

Hello

I am happy to say that springtime has arrived in Latvia....and we even had a few days of summerlike warmth. It is always funny to see that this time of year, it seems one day people are wearing scarves, hats and bundled up, and the next, you see guys stripped down to shorts, playing volleyball on the beach. I even saw a few people to dare swim in the Baltic Sea in April. I confess I rolled my pants up, dipped my feet in and was walking knee high in the water last week.

Preparation Time

The past few months have been full ones, and I am glad that things have slowed down a bit and I can catch my breath. As YWAM here, I can say that we are in a season of readjustment, evaluation, and also preparation. We have felt it very important to strengthen our foundations, work on our teams and strategies, some staff training and equipping is happening, and some times of seeking God as well. The underlying sense is that we need the preparation for the times that are ahead. We already are facing some battles and expect that we will face more as we go into the new things.

Ministry

But of course, plenty of ministry is continuing. We have a visiting YWAM School of Evangelism outreach team, who have been ministering alongside our staff in various cities and there have been open doors, especially in schools, with youth. The team will head to Riga where we will be also spending some time with them. It is always a boost to have teams come and join our forces. Some of our staff were also involved as speakers, translators and leading worship for the recent Public School Teachers conf, that we partner with, held in Riga. 300 teachers attended this weekend seminar and were taught, encouraged and challenged to take Biblical Principles back into their schools. We dont know how long this door will stay open and really want to support this opportunity any way we can. Many of these teachers return to their schools and are a big influence on other teachers, students and can go into places where we cant.

Step by Step

Right now, we do not have any big training programs or projects happening, but more like a web of many small activities, outreaches, events and relationships. Almost every day I hear about something: an interview one of our staff has had in a leading teen magazine, or a seminar that is touching hearts, or a group of youth coming to experience the ropes course, or a Sunday school for children that has recently been started, or a small team doing mercy projects and visiting needy families. When it all comes together, I can see that the Kingdom of God is advancing...bit by bit, step by step, obedience by obedience.

Interesting Times

We are facing challenges, that at times seem insurmountable.... The crazy inflation has not subsided....last I heard it was 17%, and coupled with the dollars demise....it just makes life harder. My rent was just raised again.... and my roomates and I are looking at each other saying....hmmmm, how are we going to make this work???? Of course, we are not alone and that is the situation facing many people. It has been a challenge with some of our outreach focus... people in Latvia are now so consumed with making money, to survive or secure and

advance their lives. They are working, working, working....long hours, or escaping to other countries where they can make enough money to live. But the whole focus on materialism and securing a good life, seem to be the driving force in the nation. It chokes out other things---eternal things. On one hand, it seems hard to avoid that, but on another hand, it seems like an endless circle that keeps people going round and round.

#### Upcoming things

We plan to celebrate our 15 year anniversary as YWAM Latvia, later this month. Well, this is also my 15 year anniversary of coming to Latvia. In a way, it is hard to celebrate, because it has been a rough year. But I think it is a time for gratefulness, remembrance, and also moving on into the next season, the next obediences, the next victories that God sets before us. We need to remember Gods great faithfulness these past 15 years, in order to engage in faith and vision for the new challenges and destiny that we are to fulfill.

#### Following Jesus

My heart has been challenged lately. A lot. By so many things. I recently felt strongly prompted by the Lord Jesus, to recall to mind His words, to 'FOLLOW ME'. Hmmm, so simple, but it is an instruction, it is a command, it is a daily reminder of what life is really all about. It is the question I can ask myself each day....am I following Him? Do I know where He is going? Am I looking around at others or the circumstances or rationalizing away certain things. I think I have a lot to learn about following Jesus. But something inside of me says... 'YES, I will follow you'

#### Thanks

Well, I can not say thank you too many times. I am thankful for faithful supporters, for loving friends, for diligent prayer partners, for committed hearts who come along side me. I am blessed richly by so many special people who are a part of my life. I do need your prayers and am so grateful for every small and big financial donation that comes my way.

Love, blessings

Cheryl

cheryl harrison

Petera iela 15-11

LV-2015 Jurmala

Latvia

+371-26418210 (cell)

+371-67754307

email: serolah@gmail.com <<mailto:serolah@gmail.com>>

skype: serolah

#### Donations:

(write check out to YWAM and attach a separate note, saying it is for Cheryl Harrison, staff in Latvia) Mail to:

Accounting Office

PO Box 3000

Garden Valley, TX 75771-3000