

# Family Living Ministries International

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Dr. Marite Tisa

## Letter From Latvia

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters in FLMI Family,**

Peace be with you, dear ones, as Jesus has said in John 20:19. Peace is the best gift to us in this time of insecurity and anxiety, and only Jesus can give it to us. „Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7,NIV)

We had a beautiful summer where we experienced God's grace and leading. At the last days of August we had a camp in Usma for children with special needs who are supported by FLMI. During these days each child had „an angel” – a FLMI Team member who took special care for him or her. It was a learning lesson for FLMI members, too, when we exercised to communicate, open our hearts and serve humbly and brave.

in Usma 4 years ago. This has become an event which people are looking for the whole year. We all could learn so much from Zigrida,



specially her excitement and 100% devotion to any responsibility. She had excellent communication skills when working in the Soup Kitchen and was dealing with people from different environments, education, habits and addictions. Her job is continued by Iveta, a lady who was with Zigrida till her last breath and took care of dyeing Zigrida with amazing love, patience and endurance. We welcomed Iveta in the midst of FLMI Team and she took it with responsibility and honor. In the meeting each FLMI member was sharing his/her main challenges in their ministry and we presented these requests to God. So, we prayed for strength and endurance to serve, for successful work in FLMI Soup Kitchens, for capacity to cover all the issues coming up when ministering, also for opened doors to distribute Bibles in schools, hospitals and hotels, for work in Crisis center, for our neighbors to come to Christ, for revival in Latvia and for stopping of pandemic so we can continue work in old

people homes. We prayed also for strength and effectiveness of our FLMI Team work as a whole team. These are our main prayer requests.

During our meeting camp's registration team was welcoming families and helping them to find their rooms with beds in the old folk school.

That means, without elevator, and we were thankful for our



youth who could carry people in wheelchairs up and down the stairs. This year we even had a big camp flag where each camp participant left the print of his hand and wrote the name. It was a very touching moment when even Artis and Liga, and little Lote did it. The opening ceremony was held at the outdoor altar place and God gave us a beautiful weather and we felt His presence there. Each family and their "angel" had to learn to make agreement and come up with their favorite food and the thought or lesson they have learned lately. Answers to the first question made us laugh and

ask for recipes later, but thoughts revealed a lot how families



cope everyday with their challenges. We had a camp song, prayers and then we rose up the camp flag. We had a dinner outside, at the fire place where we even could grill some sausages. Then everyone was invited to take a part in art workshop and families made bags and little flags with plant leaves. It was so touching to see not only children and youth, but also mothers fully engaging in this relaxing art work while their children with special needs were made busy in meadow by "angels" which gave parents this valuable time of peace with themselves. We had worship group who led us in praising God and then slowly people emerged themselves in the beauty of nature



under the big trees or at the lake side and found little groups to communicate. At then end I myself found a hemic and was laying there in darkness, looking at the big school building where all the many windows where lightened up showing that our big, big family has come home.

Next day Gita, FLMI, was sharing with adults her powerful unbelievable life story how God found her in the prison where she was put for her crimes and gave her family with seven children even she was told





she was not able to have any child. It led to individual consultations and conversations later. Mike Cummins, a missionary, was talking about God as the Friend of our soul and invited to accept Jesus as personal Savior. During that children and youth together with “angels” had a music workshop by Zita and Harijs, sandwich workshop by Aija Valgelina, handcrafts with Gita. By that time it started to rain and blow, but we hoped to have a boat ride on the lake... We decided to go on and do it anyway. Liga, 31 years old, who was the first time in the camp because she was hopelessly bedridden during last years, but has started even to walk some distance (praise the Lord!), was taken to the



lake port by her wheelchair, but then we discovered that her wheelchair does not go through the gate.... So, Liga stood up, stepped

on the boat which was slippery and moving in the waves, sat and enjoyed the ride on Usma lake. We got wet and cold, but it was such a fun. Our captains did several boat rides since we could not get all on one boat. Little Rodrigo was even invited to help our captain.

After that we were pampered by a wonderful lunch in school's dining room and got ready for the service in the special wooden church made by local village people and decorated with wonderful reed weawings. Children did their song, we worshipped and listened to testimonies and came out filled with God's presence. Liga's mother did not think they could come on the second day because of heavy work

load, but they came anyway because the time in the camp was so special and gave them strength needed for time ahead.

We want to thank you sincerely from our hearts because this wonderful even would not be possible without some funds – for lodging, for breakfast, lunches and dinners for about 80



people. Thank you! I would like also to invite you, if God puts that on your heart, to come to Latvia and join Usma camp next year which will happen again if God will allow. It might become a life changing experience.

May God bless you richly!

With love, Marite



## Dear Brothers and Sisters of FLMI Family,

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" John 16:33. That is the main and the only reason we can live with a peaceful heart in these days. We need to really understand that this situation has not surprised God and if we put ourselves in His hands, He will take care of us. He has granted us Eternal life through Jesus sacrifice at the Cross when we accept His gift. I often remind myself that there are two options: I can stand on a Cliff and be scared or I can stand on a Cliff and not be scared, the result will not change because of my feelings. I need to trust my Savior and to serve Him. I also read: "Worship the Lord your God and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you" Exodus 23:25.

FLMI Latvia continues to work using opportunities God is



giving us. Soup Kitchen in Kandava is making soup for clients and distributing it to them. They who can come to pick soup and bread

come themselves, but they who are weaker, receive it at their homes. To about 23 people soup is daily delivered at their living places (from approximately 75 soup kitchen clients). Mostly they are old and lonely people and are happy for the food and care they receive through FLMI. Iveta is in charge of activities that take place in Kandava Soup Kitchen. She also works as a social caregiver and goes into homes and helps people who are very weak and are not able to take care of themselves.

Also Talsi Soup kitchen is continuing trustfully to minister to its clients. Now we need to take in mind all the rules of observing the distance which still allows for people to receive soup and bread. There is the same: they who can, they come



themselves to pick up jars with soup, but to the others soup is brought to their homes. Zaiga leads this ministry and also uses her medical education to help people with diabetes control. FLMI also provides food packages to the people who have it hard to provide for their living.

Aija and Dzintra are working with women groups, organizing prayer meetings, fellowship times



strengthening each other with testimonies about what God has done in the lives and praying for the needs. Marite is leading a group which is praying for children – for the children and grandchildren of own and for those who are on people's hearts, for their salvation, different problems and walk with God.

Andrejs is active in spreading God's Word by distributing Bibles in schools and on streets and organizing men's meetings. Men need encouragement when thinking on what is a Christian man like. They were discussing on who should be the first in your priorities – is it God or your family, with the



understanding that if God will be on the first place, also your family will be good. God helps us to love without conditions, not only by emotions that fade so easily. A Christian man is a man who learns to know God, reads and believes in Bible and is not afraid to speak about God with others. Each man should have a mentor and should be a mentor to someone else, too. Andrejs also helps to take people to doctors or hospitals.

Eunika is helping with her car to bring old, sick and lonely people to the church and bringing them food at their homes. Some of the live on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, so it is a big help. Our Elma is always excited about our Savior and walks



around as a living testimony initiating conversations at a doctor's office, hospital or on the street. She also brings New Testaments with her and is happy to present them to people whom God puts on her path.

Gita is working in Ciruli village trying to make a friendly Christian commune around the church by always being opened and available to any questions or needs. God has blessed them amazingly by renewing the church building – one businessman hearing what is going on in this little country place came and totally renewed the building. So, God has something in plan for this place. Even in this restricted time as we have right now, they seek a way how they can help people and tell about Jesus the Savior.

FLMI continues to support families with sick children. It is



a great joy to see how the families start to minister to the others. So, Artis' parents are trying to build a new church in Sabile. They do not have a church premise, only a land



with the rests of a very damaged building where is no safe even to enter. During summer they held their services right outside the building and had a baptism in the nearby river. For some time ago they have started a little soup kitchen there helping poor and sick people, which FLMI is supporting, too. FLMI is ministering also with worship music in different services and gatherings.

God made us a surprise by letting missionary Daniel Bush to enter the country even in this time of restrictions and

do missions here. He used nowadays computer possibilities and was speaking through MS platforms. He was invited to speak with students in the school and to tell them about his carrier path. He also used his psychology degree background and discussed with the future medical students how to talk with patients and build them up, how to lead heavy conversations, how not to own things that are not yours and not to beat on yourself. Also how to overcome hindrances when you are not able to succeed more. Students were very interested and asked also who helped him to choose the way in his life. It was a very good opportunity to share about God who guides His people. Since this was a Christmas time, students and Daniel were sharing about traditions how to celebrate it. It gave a possibility to talk about what is a real Christmas meaning, theological world view, the prophecies about Christ that have been fulfilled, miracles that Jesus did and the life with Christ. Students appreciated these meetings and some of them even said - it brought a light in my life.



I thank you for supporting FLMI in Latvia and wish each one blessed Christmas time experiencing the light of Jesus Christ in our hearts!

With love,

Marite



## Greetings brothers and sisters

To our dear family in Christ from the FLMI board, our hearts are with you. We would like to share some encouragement.

During this time there is a lot of things that this world wants us to be fearful of, but Our Lord tells us we are to Trust in Him. Do not be fearful of the world, Our God is greater than anything this world can bring before us. **Psalm 18:2**, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold". It helps us to remember that God is greater than all things of this world, that he is there for us,

We just have to keep our eyes on him, and He will get us through, and when we look back we can see all the blessings that He has given us over the years. So, our hope and desire is to be an encouragement for the lost along with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fear is one of Satan's favorite weapon, he wants us to be fearful and afraid, but Jesus tells us, TRUST ME, and don't be afraid. He wants us to view trials as exercises to develop our trust muscles. So, as you face challenges remember that God is there, he is just waiting for you to ask for his help. Pray, study scriptures, and speak with other sisters and brothers in Christ. We are to support each other, to gather together, as in Hebrews 10:25, "Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching".

We are always wondering "Why" about things that is happening or not happening in our lives. But we need to remember the greatest Why. Christ's love for each and every one of us. God's love for mankind was so great that he sent his one and only son to this earth, to live and walk on this earth facing challenges and temptations as we do. Christ then ministered to his people and prepared a way for us to have knowledge of him, Our Heavenly Father, and The Holy Spirit. We need to remember the reason for his death, the fact that he died on the cross for the penalty of our sins, Romans 6:23, to take away our condemnation, and to draw us close to him. Ephesians 2:13, But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Christ died so that we can have eternal life with him, John 3:16. So without Christ in our hearts we are condemned to eternal death. Christ death was his proof of how great his love was for mankind. So as believers in God/Christ/and the Holy Spirit our lives are to reflect Christ Love to others as he loved us. Let our lives reflect this each and every day, to be a witness to others in all that we do and reach out and help others that don't know to draw near to him.

Since we all have suffered the loss of our Brothers & Sisters in Christ, along with family & friends, we need to remember the strength that each of these great mentors that God has given us over the years, but we also need to remember that we will see them again when we are in the presence of our Lord. What a time of worship and rejoicing that will be. Additionally, we need to remember those that Christ has brought up to step into those shoes, let us pray and support each other in the challenges that arise daily.

So in closing we want you to know that you are never alone, first of all Christ is always by our side, but we want you to also know that we are praying for you, and looking forward to continue to serve together alongside each other for our Christ and Savior.

In Christ & His Glory and Honor,

Steve and Cindy Jameson

II Timothy 1:7

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