



The Willoughbys

Reaching the unreached in Estonia

January 2026

- Evangelizing
- Church Planting
- Reaching Children

Dear Praying Friends,

Sometimes you just have to break the rules. I'm talking about culturally understood rules in Estonia such as not talking to people you don't know and not asking people about Jesus. We have been purposely transgressing such unspoken norms so that we can better share the Gospel and get people thinking about God and eternity.

Fall Outreach: Raivo and I have continued our weekly evangelism right to the end of the year. Though Peetri Park is a great place to meet locals and make friends with young people, the weather eventually was too cold and too rainy. Weather is not really Estonia's top selling point! Undaunted, Raivo suggested we start walking around the closest mall (Ulemiste). Though I would rather be working right in Peetri, I realize the 400,000 people in Tallinn also need the Gospel! We actually had some great discussions with young men and teens whom we would find waiting for their wives or moms to finish shopping or just killing time on their phones.

This all changed the day a security guard walked up to us while we were in a spiritual conversation with two teen boys. He was polite but firm. We must have permission to do this kind of evangelism in the Ulemiste mall. My guess is that the scowling woman who was watching us talk to the boys complained to the mall staff. So what did we do? We went next door to the T1 Mall! We were able to continue sharing the Gospel even though the security guards seemed to be keeping their eyes on us at a distance.

Bible Club: Each month this fall the children at Bible Club have been able to earn points by memorizing Bible verses and bringing friends to earn a special treat. One month we made milkshakes, another month we ordered pizza, and December was frosting gingerbread cookies. This motivated two of the boys to each bring a friend!

Hot Cocoa and the Gospel: Taking advantage of the Christmas season, we found a way to break the rules in a bit more natural way. We set up our tent and table and offered free hot chocolate during the Holidays! The whole family got involved. Angela found out how to make a large batch of hot chocolate so that most of the cocoa dissolves into the milk instead of settling to the bottom. Abigail served the drinks. Ryland helped set up the tent and keep Abigail company while they stood in the cold and rainy weather. Raivo and I were then free to engage people who were on their way home or teens who were just wandering around. Of course, the whole point wasn't giving people a free sugar rush but sharing the real meaning of Christmas. We have given out many of our custom-made Christmas tracts and have had dozens of great conversations about why Jesus was born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

Estonians don't always appreciate a stranger interrupting their private routine with an offer of hot chocolate or a question about eternity, but there really is no other way. Please be praying that the Lord would reward our labors and that we could see some new people coming to our services!

Yours for Estonia,

Rob & Angela Willoughby
RoseLynn, Ryland, Abigail, and Andrew

Next Furlough: Summer 2026

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