



Florida—Georgia District
Evangel—Special Edition
Mission Trip 2016
Issued - January 2016



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the LWML Florida-Georgia District,
Happy New Year greetings from your Mission Trip Coordinator! May our Lord bless you and your family with health and happiness. With our Christmas celebrations still ringing in our hearts, now is a great time to think about how we can share the Good News of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection with others. I have the perfect opportunity for you to do this with our mission trip to Latvia.

This special edition of the *Evangel* is dedicated to our upcoming trip and contains lots of information. There will be many questions and I encourage you to contact me and I will answer them. Many of you approached me at the Retreat last Fall and I'd like to hear from you again if you are still interested in going.

I am really excited about this opportunity to witness about Jesus and to watch the blessings flow to and from all the people who ultimately become involved. There are many ways to become involved in this mission trip even if you don't actually make the trip to Latvia. Prayers are essential and necessary. Everyone can pray and we know all prayers are heard and answered by our loving God. Support and encouragement for those who are going is a must. Our travelers will certainly appreciate support from family and friends, assurance that they are making the right decision to go, comfort that while they are being missionaries the home front will survive without them for a few days. Monetary support for those who are committed to the trip is critical. Not everyone can foot the entire bill themselves but they still feel the call to go on the trip. Those who can't go can be a part of this mission with their monetary donations. Any donation makes the giver a part of the team whether they step on Latvian soil or not.

This is going to be a great trip - I can feel it every time I pray and talk to the Lord about it. Please contact me with any questions, concerns, and sign-up instructions at the email address or phone number below. Please leave a detailed message and a good contact number for me to respond. You can also look at the trip details through the MOST Ministries website. I am available to attend meetings, rallies, and speak after church services about our trip - just contact me to set up a date and time.

The Lord provides and I believe He will provide for this trip, not only for us to be missionaries to the Latvian people, but to be missionaries to each other. Prayerfully consider that this might be your time to be a missionary.

In His Service,
Dawn Sandvig,
Mission Trip Coordinator
LWML FL-GA District
PH: (352) 243-3596
Email: clermont3596@gmail.com

IMPORTANT!

If you are planning to go on this trip please contact me soon, as this is time sensitive. We have to send a deposit and a list of attendees by late February or early March.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Florida-Georgia District LWML is to share the love of Christ with women of all ages and diversities and to foster a recognition that the mission field exists both at home and abroad.



Latvia ~ Team 1604

English Language Camp

Team Description

“Impacting the World for Jesus Christ”

DATES: July 23-August 2, 2016

LOCATION: Alūksne, Latvia

ESTIMATED COST: \$2,900-3,300 with estimated airfare

COST INCLUDES:

- Airfare
- Ground Transportation
- Housing
- Meals
- Logistical, Spiritual & Cultural Training Materials
- Trained Team Leader
- In-country Arrangements and Costs
- Supplemental Health Insurance
- Crisis Management Plan
- Team Medical Bag with Nursing Protocols
- 24/7 On Call Doctor

MATERIALS FOR PROJECT:

- Craft supplies
- Recreation equipment
- Music and drama resources



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:



Members of this team will teach English to students eager to learn the English language. Days will be filled with lessons in Bible reading, grammar, vocabulary, idioms, and writing; but that is only half the fun! Arts, crafts, music, drama, recreation and a time of worship will also be provided. Students will vary in age from young children through adults, including many young professionals and older adults. Typically there are 50-60 people participating in the program.

Lessons are taught using a MOST Ministries' provided Christian curriculum that allows small, personalized classes. Pre-field training on how to teach the lessons are provided by the MOST Ministries' Team Leader assigned to accompany your team to Latvia.

This team needs people who are interested in teaching, assisting in the classroom or leading arts, crafts, recreation, music, and drama. With its highly relational focus, this is a great team for individuals of any age.

Many of the students return each year to continue working on their English skills. They also bring friends and family with them and ultimately learn more about their Savior Jesus Christ.

PLEASE NOTE: You do not need to be a certified teacher or speak 'the language' to join this team.

HOST INFORMATION: St. John Lutheran Church (Pastor Ingus Dauksts)

LCMS STATUS & RELATIONSHIP:

The beginnings of Christianity in Latvia go back to the end of the 12th century, but during the German military occupation of World War II and communist control from 1944 to 1991, oppression of the church was severe. Many Latvians fled, forming churches in exile. Many also abandoned the faith. Religious freedom returned in 1988, but many rural areas are still without Gospel proclamation, and great needs remain for training leaders, both clergy and lay, and for publishing Christian literature.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod started working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (ELCL) in 1995. Altar and pulpit fellowship with the ELCL was formally declared by resolution at the 2001 LCMS Synod Convention. Since that time, the LCMS and the ELCL have developed a very positive working relationship through Orphan Grain Train; the Lutheran Heritage Foundation; Lutheran Hour Ministries; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri; and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE:

- Breakfast
- Devotions
- Morning Classes 9:30AM-11:30AM
- Lunch
- Reading & Bible Lessons 1:00PM-2:30PM
- Afternoon Classes 2:30PM-5:00PM
- Supper
- Evening Activities

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

				Thurs	Fri	Sat
				Depart US	Arrive in Latvia	Set up Classes Tour Day
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Worship Rest	Evaluate English Levels Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6 Camp Closing
Sun	Mon	Tues				
Worship	Tour Day	Return				

ENTRY / EXIT REQUIREMENTS:

You need a valid passport to enter Latvia. Latvia is a party to the Schengen Agreement; as such, U.S. citizens may enter Latvia for up to 90 days for tourist or business purposes without a visa. Your passport should be valid for at least three months beyond your period of stay.

VACCINATIONS:

Before visiting Latvia, you may need to get the following vaccinations and medications for vaccine-preventable diseases and other diseases you might be at risk for at your destination, please refer to CDC for more details.

Vaccination or Disease	Recommendations or Requirements for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
Routine	Recommended if you are not up-to-date with routine shots such as, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine, etc.
Hepatitis A or Immune Globulin (IG)	Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in countries with an intermediate or high level of hepatitis A virus infection where exposure might occur through food or water. Cases of travel-related hepatitis A can also occur in travelers to developing countries with "standard" tourist itineraries, accommodations, and food consumption behaviors.
Hepatitis B	Recommended for all unvaccinated persons traveling to or working in countries with intermediate to high levels of endemic HBV transmission, especially those who might be exposed to blood or body fluids, have sexual contact with the local population, or be exposed through medical treatment (e.g., for an accident).

OTHER DISEASES FOUND IN EASTERN EUROPE AND NORTHERN ASIA:

The following are disease risks that might affect travelers; this is not a complete list of diseases that can be present. Environmental conditions may also change, and up to date information about risk by regions within a country may also not always be available.

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) is widespread, occurring in warmer months in the southern part of the non-tropical forested regions of Europe and Asia. Most intense transmission has been reported in Russia, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia. The annual incidence rate of tuberculosis is high in some countries in the region. High rates of drug-resistant TB are found in Estonia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, parts of Russia, and Uzbekistan. Cases of diphtheria have declined (after a large outbreak in the 1990s) with improved rates of immunization.

(<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/latvia.htm>)

MOST MINISTRIES SHORT TERM TRAVEL INSURANCE:

MH Ross Trip Armor Travel Protection Plan and ACE American Insurance Company (Foreign Liability)

MH Ross Trip Armor Travel Protection Plan provides individuals heading to the mission field protection and assistance in these areas:

Medical Coverages & Services

- Medical expenses ~ accident and sickness
- Accidental death and dismemberment
- Medical emergency family reunion (bedside visit)
- Hospital admission deposit advance
- Foreign medical referral service
- Medical consultation and monitoring service
- Prescription drug replacement service
- Medical assistance:
 - ◆ Multi-lingual assistance
 - ◆ Emergency medical evacuation
 - ◆ Medically necessary repatriation
- Return of mortal remains

Security Assistance Services

- Contingency political evacuation planning
- Political evacuation
- Security crisis center

Travel Assistance Services

- Benefits verification and claims assistance
- Embassy and consular information
- Emergency cash advance
- Emergency family travel arrangement assistance
- Emergency message transmission
- Foreign legal access
- Return of rental vehicle
- Return of traveling companion or dependents
- Translation and interpretation

Liability Coverages-ACE American Insurance

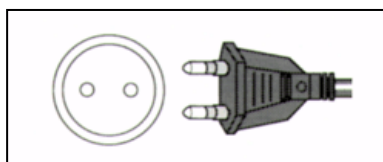
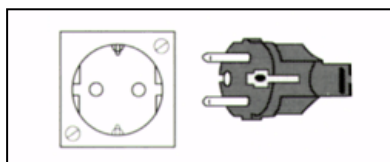
- Foreign liability insurance
- Employer's liability insurance

See http://www.mostministries.org/team_insurance for additional information.



LOGISTICS:

Lodging	Depending on the camp location, the team will stay at the host church or on the camp grounds.
Meals	Meals will be provided by the local women. In traditional European fashion, breakfast is breads, jams, meat, and cheese. Lunch is the biggest meal of the day and consists of meat, potatoes, salad and usually a dessert. Dinners are normally light and very often soup is served.
Electricity & Plugs	In Latvia ~220 volts, 50 hertz is used. Before traveling to Latvia you need to know not only the type of electric plug and socket in your destination but also the voltage of the electric power and the frequency (Hertz). Please remember that simple adapters do not convert voltage or frequency, and incorrect use may not only keep you from using your equipment but also damage it or even cause personal injuries. Using a plug adapter just changes the shape of the prongs. Countries with different voltages and frequencies may use similar plugs, so check to see if you will need a power converter and/or a plug adapter. Read the fine print in your power-source, many devices will accept both 110v and 220v, requiring only a plug adapter. See http://www.travel-images.com/electric-plugs.html for additional information.
Currency	1 US Dollar = 0.56290 Latvian Lats ; 1 Latvian Lats = 1.76647 US Dollars



CLIMATE:

Latvia is located in temperate climate zone and weather conditions are determined by the Atlantic air masses, the Baltic Sea and the Riga Sea Gulf stretching deep into the country. Climate is characterized by a periodic influence of high-and-low pressure centers and a comparatively high rainfall; weather in Latvia is inconsistent and hardly predictable.

Summers in Latvia are quite warm with average daily temperatures in the 70's, with the hottest months being July and August. Rapid weather changes may also occur during the day. Black clouds can quickly cover a sunny summer sky and rainy afternoons may quickly turn into warm evenings. During the spring and autumn, weather is variable and generally humid with the average temperature around 60°F. In winter snow falls from December until March, the coolest month is January, with the average temperatures in the 20's.

During the winter, late autumn and early spring it is suggestible to dress warm, choosing a sweater and coat. In summer it is best to dress in layers and to have a light jacket to wear in the late evening when it gets cooler.

An umbrella will be useful all year round, irrespective of the season you are visiting Latvia.

(<http://www.visitlatvia.lv/en/weather>)

WEATHER AVERAGES FOR LATVIA: (<http://www.latvia.climatemps.com/>)

Month	High	Low	Rain
January	28° F	18° F	1.3 in
February	28° F	18° F	1.1 in
March	36° F	23° F	0.9 in
April	48° F	34° F	1.3 in
May	61° F	41° F	1.7 in
June	66° F	48° F	2.4 in
July	72° F	54° F	3.1 in
August	70° F	52° F	2.8 in
September	61° F	46° F	2.4 in
October	50° F	37° F	2.1 in
November	39° F	30° F	1.9 in
December	32° F	23° F	1.5 in

CULTURE:

Latvian culture is strongly influenced by folklore and by the people's attachment to their land. Christian rituals are often intermingled with ancient customs, and pagan geometric symbols remain evident in the applied arts. Ancient folksongs, or dainas, that were first collected and published in the mid-nineteenth century, most notably by Krisjanis Barons, are a cultural treasure. In 1888 the great epic poem Lacplesis (Bear Slayer) by Andrejs Pumpurs was published, marking the dawn of modern Latvian literature. Janis Rainis (1865-1929) usually tops the list of Latvia's greatest writers. One of the most prominent figures in Latvian

literature today is the poet Imants Ziedonis, who also has established a fund to promote the development of Latvian culture. Source: U.S. Library of Commerce. (<http://countrystudies.us/latvia/15.htm>)

FAST FACTS:

Ethnic Groups	Latvian 57.7%, Russian 29.6%, Belarusian 4.1%, Ukrainian 2.7%, Polish 2.5%, Lithuanian 1.4%, other 2%
Languages	Latvian (official) 58.2%, Russian 37.5%, Lithuanian and other 4.3%
Religion	Lutheran 19.6%, Orthodox 15.3%, other Christian 1%, other 0.4%, unspecified 63.7%
Area	40,136 sq miles (slightly larger than West Virginia)
Capital City	Riga (706,000)
Altitude	Lowest Point (Baltic Sea 0 feet); Highest Point (Galzina Kalns 1024 feet)

(<http://flagcounter.com/factbook/lv>)

SIGHTSEEING:

There are various options for teams to choose from in the Riga area. Team members can shop in the various storefronts and marketplaces of Riga, enjoy the historic architecture, tour the cathedrals and museums, or see the city from a different perspective entirely on a boat tour of the Riga Canal.

CONTACT / APPLICATION INFORMATION:

MOST Ministries believes that the work of foreign missions must be a direct response to the requests and needs of the mission field. Through strategic planning, areas of need are identified and a plan of action is set in place to enable team members to utilize their gifts and talents in meeting those needs. If you are interested in utilizing your gifts in touching the lives of others in Latvia, please contact Debby Suchyta at (734) 994-7909 ext. 11 or dsuchyta@mostministries.org.

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