ten / The Ten Commandments; Name the Colors / Wordless book; etc.)

July 20-27, 2000 Lithuanian Summer Camp (7-18 year olds) Theme: God's Hall of Faith (Campers: 161 total children)

July 28- Aug 5, 2000 Lithuanian Summer Camp (7-18 year olds) Theme: God's Hall of Faith (Campers: 123 total children)

July 29 - Aug 4, 2001 Lithuanian Summer Camp (7-18 year olds) Theme: The Whole Armor of God (Campers: 70 total children, 30 children from the Vilnius Orphanage attended for free!)

(Daily topics focused on various parts of the armor. We explored each topic with games, lessons, Scripture memory, and activities. 17 children accepted Christ!)

July 28 - Aug 3, 2002 Lithuanian Summer Camp (7-18 year olds) Theme: The Great Adventure (Campers: 120 total, 27 children from the Vilnius Orphanage attended for free!)

(Daily topics focused on the 10 commandments. The children searched to discover the secret of salvation ... Jesus. 11 Children accepted Christ!)

Aug. 3 - 9, 2003 Lithuanian Summer Camp (7- 16 years olds) Theme: Path of Light ... Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

(Campers: 120 total, 33 children from the Vilnius Orphanage, 16 children from our church family, and 22 workers were able to attend for free!

21 Children came forward to receive Christ!)

Many children accepted Jesus as their Savior during these camps. Summer camp has proven itself to be a good tool for reaching the young people here.

Local Church Work:

In the year 2000, we worked with another Baptist missionary in the services, music, and children's ministry at an international work here in Vilnius, Lithuania. Services are in Russian, Lithuanian, and English. Each week there were approximately 12 Russians, 15 Lithuanians, and 12 English speakers (various embassy folks, etc.) We were involved in leading the Sunday School and leading/speaking at many of the services. Ron worked with the music ministry and created promotional flyers, brochures, etc. in Russian, Lithuanian, and English also. Monthly activities: men's Bible study, ladies outreach teas, friend days the last Sunday of each month with a meal/activity after services. Starting in Oct, 2000, we began follow up Bible studies/activities with children from summer camps.

In the summer of 2001, we began working in a small Baptist Lithuanian work here in Vilnius. EVERYTHING is spoken in Lithuanian. This has been a great, but wonderful challenge for our family. The pastor of this work is a national. We have been working in conjunction with this group for the summer camp outreach in July/Aug. 2001, 2002 and 2003. We have been working to develop a Sunday School ministry here. Beginning with only 5 children, the weekly average is now about 40 (under age 18) and about 40 adults. This has grown from the personal commitment of our family and the pastor to follow-up all the converts from summer camp and orphanage work. After the camp of 2001, we saw growth in our S.S. program to about 22 (under age 18) weekly, to the current group of about 40. God has provided for the translation of a 1 year S.S. program that is providing a foundation for new converts. Our plans for this year include working with a national who is starting a small work in a city about 3 hours away. We continue planning outreach activities for 1 to 2 Saturdays per month, as well as continued work here in Vilnius.

Personal Outreach:

As we have become more familiar with culture and language, we are beginning more personal one to one evangelism. Personal friendship are the most effective method for evangelism. The friendships are growing over coffee, tea, lunch and quiet conversation. It is such a blessing to finally begin to feel free to speak. Not perfectly, or with a huge vocabulary, but just to speak. Lithuanian language is the second most difficult language in the world. People here seem to really appreciate our efforts to learn and speak Lithuanian. Baptist are considered a "cult" here and much fear is associated with becoming involved with Baptist people.

Compass of Life:

Gyvenimo Kompasas Labdaros ir Paromos Fondas" ... sounds Greek. Not

really, it is Lithuanian and it is the name of the “umbrella” that we are now able to operate under here in Lithuania. Translated it means “Compass of Life.” As foreigners here in Lithuania, visas for our family are difficult to obtain. We worked for many months to establish a legal, yet versatile situation that would allow our family to develop our ministry here and obtain our visas. Officially established as a charity fund, we can now publish and distribute materials, develop small groups and have meetings, establish a church, import and distribute medical supplies, as well as continue to provide supplies and minister in the orphanages. This organization will also provide for us to own property here in Lithuania. As you can see this “umbrella” will provide for many forms and opportunities of ministry. We now have several nationals working with us to develop and expand the ministry here. “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Furlough:

Our family has just completed a short furlough (6 months : Oct., 2002 - March, 2003). Regarding our time in the USA: As you may know, due to the changes in the national currency in Lithuania, our funds have been reduced by more than 25%. It was our initial goal to visit new sponsors for the first 3 months and then to dedicate the rest of the time for existing supporters. Unfortunately, this did not happen. After our first 3 months, we knew that we needed to dedicate more time to raising new support. (We were unable to join many of you for meetings, conferences, or special events. Please forgive us for this. You all are a very important part of the work here!) Thank you for understanding the time constraints (related to Visa issues) and the urgent need to replace these funds. The exchange rate has continued to drop below our expectations, thus continuing to decrease our support. We received many verbal commitments regarding support from new contacts. Please continue to pray with us regarding these verbal commitments.

Prayer Request:

Visas for this year, 2004-05. (Lithuania becomes a part of the EU on May 1, 2004 ... Many questions remain regarding visas.)

Language studies and greater freedom with conversations.

Small work near port city of Klaipeda.

Beginning meetings to discuss summer camp.

Lydia and Joshua homeschooling.

Lithuania was very open to the Gospel right after the fall of communism here. Time, the influence of the world, and the availability of possessions have changed the hearts of the people. Please continued to pray for the many lost souls here in Lithuania.