



City of Tartu, Estonia

European Christian Radio

1993 - 2020

27 Years Faithfully Broadcasting the Good News!

2020 Spring - Summer Newsletter

In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will... Ephesians 1:11

Dear Friends and Partners,

I trust this letter finds you and your family in good health as you navigate through this season we all find ourselves. For countless souls, the events of the last few months have cast a shadow of uncertainty across the world, and for some - hopelessness. Lives are being turned upside down every day and one can only ask, "What's next?" This is a time we reaffirm our trust and faith in Christ Jesus. Isaiah 7:9 says; "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

Throughout it all, Family Radio has continued to be a strong voice of hope, comfort and encouragement to its listeners. The message comes as a bright light piercing the darkness with the never changing Word of God. In response to the pandemic, Paavo and his team initiated a new program. In Paavo's words; "Pereraadio (Semeinoje Radio) and Radio Eli still work as always spreading encouragement and consolation. A couple of weeks ago, we started a daily live program named, 'Let's Talk from the Heart', which focused specifically towards those living in isolation. This is a big telephone conversation where listeners can share their feelings with others and get spiritual support and pastoral care. So, Praise God we still have such opportunities to be in fellowship even in quarantine!"

Our response to Paavo was; "What a great move to make in this time of difficulty. Through the solemnness of isolation, the Word of God and the support and care for others continues loud and clear. His ministry continues to be a blessing to so many! It is news like this that lightens the heart and turns our eyes and attention to the Lord and away from the gloom and doom that the media propagates daily throughout this global pandemic."

Through your faithful support, Family Radio has continued to broadcast the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the

majority of Estonia and into Russia and neighboring countries. It has been one of the very few means by which millions in isolation can hear and be encouraged by messages that will help carry them through these very difficult times. Praise be to God for sustaining and guiding this vital ministry through such uncertainty! We are so thankful that the Lord has continued to bless both Family Radio's AM and FM studio teams and keep them healthy and to provide for their needs during this time.



Paavo and team members



Mare in New Haapsalu Studio

After receiving news that the Tartu Studio would need to move from its home in the Baptist Seminary, the Lord provided an excellent downtown location. This new site has improved its visibility as well as accessibility for team members, volunteers and the public. With the concern of quarantine orders throughout Tallinn, the Lord provided the means to open a satellite studio in the town of Haapsalu. This move has allowed us to diversify our locations to better serve local programming as well as enhancing coordination between studios in Haapsalu, Tartu and Kuressaare. Upgrades to equipment continue to take place with a new transmitter being installed in Oleviste Church which has improved signal quality and reliability while enabling the Word of God to be sent out at the highest power level permitted by license.

Continued Prayers are needed...

In our last Newsletter, we shared the disappointing news of TWR's (Trans World Radio's) need to withdraw from Russian broadcasting in Medium Wave or AM. Initially, replacement program sponsors could not be found until the Lord led a current partner, Voice of Hope, to expand their AM presence on a trial bases. This temporarily filled TWR's airtime slots. The trial period has now ended and they are taking a time-out to evaluate whether to continue. Please join us in praying that the Lord would lead Voice of Hope to continue their AM ministry with us. Due to



New Studio in Tartu

this loss of support, AM broadcasts are currently operating at reduced power levels and airtime schedules have been adversely affected.

Necessary broadcasting license extensions were approved by the Estonian Government to cover revisions to the AM schedules. We ask for your prayers that their favor will continue throughout the year. Our partnership with TWR continues with an agreement which allows for the use of their 100kW transmitter throughout the remainder of the year at no cost to Pereraadio. Another agreement was made with TWR covering provisions for their possible return to program broadcasts in 2021. Praise the Lord!

During this COVID-19 pandemic, Listener Donations for Pereraadio have understandably decreased, however, the operating position of the ministry remains stable. Financial support was needed for the Narva Russian Team and the Lord provided a new wave of supporters that have currently met 50% of their need.

Repair and Maintenance for AM Kavastu Site...

After 20 years of service coupled with very harsh winters, the equipment and facilities at the AM Kavastu site are in need of repair and maintenance. Various repairs for the site are currently pending, such as; transmitter building roof and brick siding, anchor site fencing and gates, alignment and inspection of the two towers. Obviously, maintenance and repair activities go hand in hand with the need for funding. We are trusting and believing that the Lord will provide the funding and manpower to meet these needs.

The financial position of ECR remains strong and we have been very encouraged by your faithful financial gifts exceeding that of 2019 for the first six-months of this year. Our monthly support to Family Radio has remained constant for the last 3 years and will continue at current levels throughout the remainder of 2020. In addition to monthly support, ECR maintains a Four-Year Financial Outlook that is used to maximize our support to the on-going operations of the ministry while holding a reserve for contingencies. We are also encouraged with the increase in on-line giving. Giving on-line has increased 4-fold over the last six months.



The Lord has kept all team members of the Family Radio Ministry healthy during these very trying times and we thank Him for His continued blessings and continue to seek His guidance in all that we do for His Glory.



Thank you for your continued faithfulness to this ministry, through your prayers and financial gifts! I wanted to share this picture to illustrate what God has called us to do through the broadcasting of the Gospel throughout Eastern Europe. We are fishers of men casting our spiritual nets through the airwaves of Pereraadio - Family Radio, to reach the lost for Christ! May God continue to bless you and the ministry of ECR.

James M. Carlson, MD
President/Founder



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Please Like and Follow us on Facebook and Share with your friends.

For over 27 years ECR has partnered with Pereraadio - Family Radio - to bring the Good News throughout Estonia and into Russia and Eastern Europe.

In January Family Radio produced a video tour of their studio in Tallinn. It was a great opportunity to meet some of the people who have made Family Radio one of the most listened to radio stations in Estonia. The video is posted on our Facebook page. Check it out!

Log onto our website www.europeanchristianradio.org, or scan the QR indicia with your smart phone to take you there. You will find more information about ECR and our long history of working with Pereraadio. For your convenience, you can also donate online through our secure portal.



Piret's Corner

My hope when you read this newsletter, is that your family is staying healthy, despite these unprecedented times.

Pereraadio's daily broadcasts continue to lift my spirit, provide comfort and much needed encouragement during the course of the worldwide pandemic.

Despite travel restrictions worldwide, I'm beyond blessed to be able to travel to Estonia in July and visit the newest radio studio in Haapsalu and meet with staff and volunteers in Tallinn and Narva as well. Estonia just recently celebrated Midsummer festivities with bonfires, and locals are enjoying long daylight almost 24/7.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the ECR radio ministry. Take care, be well, stay healthy, and continue to stay positive during these challenging, fluid, and uncertain times.

Many Blessings,
Dr. Piret Leonetti

