



# European Christian Radio

1993 - 2017

24 Years Faithfully Broadcasting the Good News!

2017 YEAR-END NEWSLETTER

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2:10*

## Dear ECRP Partners and Friends

We have just completed the Thanksgiving season which brings to mind the verse in Psalms which says; *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name."* During this time, we also reflect on those we are thankful for in our lives. I am reminded time and again of you, our faithful supporters, who have shared in this incredible ministry God has entrusted us with. I want to take time once again to say a very sincere THANK YOU to you for your faithfulness and friendship over these past 24 years.

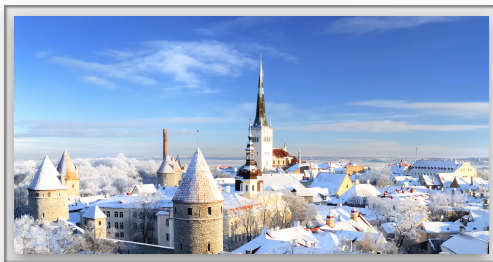
Through these many years our board has been faithful and good stewards of the ministry's resources. We have been consistent in supporting the message of hope that is recorded in the Gospel of Luke 2:9-11. This message has been proclaimed over our daily radio broadcasts to the people of Estonia and other Baltic States, Russia and Eastern Europe. That message is the same life changing message that was officially announced over 2,000 years ago and is still relevant for people today as well as future generations. It was the angel of the Lord that proclaimed those many years ago...

*"Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!"* Thousands have heard this message over the years through our broadcasts and many have personally accepted this message of the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

At our recent November board meeting a passage from Ecclesiastes 3 was shared. This is the chapter that outlines that there is a time for everything under heaven. It says, "What do workers gain from their toil?" "He has made everything beautiful in its time ... and that they will find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God." This is the way the Christian Radio work has been for each of us that serve on the European Christian Radio Project board. At each of our board meetings, we pray and search for solutions to many important issues and challenges. Each one gives of their time and resources to support this ministry that God has entrusted us with. It's no small feat to sustain this ministry that broadcasts out over the large 200 kw AM transmitter and 15 FM

stations in various cities throughout Estonia. Most of those working in the studios are volunteers who work every day alongside paid staff to produce the hundreds of quality programs that are broadcast out to over 6 million potential listeners.

We feel honored and thank God for the small part that He has given each of us in this powerful outreach. Perhaps it is a single mother listening as she does her housework, or a shopper who hears the words of scripture while listening to the store sound system, or a grandfather who is sitting in his easy chair listening and contemplating the life God has given to him. We know that the audience is vast and from many walks of life and they are responsive to the invitation to accept the Love of Jesus and Him as their Savior.



Tallinn, Estonia - Oleviste Church. Our first broadcast was from this steeple in 1993, and continues today!

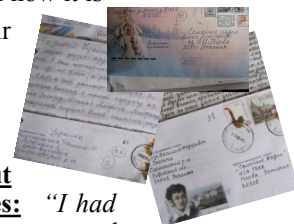
Like many non-profit ministries, one of the major issues we deal with constantly is the on-going challenge of sustainable financial support. Although many of you are faithful regular financial supporters, for which we are grateful, we have experienced a 33% decrease in the overall financial support this year. Due to the reduced giving, we have had

to make some very hard decisions, one of which was to decrease the monthly support we send to help pay for licenses, electricity, staff salaries, studio upkeep and equipment upgrades. Although we don't always see the whole picture as to what this outreach is accomplishing, we do get a glimpse of how it is affecting the listeners through their listener letters of encouragement.

## Letters from our listeners

**Maxim from Uljanovsk (about 555 miles east of Moscow) writes:** *"I had been pretty surprised finding so good religious program a AM band. I am not a believer, but your programs seem interesting. I started to think deeply about big questions of human existence. Also I like music and your music sound very new for me."*

**Balakhirjeva from Pitalovski, Pskovskaja, Oblast (400 miles from Tartu) writes:** *"Dear Family Radio, I'm very lonely 52 years old lady living in very lonely place—in small farm far away from villages. I'm a Christian;*



*I found my personal relationship with God 15 years ago. I'm a member of the Russian Orthodox Church, but I know that people from other denominations are also my brothers and sisters. My biggest problem is that I'm reading the Bible alone, I have no possibilities to communicate with other Christians, I'm living too far. But now I have best friend, my radio is turned on from early morning to late at the night. I don't feel myself lonely any more. I love your programs and the extra Sunday sermon. It gives me feeling of having people around me. Thank you a lot."*

**Nikolai from Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine writes:** *"Hello my friends from family radio. I wish you all best regards and God's blessings. Your station has made my world more wide. It's so interesting to hear about other countries and know that everywhere we have brothers and sisters in Christ thinking similar to us. Also, it's interesting to listen Christian songs in English. All is good, keep going! Could you rise your power in the day time?"*

**Akexeu from Viljaka, Latvia writes:** *"Hello my brothers and sisters in Family Radio. I'm living in Latvia in a small city Viljaka very close to Russian border. I'm writing for a larger group of listeners and want to affirm you. You are doing good job, keep the same direction. Lot of people are pretty poor here and can't send letters abroad but they listen your radio every day. We like how you call the station Family Radio, it's symbolic for us. We have railroad station in our city same name "Semeinaja" (Family) also you are very close to our hearts. God bless you!"*

**Alexandrovich from village Uholovo, Rjazanskaja Oblast (about 1000 miles from Tartu) writes:** *"Dear Family Radio makers, I'm 87 years old man taken part in 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. I didn't understand lot about God and the Bible. One day I tuned my radio and randomly found your station. It sounded differently from other stations, I remember Anton Perevoztchikov read God's prayer and it touched me very deeply. After this day, my radio still tuned on your frequency, in spite of weak signal in the daytime. I would like to hear you better."*

**And from Estonia a man writes,** *"the man on the radio encouraged us to accept Jesus into our heart and the sin in my life would be permanently dealt with. When fall came, I decided to go to church every Sunday. I found a church I liked, and all the time I listened to the sermons. I continue to listen and God continues to speak to me through the radio programs. Praise the Lord! Riivo"*

I hope you have found these listener letters to be an encouragement and that you can sense their appreciation for what you have been able to provide to them over 24 years through your faithful giving to this ministry. If you have never contributed to this ministry in the past or if you haven't done so in a while, I would appreciate and encourage your prayerful consideration at this year-end giving season. Your gift will make a difference and impact someones life!

It thrills me to know that we are making a difference in people's lives and that we play an important part of sharing the Good News that the Love of God knows no boundaries.

I appreciate your continued support for this ministry! Please continue to pray for the radio staff in Estonia, pray for the listeners

that they may hear and be encouraged, and that hearts would turn to Christ Jesus our Lord. May the Lord continue to bless you and your family during this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year!

**James M. Carlson MD**  
*President, European Christian Radio Project*

Here is an excerpt from an article written by James Hill for The New York Times. Narva is the northernmost city of Estonia that has a very large population of Russians and Russian speaking people. It is also the city in which we produce all of our Russian programming for the AM broadcasting station.

## ***Two Border Cities Share Russian History— and a Sharp European Divide***



The river that separates Narva, Estonia, left, and Ivangorod, Russia. Narva has five times more residents than Ivangorod and, as a result, bigger and better facilities. November 9, 2017

**IVANGOROD**, Russia — Little divides the Russian town of Ivangorod and its Estonian twin, Narva, but a fairly narrow river. That, and a vast cultural chasm. If any more proof were needed, it came when the European Union decided to give the two Russian-speaking towns money to build promenades on each side of the river, with the idea of promoting cross-border harmony and tourism. When the work was done Narva, which got about \$830,000, had a promenade almost eight times as long as the one built in Ivangorod, which received nearly \$1.2 million.

What accounts for the difference? Topographic challenges, say Ivangorod officials. Systemic problems, say those in Narva — and probably a little corruption, as well. "It is a different world over there," said Sergei Stepanov, the former longtime editor of Narvskaya Gazeta, a Russian-language newspaper in Narva. "You see and feel the difference as soon as you cross the bridge across the river — the roads, the bureaucracy, the mentality." The reason Ivangorod got a much smaller promenade for so much more money, he added, was "almost certainly" the result of corruption.

Viktor Karpenko, Ivangorod's mayor and a former officer in the Federal Security Service, or the F.S.B., Russia's domestic security service, said the difference was because of the difficult terrain and legal restrictions on the Russian side of the river — not corruption. "On our side, everything was a lot more complicated than over there," Mr. Karpenko said.

Narva, with a population of around 60,000, has five times as many residents as Ivangorod and, as a result, bigger and better facilities — The average monthly salary there is around \$500, barely half what it is in Narva. The gap in pensions is even wider.

Leonid Pelesev, an ethnic Russian who coaches Narva schoolchildren in chess, said that many of his fellow Russian-speakers in the Estonian town watch Russian state television and support, on an emotional level, the muscular nationalism promoted by Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin. But, he added, no one he knows actually wants to live in Russia.