



“Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate, Light is stronger than darkness, Truth is stronger than lies.” (Desmond Tutu)

These words form the background of the year 2015 for SU Estonia. It is God’s love, strength, truth and power of His word, that “we have seen and heard ...and proclaim to you, so that you also may have fellowship with us.” (1John 1:3) To “overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21) may seem weak and losing tactics these days, yet it is stronger than any power in this world. This is our praise, our song to Him, encouragement and hope also for the year 2016.

2015 was:

A year of trainings and studies. There were SU and state trainings for camp leaders and group leaders; seminars to young people about how to find one’s calling and grow in it - at youth conference (January) and Bible rally (May); In 2015 our focus was on family more than previous years - SU was one of the partners that organised Family festival in March and in autumn we celebrated 25 years of Family camps in Estonia, and we did various trainings and seminars about family and marriage for other groups; we gave and received several counseling trainings on different levels, the courses about preparing retreats, and courses about leadership (incl Global Leadership Summit); seminars at women conferences and other gatherings. The highlight for all were courses in our “Dedication camp” about God’s Word, its influence, working in us and experiencing its power, by scholar and pastor Peter Nordberg from Arken church. We rejoiced over the possibility to send one young man to Bible engagement course to Marienheide, and also over the possibilities to learn from others during visits to SU events abroad: from Praise Camp in Switzerland, Basel, and work of SU Sweden, during the celebrations of their 50th anniversary. All this learning has already influenced our work, but we pray it would make us better servants in sharing and opening the Word with young people and adults also in 2016.

A year of sharing the Word: Thousands of people heard every day the Bibletexts and notes through **radio** (with the help of about 40 authors); and all the radionotes are available in archive for relistening - it is a large, regular audience (with surprising number of nonbelievers) and many gave feedback how this has directly changed and strengthened their lives and faith; many are also daily following our **webnotes** and using its archive; more and more young people discover **WordLive** and enjoy it, in spite of different language; there are **random initiatives** -outbursts among young people to read certain Bible books, or all the Bible during a set time - for them we published some small bookmarks about how to read the Bible, and BR card. If in previous years there was a possibility to share the Word through **national radio**, this year a door opened also to do the same in **national TV** (together with several christians from all the churches). These were exciting and huge opportunities, but also difficult challenges, for the time given for TV broadcast was 4 minutes, per programme and majority of the audience does not speak “the believer’s language” and knows very little about Bible or Christianity. The trend of the age seems to be that people want more and more the messages only in very short and easily-digestive ways - even in the eternal and life-death matters and this demands radical change of language use and format especially in front of wider audiences. And more sticking to and trusting the power of the Word. In the end of the year, I was invited to **read the Bible with Estonian Parliament** members, which again was totally new challenge. But generally the hunger for the word is growing and we pray for the wisdom and courage to share it boldly and fruitfully.

Our **biblereading notes for children** were published quarterly in christian children magazine, and we finished the work with **BBC webmaterials** and sunday school lessons. At the same time we continued preparations to publish estonian version of E100Challenge, together with Estonian Bible Society.



A year of camping and other children events. Our **camp** season opened in May; we had 6 camps, all together serving close to 400 children and young people in them (with guests from Belorussia in youth camp), with the team about 36 people and many new team members. This is the most time and resource consuming part of SU work, yet it is also the most rewarding part, where we experience God's direct intervention and transformational work among the children and young people. These camps gave us again numerous stories of changed lives and hearts. One characteristic, occurring again and again from the very first days of the camp is, that young people experience God's presence so powerfully, that whole groups start to give their lives to God- no matter in which program part we happen to be. Every year we see how evil has destroyed more in young people's lives, the stories are devastating, but they come hungry for love and genuine relationships, sometimes desperately hoping that God really is and cares, and to see God's Love encountering them from the first days on, is marvellous, humbling and uplifting. We have witnessed the redeeming power of Cross, the power of simple prayers, our own weakness and total inability to change anything in other's lives - and this has trained the camp teams to be totally dependant on guidance of the Holy Spirit and obedience in listening to God. Very often these signs or leadings are small, and the evil attacking us seems too big, but once one learns that God really is and does, what He has said and promised, listening and obeying becomes everything. Daily prayer watches are "must" in camps. Also supportign each other and fighting for unity. The main camp work challenges outwardly for us are constant travelling from one site to the other - always ready for unexpected not nice "surprises" in kitchens, or main grounds; the evergrowing loads of equipment, food and materials we have to transport to and from the sites - this constant building up and pulling down of the place takes extra energy from the team and there are some who just won't take it. We are praising Lord for the trailer we were given last year, but even this gets occasionally overloaded. So we keep praying for getting our own campsite ready, though the campers like the yearly changes in scenery.

In June **KidsGames** were held for the 4th time - and though it was more challenging than previous ones, we had around 100 very happy kids on the site every day! God sent us extra help through a team of strong young men from USA, who every day put up the site and took it down afterwards - a task, that would have been too much for our small team. The changed preparation training did not turned out as successful as planned this time, and it seems we might need to take a break the next year.

Bible was a success though at the annual national youth rally "**Bible Days**" (about 700 young people gathered for 3 days), where we had our own area of Bible walk for teenagers and young adults. It was first time we offered such a selection of different activities, but we were inspired by experiences in 2014, in "Praise Camp" in Basel, Switzerland - and will definitely have another such place in 2016.

It has also been amazing year in **schoolwork** for **SEOS**. You can find a longer article about it in European Prayer Bulletin 1/2016, but just in figures.. in 2015: during 2 tours close to 2000 young students were met in lectures; around 700 came to hear the message about Jesus and most of them opened the Bible for the first time in their lives; about 90 of them made a decision for God... Praise Him and please keep praying for these new "babies", the team and leaders.

A year of new hope at our campsite. Because of the support, work, help and encouragement of dear friends and co-workers from SU Australia and SU french speaking Switzerland, the unbelievable happened and we were blessed with additional funding to finish the communications phase on the site; we also got funding to start with the first building. God also added 3 new men, to the leading group of the campsite - to help to find the best practical solutions the current tasks. By december half of the reinforcement and expansion of the roads needed were done, the second site maintenance works as well. There is a load of paperwork still ahead, to get licences, blueprints, etc., before the digging of the wells can begin, but we got better deal in electricity connections than we thought possible and hope to have real connections early in 2016 as well. Please keep praying



for inspiration and wisdom for this small team, for finding best solutions for our needs, but also join us in praise to our God, who does answer prayers!

It is a new, unknown year ahead of us all in a rapidly and drastically changing world. Nothing seems to be standing or secure anymore - apart from our God and His Word - that will never change. **We want to thank each and every one of you for your support, prayers, care and love! You have helped all this to happen!!** We hope, that these stories encourage you to trust and praise Him even more, together with us in 2016!

You can find pictures of events : <http://www.avatudpiibel.ee/galerii> and <https://www.facebook.com/Kids-Games-Eesti-243353942477257/>