



Latvia's National Flower

"The national flower of Latvia is [the] daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). This wildflower can be often seen in countryside meadows and road-sides. [The daisy] blossoms in June and continues to bloom till September, and it has been beloved by makers of festive garlands and crowns."

As seen above, daisies are often handwoven together into women's wreath crowns that are used especially during *Jāņi*, the midsummer celebration in June. At Lido, a festive national restaurant chain, the waitresses wear simpler daisy crowns along with their folk costumes.

Quotation from:
Kalns, Guntis. *The Passport of Latvia*. 2nd Ed. Bārbala Simšone (trans.). Rīga, Latvia: Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC, 2019.



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Seeing the fruits of our labor



Quintin preaches during the opening Vespers service at the Eurasia Missionary Retreat in Tenerife in the Canary Islands.

Dear friends in Christ,

There are times when a missionary can see the fruits of his work and many times when he cannot. There are interactions and conversations that a person has no idea what fruit they will bear. However, we are encouraged by God's promise in Isaiah 55:11 that his Word will not return to him empty. Let me share with you three separate stories of God's work that he has done through our work.

The first story was relayed to me by one of the young Latvians who has also been attending our English services. Over the summer, my Latvian friend attended a conference for young people in Europe called Corpus Christi. Think of Higher Things but for college-age people. While there, a young man approached our Latvian friend and excitedly said he had become a Lutheran in Latvia! He was traveling through Riga and went to the English service, and that Sunday, he decided to become a Lutheran and went home dedicated to learning more about the faith. That growing faith led him to attend Corpus Christi this year. In his

story, he mentioned that it was through the conversation he had with me that God worked in him.

The second story regards another Latvian with whom I was building a relationship in the first year that we were here in Latvia. However, due to his schedule and mine, we lost touch a bit. We recently reconnected, and this last Sunday, we sat down and had a good conversation; I rejoice at this. He was open to hearing the Gospel in the past, and we were slowly building to more of an engagement with the faith. Please pray that the Lord would keep safe that desire in this man's heart and that he would come to faith.

The third story is one that fills me with pride. One of our students at Luther Academy is a pastor in his home country. When I first started teaching him, he was new to the pastoral office. He has grown a lot in this role as pastor. This last summer, at the same Corpus Christi conference I mentioned above, he took a group of young people from his congregation. Additionally, he was invited to lead a plenary session,

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Quintin and Lindsay enjoy one of the excursions during the Retreat in Tenerife (Canary Islands).

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our administration, faculty, and students of Lutera Akadēmija as they have begun the fall semester.
- Good health and well-being for the family and friends of all missionaries.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Helping us to see some of the fruits of our labor.
- Safe travels all summer for the Cundiffs and their fellow missionary families.
- YOU - our generous donors and prayer warriors, along with the steadfast workers of Mission Central and Mission Advancement, without whom this mission would be impossible.

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Seeing the fruits of our labor



The Eurasia missionaries and their families gather for the annual Retreat.

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and he did so over a few days of the conference. It brings me great joy to see our students growing not just in knowledge but into their vocations and the pastoral demeanor that is so important for sharing the Gospel.

Thank you for being a part of this work. Without the continued prayers and support of people back in the United States, this work would not be possible. As we move into another academic year for the Academy, please join us in prayer for our students, the lecturers, and all involved!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Cundiff

Other news from the field

We are excited to announce that all the curriculum paperwork for licensure of the program at Lutera Akadēmija has been submitted to the Latvian government for approval, and we anxiously await their decision.

The fall semester is well under way at this point. We have made some adjustments to the online platform used for these courses and are constantly honing the way the courses operate while maintaining the highest possible presentation of professionalism. This means that administration bears the brunt of the relative chaos of making these changes while the students experience a smooth transition. It is a lot of work, but well worth the payoff.

Lindsay, aside from assisting with all those changes, began her first RN-to-BSN course (of six total) with the University of Nebraska Medical Center. So far, she is keeping up easily with the readings and discussions. She appreciates prayers as she juggles all those hats.

Be sure to follow our Facebook page, "The Cundiffs in Latvia," for even more photos and stories of the Lord's work in this beautiful country!

Carter's Corner

Sveiki (hello)! This summer, we have done so many things, like going to the States and Tenerife. In Tenerife, I had VBS with some of the other missionary kids and got to know them. With school starting, I got to see my school friends again and start classes. Unfortunately, with our new program, we are being taught things about social issues that I don't agree with. I am standing up for what is right, but it is very tiring sometimes, and I could use some prayers for strength.

- Carter (age 13)



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