

Kevin G. Barkes

From: cheryl harrison [serolah@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 6:20 PM
To: Cheryl Harrison
Subject: from cheryl

Greetings from tropical Latvia!

Okay, maybe not tropical, but definitely the hottest summer on record for the past 95 years. Hard to believe it, but it was borderline...too hot, with high humidity and days when they warned about the heat! As you can imagine, I have been taking every opportunity to swim, especially in the nearby Baltic Sea, which has also been warmer than normal. We have also had a lot of dumping thunderstorms and some rain, so it is also green and beautiful here. Nearby Russia has experienced extreme temperatures, with little to no rain and there are fires and drought there that is causing havoc.

Of course, many other things have been happening throughout the nation and in ministry. Reports come to me weekly from the outreach teams that have been out, camps that have taken place and various other concerts and events. I have been encouraged hearing about various childrens and youth camps that YWAM has been involved with this summer, either assisting, organizing, hosting, or participating in. The YWAM center in Valdemarpils had a camp one week with 75 participants, aged 3-14...and the next few week, children and youth from Belarus came to run a camp at our YWAM facility. Some of the other teams that were out in villages came back with reports of healings, people coming to faith in Jesus, and deep impact in lives.

Another highlight was the return and graduation of our Discipleship Training School students a week ago. The students returned with fresh stories from outreach in the nations of Ukraine and Georgia. There were many open doors and opportunities in these nations and the students were deeply challenged and grew during these months. Some of the students are returning to join our staff and others are pursuing the call of God in their lives in other places. The next DTS begins in September, so preparations are underway for this.

As so many doors for ministry remain open here in Latvia, and the nations around...we are praying for effective ministry strategies, for new workers, and seeing more leaders raised up. Many of our national staff are feeling the strain of not having enough financial support, and are trying to hang on and not give into discouragement. This area has been a constant challenge over these years, a reflection of some of the issues in the nation and at times it wears us down. Please pray for insight and faith so that this area will not a hindrance for reaching out and also expanding into new opportunities. We hope to see more ministry teams released throughout the nation and to the nations in the coming years.

I have tried to take things at a slower pace this summer, but already feel things on the move as we head towards autumn. I am also in a personal process of evaluating my time, commitments, and priorities...and am receiving some leadership/life coaching. I am engaged in a program to be equipped further in this area so that I can better serve some of the staff and leaders here. Pray that this would be fruitful for me personally and that I could better invest in others. I do need to see some extra funds come in to cover the costs of the training. I really want to invest in people, to see them released to their full potential in God and their callings.

Thanks for your prayers, support and encouragement. Please dont underestimate how important this is, and that it does enable me to focus on what I need to here. It's

very very good to know that I have a team of faithful ones standing with me and also for this nation as we press forward.

Grace, peace!

Cheryl

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Financial donations:

Send a check written out to YWAM with a separate note attached indicating it is for Cheryl Harrison-Latvia. Do not write my name on the check.

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