

Family Living Ministries International

www.familylivingministries.com

1st Quarter 2023



Dr. Marite Tisa *Letter from Latvia*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in FLMI Family

"He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:6-7. May this Easter time when we specially focus on resurrection of our Lord, renew our souls the same way we see God is renewing nature in spring. Every plant and flower comes from dirt with such an unstoppable strength and drive towards the Sun. Have a blessed Easter!

FLMI continues to work and serve in Latvia as God allows us. We are happy for Gita and her family – God gives them many opportunities and they are so active to use them. Gita organized a project action “For a Fed Latvia” in Talsi. She invited youth from Talsi Christian School and FLMI members



as well as people from Ukraine who live now in Talsi. They were standing in one of the biggest grocery shops in Talsi, addressing people and explaining them that they can take the offered plastic bag and go to shop for people in need. Then people came out and gave the purchased amount to the volunteers who in turn packed these goods and delivered to 80 families in need, including Ukrainian families who try to find a job and survive. Most of these families were people whom Gita visits regularly 3 times a week bringing food from the same shop – the shop leaders have agreed to donate food items which expiration dates come to the end. These are families from Talsi and neighborhood in 60 km distance. They are mostly families with children, older and sick people who

have hard time to provide for living, especially the problem is acute at the end of each month when money has run out. In the beginning it was a task of a charity organization “Talsi Region Foundation”, but now it has handed it over to FLMI, continuing having close relationship and collaboration.

Gita is organizing regular meetings with women from Kolka (60 km away from Talsi) who come to Talsi, discuss their life problems and ask Gita – what Bible tells about it? Should I go and fight with my neighbor or forgive and leave it? There are many questions and many prayer needs. So slowly these women come closer to the Lord and some already want to come to the Easter service with their children. The other regular group Gita leads is “Tea Time Group” – several women from different churches who openly share their life stories and bring their testimonies revealing how hard times a person can experience and how God can give the strength to endure it and bring them through. This is the time and place to share also the darkest sides of the life and pray together seeking God’s healing. This is the place Gita is exercising the skill of listening, a skill that Don has taught to FLMI members.

It is good to see how people not only receive a help, but helping is now mutual. FLMI has close ties now with the families where FLMI sponsored sick children and youth grow. They come to visit each other, take a walk with wheelchairs and share. Gita and her husband Janis has been pre-marital counselors for Marta’s (FLMI sponsored girl with CP) sister and her new husband. But Liga’s (also a sponsored girl) mom did all the flower work for the wedding. Through these ties these families are strengthened, but also new people are reached. Gita will go to visit a family in nearby village with five children and a hard life story. Gita has a close collaboration with Inguna and Artis from Kandava (who has a boy with CP) and Gita can give Inguna the food items from the shop in Talsi who in turn distribute them to needy people in Kandava and Sabile. Also the clients of the Soup Kitchen in Kandava can obtain clothes and different items for children through Iveta twice a month.

The work with children in Ciruli church also touch the parents. Gita gave each child in Sunday school a little poem to learn by heart, but received telephone calls from parents about the words in the poem. A child is asking mom what the word Bethlehem means and since mom does not know that this is the place of Jesus birth, she calls Gita to ask and Gita can use even this little opportunity to share Gospel. Gita is also



posting some tasks for children in churches' home page on Facebook. In other words, she uses each opportunity to share Christ.

Three times a week she meets with refugees from Ukraine. Gita left her business card in a second hand shop so Ukrainians could reach her. Now they meet regularly, give food packages and have conversation time. Some have become friends and visit each other. Gita has handed out Christian brochures to children why evil things happen in life explaining God's will and love for people. Some Ukrainian refugees even come to Ciruli church services and participate with worshipping music. Then Gita is a Russian –Latvian interpreter. Six time a week Gita leads a prayer meeting on Zoom with their former Alfa course group where they were leaders. It is more than a year the course has finished, but relationships stay and there is a need for common prayers. They pray mostly for Ukraine and their personal needs.

But once a month on Saturdays they have worship evenings in Ciruli church, workshops or evenings with special guests – a Christian psychologist, a singer and a poet. Many mothers have teenager kids, so the meeting with a Christian psychologist was very useful; specially because there were also some fathers actively participating.

Gita and her family has participated in a photo exhibition "Family 21" which promotes Christian values of the family. When they are asked to share how was the photo making process they share about God and Christ as a personal Savior and the need to stick with the principles God has given to us regarding family.

We can also pray for Gita because she already for some years is suffering from insulin dependent



Diabetes and it is hard for her to get glucose level where it should be. The family is rather poor and cannot afford healthy eating with vegetables and greens which would help. But Gita is thankful she does not have hypoglycemia or other attacks and is using each day

to do something for God in spite of how she feels.

Thank you for your devotion to FLMI work in Latvia with prayers and financial support! May God bless you richly,

With love, Marite



Greeting Brothers and Sisters,

Dear FLMI

Greetings to all our FLMI Family, Prayer Warriors & Supporters of our Lord lead ministry.

2 Corinthians 2:15 – “For we are to God the pleasing aroma of CHRIST among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.”

As Marite mentioned in her article, these last couple of years has been a challenge for all of us, Individually and as a ministry. Our desire and goal as a ministry, is to reach out and serve those in need.

Daily we are facing challenges to strive to a life that is pleasing and glorifying to our Heavenly Father, and as you can see from Marite's letter how Gita and family, as well as other Staff and Representatives are reaching out to those in their communities. Whether in Latvia, or here stateside, each of daily needs to consider where God may have us reach out to those that we encounter, whether they are family, friends, neighbors, strangers within the community. How can we show God's love to others.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”, Colossians 3:23, and “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms., 1 Peter 4:10.

So let each prayerfully consider how we may reach out serve our Heavenly Father with the gifts and blessing that he has given of us. To be a light to those around us, and how we may share God's love and grace. Whether this is at our front door or on the other side of the world, if we make an impact, then they can share with others, and that is how we continue to grow God's family.

Once again, we would like to apologize for the delay in getting this out, but we have been dealing with medical issues with some of our extended family. Please keep our Uncle Bud and Aunt Irene in your prayers.

In Christ & His Glory and Honor,

II Timothy 1:7

Steve and Cindy Jameson