

Missions Director's Report: 2016-2017 Converge Northeast

Ron Larson

"God's Grace is reaching more and more people." II Cor 4:15

I am thankful for the three aspects of my district ministries. Lakeside, Estonia, and Haiti

Lakeside Christian Camp:

1. Camp is being well administered by John and Pam Mead. One major highlight of the year is that for the first time in 35 years Lakeside is mortgage free.
2. I served as Chairman of the LCC Board for our 4 meetings.
3. Lakeside has three new board members: Sandy Soto Hall, Jonathan Parker and Amy Schmelder. All three were former campers and staff members at LCC.
4. Lakeside successfully completed the American Camp Association re-accreditation process.
5. Lakeside had an excellent summer staff. Overall, it was a good summer camp season. The program was supported by a strong group of cabin counselors, sound preaching, and loads of fun.
6. Attendance numbers:
 - a. 199 overnight campers for four weeks, as compared to 265 campers for five weeks in 2016. Each of the four weeks of camp filled to capacity based on cabin counselor staff. Volunteers were enlisted to meet larger camp weeks.
 - b. The reconfigured cabins achieved the goal of allowing for higher counselor to camper ratios; specifically, 1.6 for elementary school age campers and 1.8 for middle/high school age campers
7. 2018 summer camp dates:
 - Junior 1 (elementary school) June 24-30
 - Junior 2 (elementary school) July 1-7
 - Breakaway 1 (elementary school) July 8-14
 - Venture 1 (middle school) July 8-14
 - Breakaway 1 (junior high school) July 15-21

Venture 2 (high school) July 15-21

8. George Rudd Facility/Maintenance Director for 20+ years retired effective May 15, 2017. We are thankful for the Christ-like servant ministry that George has had all these years.

Haiti

1. I am a member of the newly formed HMET (Haitian Ministry Executive Team), a National Converge committee that coordinates all Haitian ministries in the USA and Haiti. I participated in 4 meetings. I also serve on the Converge One by One Board, we had two meetings.

2. I provided leadership for 1 trip Feb 23- March 4th. Introduced Selena Gabriel Converge new One by One Director to ministries in Maissade. A Converge team of 6, joined a Haitian team of 20, including 4 doctors and 6 nurses and conducted a medical clinic that ministered to 500+ patients. The November 2016 trip was cancelled due to lack of medical personnel.

3. In March a container was sent to Haiti for the ministries of Hand to Hand. Grace Baptist Church Bristol CT participated with other churches.

4. I developed a Strategic Ministry Plan with Outcomes for HMET.

5. May 21st 15 members of the Grace Baptist Church of Bristol CT made their annual visit to the Beraca Baptist Church in NYC.

6. Medical trip and teaching opportunity planned for October 27th-Nov 4th

Estonia

1. I continue monthly Skype meetings with Helari Puu, Executive Director of Nordic Baltic Ministries. Hosted several meeting in our district with Helari Puu October 3rd-9th 2016

2. October 22nd-Nov 2nd 2016 main speaker for Pastor's Conferences in Estonia and Finland.

3. Mentoring materials printed in Estonia for pastors and laymen based on materials written by materials Mary and myself.

4. \$3000 dollars raised for Pastors' gathering for Christmas dinner and monetary gifts for the ten pastors and wives on the island of Hiiuma, Estonia

5. July 7th-17th, along with Mary directed our 4th District Estonian Vision tour. Over 130 members of our district have participated in these trips.

6. September 15th-22nd held pastor's gatherings for Helari Puu and Meelis and Karita Kibuspuu. Meelis is the Executive Director of Friend to Friend Ministry. Two containers under the

leadership of John Ames of the Emmanuel Baptist Church Norfolk MA have been sent to this ministry with the potential of sending containers 3/4/5 this fall.

7. Some of the ministries that have come out of the district vision trips are scholarships to the Estonian seminary (\$6000.), monthly prayer time; 3 containers being prepared to be shipped; pastor's conferences to the Russian pastors in Estonia as well as Pastors and wives gathering for the Hiiuma pastors this July; funding for Helari Puu; the Beraca Church choir toured Estonia; various projects(Construction and evangelism) performed at the Estonian camp and various churches; two couples strongly considering full time ministry in Estonia.