

Dancers performing at a song-and-dance festival in Tallinn, Estonia



# European Christian Radio

1993 - 2021

28 Years Faithfully Broadcasting the Good News!

2021 Summer Newsletter

*Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with timbrel and harp. - Psalm 149:3*

## Dear Friends and Partners,

Summertime greetings to you and your family from our ECR Board and their families. I trust you and your family are doing well in this wild and crazy world we are living in at this time.

Through all the recent calamities it would appear we are ever closer to Christ's triumphant return. I am reminded of the time where Jesus' disciples asked, "what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" He responded, "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains." He went on to say, "You must be on your guard...and the gospel must first be preached to all nations."

The truth remains, no one knows the hour of His return. That is why we must continue to remain diligent in our calling to broadcast the Gospel. I clearly remember the time God spoke to me and others that we were to provide a radio station to enable the Gospel to be preached to millions of people of the Eastern European countries to fulfill His call to "preach to all nations!" To that end, with your prayers and continued financial partnership we have been able to faithfully share the powerful saving and redemptive message of Jesus Christ everyday via AM and FM radio broadcasting.

Each day the consequences of this pandemic have brought blessings and challenges in the daily lives of so many including the radio ministry and its staff. They have faced their own on-going challenges. Both Paavo and Mare Pihlak, key staff members and volunteers in the Narva, Tallinn and Tartu studios were all infected with the virus. At one point, the newly established Tartu studio was forced to close temporarily. Thankfully, throughout these periods of closure, the use of previously aired and pre-recorded programs were available to be controlled remotely in order to keep Family Radio broadcasting on a 24/7 basis from all eleven transmitters located throughout Estonia.

The pandemic has temporarily stalled the vision of expanding FM coverage in the southern portion of Estonia and to take Russian broadcasts and programming into Estonia's capitol city of Tallinn. Programming via AM radio continued to beam across the border with reduced scheduled hours and transmission power levels because of the lack of financial resources. As the Lord leads and provides, steps will be taken to bring these visions to reality and to increase the airtime and power levels of AM radio into Russia.



The iconic Oleviste Church Located in the center of old historic city of Tallinn, Estonia.

The first FM radio station was built inside this church and the steeple was used as the broadcast tower.

The Soviets used its steeple to broadcast their propaganda when they occupied Estonia.

Rakvere Lutheran Church is located in the beautiful city Rakvere which is located between Tallinn and Pereraadio Narva studios, a 5 hr drive from Tallinn. Estonian EELK Rakvere Kolmainu Kirik has hosted Pereraadio studio the past 9 years.



Mission House building in Tallinn at Tehnika street is home for Tallinn Pereraadio studio where many wonderful broadcasts are planned and recorded. Mission house also hosts Estonian Council of Churches.

It hasn't always been easy or gone perfectly the way we would like it to go. But God didn't say it would be easy and he didn't say it would be without its challenges. He just asked us to be obedient to His calling. Despite the continuing difficulties brought on by the pandemic, Family Radio continues to bring words of hope and encouragement across the radio airways and through the networks of social media.

As COVID restrictions are lifted and businesses re-open, the staff and volunteers in all locations are currently preparing programs for the new broadcast season that will kick-off in September. Inspiring programs and podcasts are being designed that will cover a wide variety of topics with discussions and prayer to nurture the church and attract the lost. Financial and prayer support continues to be critical in supporting daily broadcasts and maintaining a good consistent quality signal to listeners.

Work continues with the upgrade of the computer network and servers that link the studios with transmitters located throughout Estonia. As equipment continues to age through continuous use, the need to repair and replace transmitters and related equipment is totally dependent on the faithful financial support from listeners as well as those whose gifts are channeled through ECR to Family Radio. Without the airtime sponsorship of TWR and Voice of Hope, ECR support now accounts for approximately 30% of the radio ministry's total contributions received.

Paavo reminds us that despite the many challenges and uncertainty of the pandemic, the Lord is in total control and His plans will be brought to completion through the helpful hands of His faithful workers and supporters. Your support and prayers are a blessing and truly appreciated.

**James M. Carlson, MD**  
*President/Founder*

#### PRAYER REQUESTS-

- Continue to remember Paavo and Mare and the entire Pereraadio staff in your prayers for their physical health and protection against further COVID virus attacks.
- Prayer is needed for the addition of Christian program sponsors that will fill the revenue void created by the loss of Voice of Hope and TWR broadcast time slots.
- Pray that the message of the Gospel continues to encourage and penetrate the hearts of those tuning into the Pereraadio broadcasts.
- Pray that the listener contributions continue and increase to cover a greater portion of the monthly broadcast expenses.



#### Facebook Page

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*Like and Follow us on Facebook - Share with your friends.*

**Check out the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Radio Eli at the Dairy that has been posted in English on Face Book.**

You can contribute to this ministry through our secure portal. Log onto [www.europeanchristianradio.org](http://www.europeanchristianradio.org), or scan the QR indicia with your smart phone to take you there. Thank you for your support!



## ESTONIA Historical Facts

During the last half of the 20th century, Estonia experienced considerable internal migration. Following Soviet annexation in

1940, extensive immigration from the other republics of the Soviet Union, especially Russia were experienced. In the process, the population in the industrially advanced northern part of the country increased appreciably at the expense of the southern and western regions.

More than two-thirds of the populace speak Estonian as a first language. About one-fourth speak Russian as their first language (mostly in the northeast), and few Estonians over age 60 or under age 20 speak the Russian language.

There is no state religion in Estonia. Many of the people are unchurched and identify as either nonreligious or atheist. The Christian majority includes a large slice of unaffiliated Christians, along with significant Evangelical Lutheran, Eastern Orthodox communities, as well as lesser numbers of Baptists, Methodists, and Roman Catholics.

#### Piret's Corner

This past June 10th I was very excited to pack my suitcases and head to San Francisco airport to start my trip to Tallinn, Estonia via Frankfurt Germany. I would like to take a moment to give praise to our Lord Almighty for his outpouring of blessings and protection and for making air travel possible during the uncertain travel delays caused by COVID 19.



This was my 3rd trip back home to see my dear parents since the start of the pandemic lockdowns. There have been restrictive measures in place to curb the spread of the disease during the winter months in Estonia. Thankfully this past May, children and adults are now able to resume in-person learning at schools. Churches can have in-person services and people are able to enjoy indoor dining at restaurants and enjoy visiting museums and attend concerts.

During my visit I was able to visit 2 of the Pereraadio studio locations, as well Oleviste Church where the first radio tower transmitter was installed. I was able to reach out to some of the staff and affirm ECR's continued support and partnership in the ministry work.

The pictures on the front page of this newsletter are from my recent visit home to Tallinn. I pass along a heartfelt thank you and love for your continued support and prayers of the ECR ministry here in the US and Pereraadio from across the ocean!

With Gratitude and Blessings,  
Piret