

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of Outreach **Report from the outreach to Saaremaa in 2009**

Paul Neustupny, Berlin

In the footsteps of the Moravians in Estonia

In the fall of 2006 I gave a speech at the MORAVIAN Conference in Suchdol nad Odrou/ Zauchtel in the northern part of Moravia, entitled: "The Moravians – spiritual source of the connection between the Czechs and the Germans." At the time, my wife and I had already done missionary work in Estonia for eight years. I did not know much about the work of the Moravians in Estonia at the time.

The "Unitas Fratrum", originally mainly Czech brothers, was a protestant movement, decades prior to Luthers Reformation. The movement continued in the renewed "Unitas Fratrum" called "The Moravians". Those were ethnic Germans from northern Moravia, especially from Zauchtel, who experienced revival. They were persecuted for their faith, fled to the estate of Count Zinzendorf in Saxony and founded the town Herrnhut in 1722.

In June of 2007 we and some friends held a breakthrough-meeting of Czechs and Germans in Suchdol nad Odrou/ Zauchtel, the so-called "Zauchtel Initiative". Our goal was to contribute to the re-opening and cleansing of the spiritual well of revival of the Moravian Church.

During the summer of 2007 our Estonian friend Joel, a Methodist Minister, my wife and I visited the Estonian open air museum in Tallinn. We discovered a House of Prayer of the Moravians. It was a wooden house with a thatched roof dated 1780 originally from the Estonian island Saaremaa, formerly called by the German name Oesel. Exact details about the former farm yard and the village, where it was originally located, were provided. We went to look for that farm yard and eventually found it after an adventurous search. Only one old women lived in the farm yard, who remembered the House of Prayer. She showed us where it used to be located.

After that I looked for literature about the activities of the Moravians in Estonia and learned more about it. Beginning in 1729 they sparked a revival in Estonia and Latvia, formerly called Livland, especially on the island Saaremaa, which lasted over 100 years. I wrote a survey about this for the MORAVIAN Conference in October of 2009, entitled "[Activity of the Moravians in Estonia and Latvia](#)".

The vision becomes increasingly clear

During the summer of 2008 we went to visit the Island of Saaremaa again. ***In the meantime we received a burden from God*** to deal with redigging the clogged well of revival. Today hardly anyone knows that the Moravians once sparked a revival, and the Moravian Church hardly has any influence in Estonia today. Estonia, according to certain statistics, is considered to be one of the most atheistic countries alongside with the Czech Republic! We were praying and we began to mobilize intercessors from Germany and the Czech Republic. We decided to go there in the summer of 2009 and to hold a number of evangelistic open-air meetings in the power of the Holy Spirit on the streets of Kuressaare, the capital city of the island. How that should work out we did not know, since we did not speak Estonian and only knew one Methodist pastor on the island, who lived 20 kilometers from Kuressaare.

Our friend Joel introduced us to a Baptist Church in Kuressaare, which also has a studio belonging to the Christian "Pereraadio" (family station). The manager of the studio joined us and we spent some time talking with him. Then he asked us to go on air and to talk as long as we wanted about whatever was in our hearts! So we talked about our work in Estonia since ten years, about the revival, that the Moravians once brought to Estonia and about our burden for Saaremaa and our plan to do an outreach in the summer of 2009 in Kuressaare. We said it and now we could not divert from our own words! ***We strongly felt, that God was in this. He started something***, that could not be stopped or postponed anymore. Now it really got exciting!

When we shared this in Germany, pastor Udo Knöfel and his church, which is close to Herrnhut, joined us – with a full-scale band and full equipment! We invited Pastor Walter Heidenreich to be the evangelist, he prayed about it and joined us. From the Czech Republic a pastor and his wife from Northern Moravia joined us. Via e-mail we mobilized about 100 intercessors both in the Czech Republic and in Germany. We sent e-mails to pastors and leaders on the island, went there personally in March and April of 2009, got in touch with them and prepared the summer outreach.

Outreach on the Island Saaremaa during the Summer of 2009

32 people, including children, were on the team – 26 from Germany, 2 from the Czech Republic and 4 from Estonia. **From Saturday, July 25th until Monday, August 3rd** we stayed in a holiday village near Kuressaare, where we could properly prepare, rest and have fellowship. On the first Sunday we helped celebrating an anniversary in a rural Methodist Church in Reeküla. Some people received Jesus there, others were prayed for. We really had good fellowship in the Holy Spirit.

During the outreach we were asked to speak on the Pereraadio again – two times even! Udo and Walter shared their personal stories and asked the listeners to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

On Wednesday prior to our main open-air outreach we went to Tuiu, to the remote farm yard from 1738, where the House of Prayer of the Moravians used to be located, we already visited in 2007. The old women still lived there and allowed us to put up our band-equipment right in the middle of her farm yard. We worshiped God and praised Him right there! One young Estonian sister from our team described, what she experienced: **"The worship in Tuiu** was an absolute highlight for me. Just worshipping and exulting Him, not focusing on ourselves and our needs, but on Him instead, felt really good. I believe, while we praised Jesus in that place, He went to each one of us and healed and strengthened each one."

Our first outreach took place on a newly built platform in a recreation center in the village of Kõljala, close to Kuressaare. Pereraadio recorded every outreach for internet-tv and broadcasted them. The second and third open-air outreach took place in the center of Kuressaare, on the property of the Lutheran Church in Kauba Street number 5. This was Gods way to solve the problem that the city council did not allow us to use an open music pavilion in the park due to "Sea-days" happening at the same time. During the third outreach it started to rain, so we went into the church building on the same premises and continued the meeting.

The three-hour meetings featured music from the TNT-band, musical solos, sketches, evangelistic dramas, personal testimonies and evangelistic preaching from Udo Knöfel and Walter Heidenreich. We spoke German, since we had two interpreters, who were able to translate from German into Estonian. On the average, about 50-70 people attended the meetings and we estimated, that **altogether about 40 people received Jesus as their Lord and Savior**. We were especially happy on behalf of the elderly people, obviously members of the Lutheran Church, who had consciously received Jesus for the first time. Another young lady from our team wrote about that: "My general impression is, that the existing churches have been encouraged. Especially people, who attended those churches for decades and never consciously gave their lives to Jesus, could use this opportunity."

I want to share something about a "lady with a green headscarf". Our Czech couple handed out invitations for the outreach on the street in front of Kauba 5. On the sidewalk a lady with a green headscarf was pushing her bike. She took the flyer, read it, tried to explain something in Estonian and went on. Suddenly she turned around and went inside. She stayed the whole time, and when the people were asked to receive Jesus into their lives, she raised her hand and did just that!

A lady came to Walter after the outreach, thanked him and told him, that she prayed for a loved one, brought her to the outreach, fervently prayed for her conversion and that she really turned to the Lord! Udo talked to several Estonians and counseled them in a deep and intimate way. Together with his wife he could minister to a women, whose child had recently drowned, leaving her totally desperate.

We experienced a strong breakthrough concerning cooperation with Estonian Pastors, who were quite reluctant in the beginning. A young sister from Kuressaare, who served as our contact person prior to the outreach and was sad about the reluctance of the pastors, asked God, what was going on. She wrote: "He replied to me: 'Don't worry, I have a plan and everything is under my control.' And when I listened to your first radio-broadcast with people from your team, I knew, that we would not immediately see fruit, but that **God will sow seeds into our hearts**, which will bring forth change. When I saw the love you carry in your hearts, I was deeply touched. I felt, that something like a breakthrough took place. I have talked to several people and the feedback was very encouraging."

**We see very clearly, that God is at work and we are very thankful to Him for that!
We want to organize another outreach in the summer 2010 on the island!**

www.go-east-mission.de, heading "[Estonia-Outreach](#)" (December 2009)

Translated from German by Benjamin Gente

Further versions: [English with](#) pictures; [German with](#) pictures / [without](#) pictures;
[Estonian with](#) pictures / [without](#) pictures; [Czech with](#) pictures / [without](#) pictures