



My dear friends, this is my special report that covers two camp sessions, preparation, my church activity and plans.

As many of you know our church with the help of American brethren each year organize Christian camps for kids and teenagers. This time we had our first session on June 27 – July 3. This session attended kids from 8 to 13 years old. There were 105 people including counselors. It was one of the greatest sessions I've ever directed. The staff was amazing. A lot of things depended on our staff and everyone was great. We had 11 people from America who were dedicated and well prepared to serve. God gave us a good weather, motivation and inspiration. Every day we had spiritual food for the kids through bible lessons for kids, sermons, activities with spiritual foundation. From early morning till evening counselors were examples for them and gave all they had to show how much God loves them. The main theme of the camp was "Step by Step" and it was also our camp song, to learn to walk in His steps. On the last day we usually have a camp fire but because of the rain we had to move into our mess hall. On the last day after the last devo everyone have a chance to say whatever he or she wishes. Words that kids say sometimes made counselors cry. Every day step by step we teach them how to walk in God's way and in the end you see that sown seeds of love give fruits. One boy said, "Before I came to camp I did not believe in God and did not know Him, but now I know who God is" Outstanding witness of how God reaches little hearts. I was the director the session.

The second session was in July 18-24 and was designated for teenagers ages 14-18. This week was a little different, different approach to the teenagers. The theme was the same "Step by Step" and the purpose was to show how we can grow, walk and follow Christ. We had 17 Americans and 15 Lithuanians in staff. Again, I have to say that this session was on the best one for teenagers we ever had. The team was outstanding, working in one direction for one great purpose. As a result we had three teenagers who got baptized and Tomas' wife Milda, who has been attending church and camps got baptized as well. At camp we had one bible lessons in the morning, lots of spiritual songs, huddle group in the afternoon, and then we had sermons in the evening with worship and evening devo before lights out. Each cabin also had its own spiritual conversation with the kids. Amazing session were everyone spiritually felt uplifted.

The main difference between American camps and Lithuanian is that almost all kids and teenagers are not Christians and most of them did not hear about God. They all consider themselves as Catholics or Orthodox. They attend Catholic Church only two times a year, at Christmas and Easter. They do not read the bible and know little about salvation and God. Some parents are very caution about letting their kids and ask a lot of questions about our church and what we do to their kids at camp. My wife niece was the first time at camp and her parents raised many questions about what kind of influence we may have on her. We are not allowed to baptize kids and if any of teenagers would like to be baptized we have to ask permission from the parents. If we do not follow the rule of the state then our church can be closed down. But despite that we had three teenagers who accepted Christ and became Christians. Many Lithuanian counselors were campers in the past but because of our common efforts they became Christians, grew in the church and now go to camp as mature counselors witnessing about God's unconditional love.

I am very happy that some Americans brothers from the camp staff regularly communicate with some of the teenagers to encourage them. Their encouragement and follow up had an impact on those three guys who got baptized at camp.

After the camp we try to follow up with kids and their parents. This year we will have a special letters to parents and invitation to our church. Letters of the church events will be sent regularly. Youth classes and retreats will be offered as a part of the follow up program.

I was very happy to see how Tomas' wife Milda accepted Jesus through baptism. Tomas Milda got married two years ago. Milda was not a Christian, though considered herself as a Catholic. Her mother was not happy to see that Milda's husband was not Catholic and there was a problem. But God helped them to find agreement. Before marriage Tomas was bringing Milda to church several times but she had no interest in faith. Gradually Tomas was working on Mildas faith being a great example of a Christian husband. He encouraged he to attend Sunday worship, participate at all church events, youth classes, Bible groups, bible lessons. Milda had great acceptance in the church and a lot of love was shown to her. Her love and faith in God became her motivation in life. She was baptized at camp by her husband Tomas. Tomas was happy, I was happy and the church was happy too.

There was a lot of preparation work for camp. I started to communicate with our American supporters and brethren who were to go come. Actually, the preparation started in early spring when we set the dates and I met with the camp owner to talk about the price. Vilnius church has to rent camp area and the price all the

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

As usually I humbly would like to ask you to pray for some important things in my life and church's life.

FOR FOLLOW UP..

Please pray that we could manage to have a great follow up program for the campers and their parents. My God gave us wisdom of how in a best way to reach parents and campers to attract them to church and preach the Word.

FOR THE CHURCH GROWTH.

Thank you for your constant prayers for our church in Vilnius. Please continue praying for us and for our maturity in Christ. May God give us the increase and may He guide us to grow in faith, in spirit and in numbers.

FOR ASTA'S HELATH.

There is a sister in Christ in the church who has health problems. Also she has to watch over her mentally sick father and she also raises two teenage children. She often has depression because of the huge stress that she feels constantly. Despite the hardship she is very faithful and attends all church activities. Pray that God would comfort her and give her His grace to console her. The church helps her as we can. Also there is an American supporter who helps her financially every month. Praise the Lord for what he does through His people.



time is different. The price depends on electricity, water and utilities. Also we rent a mess hall with cooks and the food price is always a subject of negotiation. Then we lunch our camp web page on the church page, do the application forms. We hire two big buses from Vilnius and one bus from Klaipeda. I usually work on camp T-shirts design, songbook design. Cooperation with American brethren takes time as usually (funds, bible lessons, sermons, counselor's assignments and etc). In Vilnius we had a Lithuanian counselors meeting where assignments and other things discussed. When Americans arrive we usually have one more general counselor's meeting to put all things together and to make sure that we are on the same page.

My church activity.

Sunday sermons:

1. May 29th – God's plant (Matt. 15:13)
2. June 12th – To judge or not to judge (7:24)
3. June 26th – Influence I part (Matt. 5:13)
4. July 10th – Influence II part (Matt. 5:13)

I alternate preaching with brother Juozas. I preach every second Sunday unless agreed with Juozas otherwise. After second session of camp on July 24th we had an honor of listening to Paul Frank sermon. Zivile, Juozas' wife was the translator.

Bible lessons.

I continue studying with Sergey, Vladimir's brother, at his home. Usually Vladimir is present at the lessons. In the beginning of the summer we had one more man who joined us. His name is Boris and he is a friend of Sergej. Boris has had a very difficult life full of tragic events. He was divorced and did not have constant job though he is a professional photographer. He had tuberculosis and problem with alcohol. This man what Jesus would call him "sick" and he needs Jesus. When Sergey got baptized started looking for people to share his faith with. Lots of his friends did not understand him but one who needed help responded to his preaching. Sergej invited Boris to our weekly Bible study. After several lessons we invited him to come to church to worship with us. Boris came and was warmly welcomed. He said, that it is amazing how friendly and lovely the church is. So he came next Sunday and next one. I believe that one day Boris will join the congregation of saints as a saved one.

Bible lessons with Gintare. She has been a member of the church for several years. After the high school she went to Scotland to study in University. Every summer she comes back for holidays and takes active part in the church life. This summer she organized a bible discussion for teenage girls. She asked for permission to initiate this discussion and I was happy to see such wonderful initiative. Gintare leads her class on Wednesdays and I meet with Gintare on Mondays to pray, read the Bible and encourage her in her leadership. My meetings with Gintare help her to see my care and spiritual advice when she needs.

Between the two sessions of camp we had two week of brake to get ready for the second session. During this brake I offer Oleg (an active member of the church and a song leader) to have a bible marathon. Bible marathon is series of bible lessons each day during the whole week. We study the bible, pray and discuss. Every day Oleg after his work was coming to the office to study the bible with me. The purpose of the marathon is to give spiritual food so that afterwards a student would read the bible and pray by himself at home. Sometimes I do such marathon with Sergej. We study the Bible once a week but sometimes I come to his flat every day to strengthen him in faith with God's word.

One thing that I lunched in the church is bible discussion after the worship. Our church now has a permanent place and we do not need to home after worship as we did when we rent a hall at Best Western hotel for Sunday worship. Now after worship a preacher (me or Juozas) prepares a list of questions in accordance with the sermon. Then the church is divided onto two groups and I and Juozas lead discussion about what was said in the sermon. It helps not to forget what the sermon was about, let people have questions regarding sermon, encourages to put into practice what was preached. After the discussion we have prayer requests. It lasts about 15 minutes and then we have refreshments and fellowship. The church likes this discussion and participates with joy.

The church has a vision "Overcome by faith and love, serve with joy and bring people to Christ", our goal is by 2014 to have 150 members in the church. In thins month we will work to make a one year plan of activities that will help us to grow. We are planning to have evangelism program, retreats, seminars, multiply leaders among the members, have children class, marriage ministry, men's and ladies' classes, youth activities and many more. When the plan is completed we will show it to you so that you may see how we plan to grow.

Thank you for your constant support in prayer and financially. Without your support we could not have wonderful camps, carry on our ministry and have our church premise. I personally and the church in Vilnius expresses our deepest gratitude for your love, encouragement, guidance and wisdom. We love you with the love of the Lord. Many blessings to you.

Some of the pictures from Sunday worship.



Brother Paul is preaching.



Igor is passing the communion cups.



Sunday worship.



Me and Paul Franks.



Sunday worship.