



September 2018

A Heart for the Nations: Callie's Summer Travels

By Callie Newton

It's good to be home. Six weeks was a long time to be away from home this summer, but I took comfort in the fact that I was walking in obedience to the Lord's calling and I had an amazing church family at home praying for me.

I had no idea four years ago when Marc and Carol Andresen asked me to go with them to Latvia that summer that the Lord would give me so much extra work to do there! This year, I initially planned to spend a month in Latvia. And since I was already on that side of the world, I thought, 'Why not jaunt down to Uganda as well?' The Lord has given me a heart for the nations and a spirit of fearlessness, so I plan to keep serving Him wherever he calls me.

Let me tell you about my travels this summer. I spent my first two weeks in Riga visiting friends and working for Latvia's newest orphan ministry, Lighthouse Transitional Care. The Lighthouse serves young adults who have aged out of Latvia's state orphan system and works to set them up for success later in life.



The Lighthouse was founded by Amanda Banister, who is originally from Texas but now lives in Riga with her husband, Landon. Together,

they've opened their home to the Lighthouse's first student, Endija, who is following the Lighthouse's two-tier program of practical empowerment and spiritual enrichment.

We sponsored an outreach event for potential students while I was there. Five attended and enjoyed pizza and

jumping at Riga's indoor trampoline park. Please join us in praying for at least three more students to join the Lighthouse this September.

As the Lighthouse's marketing director, I fully believe in its mission, and that God will use Amanda and this group to help end the cycle of generational sins of abuse and addiction that contribute to the orphan crisis in Latvia. My role is to share the story of the Lighthouse with volunteers, supporters and potential students. Visit our website to find out more: lighthouselatvia.org/

The next two weeks were spent at camp, first with New Hope Latvia - a decade-old orphan ministry in Latvia that at one point was part of Bridge Builders International. Otra Elpa (Second Breath) camp brought about 50 teens to Eagle's Wings campground in Ergli. I was able to deepen relationships with those I already knew and meet a lot of amazing new kids. The gospel was shared and fun was had by all. More information about New Hope Latvia is here: newhopelatvia.com/

I was then joined by my brothers and sisters from Calvin and switched gears to teaching English to kids in Madona. As you've heard and will continue to hear, Camp Director Diks Bortnikovs depends on the team from Calvin to faithfully come each year to pour into the youth of this small town. We've seen many of the same kids at camp for five years now. It's a blessing to watch them grow and to be able to speak into their lives and encourage them to follow Jesus.



Just a few days after English camp, I flew from Riga to Entebbe to meet the Uganda team. I'd been to Uganda once before for

my work at OSU, but this experience was completely different. Initially, I was struck by the cultural differences between Latvia and Uganda. Latvia has been blessed with a growing economy. Most people there have secure housing and enough to eat. However, the country is cloaked in spiritual darkness and oppression. Conversely, the people of Uganda live in serious poverty, yet their spirits are full of joy and hope in Jesus. I think they ministered more to me than I did to them. Worshiping our Father at Streams of Life Church was a blessing, as was seeing the fruit of the Asante Kids program. Please know that your donations are both so needed and so appreciated by the people there.

Because round trip flights through Riga were cheaper, I flew back to Riga for a couple days. This provided me time to say goodbye to friends, attend church twice in one day, and collect a few treats to bring home for Aaron.

Now that I'm back, I'm excited to dive back into the work here at home. For me, that means working as the assistant director of marketing and communications at the Oregon State College of Forestry; taking care of my husband, animals and the occasional foster child; and continuing to serve Calvin, Lighthouse Transitional Care and however else I'm supposed to.

Thanks again for all your love and support this summer and always.

Missions Update

By Callie Newton
Missions Committee Chair

Acorn Outreach, Melissa Crabtree with Cru, Friends of the Family, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Oregon State, Love INC, Streams of Life Church... What do all of these things have in common? They're Calvin's missions partners, of course. But why? Why does Calvin think it's important to partner with these individuals and organizations?

We find the answer in Acts 1:8, Jesus's words to the apostles: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit had come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Yes! We have the power of the Holy Spirit living inside of us! The same power that raised Jesus from the grave.

And for us at Calvin, because we have been so blessed by salvation in Jesus and by monetary wealth and security, partnering financially with Christian ministries in our neighborhood, nation and across the globe isn't just a dull obligation. It's not a "we have to," but rather a "we get to!" Because when we partner through donating our funds, our time and our prayers, we are blessed.

2 Corinthians 9:7 says, *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* As we kick off a new ministry season this fall at Calvin, my prayer is that we not only continue to be cheerful givers, but that God makes us bold missionaries in our own neighborhoods. May the love of Christ and the joy of our salvation be ever on our lips.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

We gave 3 containers of items to Love INC for their hygiene closet. They provide necessary items such as diapers, shampoo, and toothpaste to 12-20 families per month. We also filled 7 welcome baskets for international students arriving to study at Oregon State, which will be delivered through Friends of Internationals.



Gospel Centered Holidays Sunday, 9/30, 5:30

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Join us for an evening of being equipped. Training children takes practice, wisdom, and a lot of tools. Come to share, to learn, and to build each other up. We are trying to raise our children to become adults who love and follow Jesus. This discussion will focus on holidays. **Who is this for:** If you have resources, tools, traditions, routines, and activities that helped your children follow Jesus, please come share your wisdom. If you have questions, please ask, because other parents are probably wondering the same thing. If you hope to one day have children, come get a jump start. Advice, books, activities, all of these ideas are welcome. Pizza and childcare will be provided. (If you would like to bring something in addition to your advice, side dishes are welcomed but not required.) Talk to Vanessa Washburn for more info.

Missionary Support Group

Missionary Support Group is a group of people who long to share Jesus with their neighbors, but struggle to do so. We gather monthly to encourage and pray for one another. Join us in the Conference Room on the 2nd Sunday of each month (10/14, 11/11) after the worship service ends (around 11:30). Please feel free to bring a lunch. Talk to Pastor Zach for more info.

Kingdom Club



CKC kicked off the year with pizza and games. More info soon on how to help with meals, share your talents, and pray.