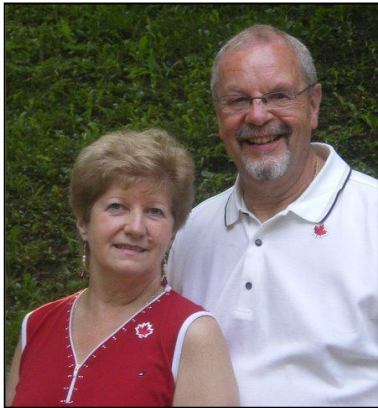


Missionary Prayer Connection

Märt and Alta Vähi

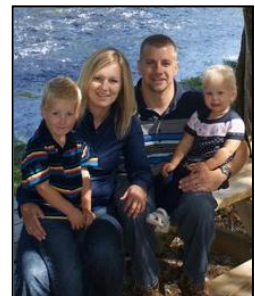
February 2012



Märt and Alta Vähi are missionaries to Estonia. They have been married 41 years, have three children and will soon have their eighth grandchild. Märt was born in Sweden to Estonian parents and grew up in Canada while Alta was born in New Brunswick, Canada. Both first served as missionaries in 1971, smuggling Bibles into the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. After being arrested and expelled from the Soviet Union in 1977, they returned to Märt pastoring in Fredericton, building Smythe Street Cathedral while at the same time serving in several organizational functions, which included ACOP District Presbyterter and member of the Missionary Council, along with other public positions which included being chaplain of the New Brunswick Legislature.

They returned together with their family to Europe during the breakup of the former Soviet Union in 1991. Together with colleagues, a large number of churches and outreaches were established in turn leading to the official consecration of Märt as a bishop in the Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church. Eventually this led to his present ministry together with his son Andrew, to those in addition through the ministry of the Village of Hope in Estonia and Canada.

Märt together with Andrew, who continues to be involved in Estonia with his father, continue to raise, mentor and develop leadership in Estonia as well as in Canada. Young men who eight years ago came to the Village of Hope as heroin addicts today lead this ministry and train others. Three former addicts today are in various Bible Schools in Latvia and Russia with another graduate doing leadership training and apprenticeship at the Village of Hope. The main aspect of Märts ministry is the expansion and growth of the Village of Hope missionary outreach and training to those who would otherwise never have a chance. He also continues to work together with his son Andrew in the Canadian Village of Hope in its ever increasing expansion and growth. Märt, after consecrating the present acting bishop Ago Lilleorg into office, continues to serve in an advisory capacity on the national leadership of the Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church and acts as a mentor and father figure to its leadership.



“Today we have missionaries from Estonia ministering as far as China!”, states Märt. The church in Estonia continues to reach out and ever expand. “Yet one of the most challenging and needy areas are among the general population of the addicted” continues Märt, as he explains the challenges of his call in missionary ministry. “God spoke to my heart and said, “You have not reached this nation yet, until you reach those who are in the deepest of darkness and despair” reflects Märt. “This is our primary call as we continue the other ministries in which my wife and I are involved in”. Alta continues to minister as a terrific hostess and stable support to her husband.

Märt not only continues to minister in Estonia but also throughout the various countries of Europe which include Spain, Holland, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden as well as Russia and the Ukraine where there is an ever increasing demand to minister and support spiritual leadership. For example in March this year an historical event will take place in Saint Petersburg, Russia where Märt will preside in the consecration of the pastor of a large work in Saint Petersburg as bishop. Years ago while smuggling Bibles, Märt and Alta brought Bibles to a small but growing underground church and ministered to them in secret. Today this same church has grown to over 3000 with 9 other churches in the city and churches throughout Russia. Pastor Dymitri also leads several churches in a network of Pentecostal churches and organizations. This will be a first of this kind, in Russia, of a ceremonial consecration for a bishop in full attire and vestments. One of the participants of the ceremony who will also be the key note speaker will be the bishop of the network of Pentecostal Churches, organizations throughout Russia and the Ukraine. A dedication of the new church facility, a former famous theatre on the main well know street of Nevski Prospect called the “Coliseum”, will be dedicated the following day.

“In the light of all, one of the greatest thrills I experience today is to see those in addiction come to Christ! Those who have never been to church, never opened a Bible nor ever prayed in their life before, come to get help and find Jesus in the midst of it all! Just two days ago 23year old Estonian named Ain came to the program, a hopeless HIV positive drug addict. Last night in the prayer meeting he accepted the Lord with tears of joy, not ever expecting to find hope such as this.”

Pray for preparations that are being made to build the 16th building at the Village of Hope. Pray for the Swedes and others involved in this joint project. It will be the single staff and living accommodations for those in training. The second 10 phase of the program provides graduates with the opportunity to go into full time training where they prepare to be workers, support group leaders for those in addiction, while yet others go into church plants and evangelism.

Pray for the expansion of family ministry to addicts and future plans for a multi-functional building, women’s center and the thousands of dollars that will be needed to do all this here in Estonia and in Canada.

In spite of all the funds that have been raised, one of the ongoing needs facing the Vähi’s is their own personal support, which has been in constant shortfall. In relation to this Märt states: “We have made many sacrifices over the years of missionary ministry and will continue to do so no matter what it takes and thank those who continue to stand with us. It just makes things much more difficult when there is such a huge shortage of funds in our budgeted support”. Pray about this.

For Estonia, Europe, and those in addiction worldwide may the gospel of Christ and His Kingdom come!

Pray for us!

www.lootusekula.ee

www.villageofhope.net www.villageofhopenb.ca

