

Christian Seeking Identity

A Ministry of Alpha & Omega International Ministries

September 2019

Greetings Family & Friends,



As we finished out our summer we found ourselves ministering in a country we had never been before-Lithuania. It is considered to be one of the Baltic states. It is situated along the southeastern shore of the Baltic Sea, to the east of Sweden and Denmark. It is bordered by Latvia to the north, Belarus to the east and south, Poland to the south, and Kaliningrad Oblast to the southwest. Lithuania has an estimated population of 2.8 million people as of 2019, and its capital and largest city is Vilnius. Other major cities are Kaunas and Klaipėda. Lithuanians are Baltic people. The

official language, Lithuanian, is one of only two living languages in the Baltic branch of the Indo-European language family, the other being Latvian.



Our hosts Martin and Tatiana Daukantas had scheduled eight seminars and an hour long talk on the local radio station for us. The eight seminars took us from one side of Lithuania to the other (Klaipėda to Vilnius) and every where in between. It is a beautiful country with beautiful people, hungry for the word of God. Suzan's two books were translated into Lithuanian language and the people loved being able to read her books in their own language.

One of the places that we visited that captured my attention was the Curonian Spit which is similar to our Outer Banks in the eastern part of the United States along the North Carolina coast. The northern 52 km long stretch of the Curonian Spit peninsula belongs to Lithuania, while the rest is part of the Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia. The width of the spit varies from a minimum of 400 m in Russia (near the village of Lesnoy) to a maximum of 3,800m in Lithuania (just north of Nida).



We pray that you will be blessed as you read this month's newsletter as we reflect on the lives of the people of Lithuania and how they value and protect their knowledge of the "Truth" that Freedom is Precious.

God Bless you!
Your friends,
Mickey & Suzan

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Freedom is Precious

One year ago we were invited to Saint Petersburg, Russia to speak at a leadership conference. My book titled the God Connection had recently been translated into Russian and the conference was based on the content of the book. One of the couples attending the conference (Martin and Tatiana Daukantas) was visiting from Lithuania and asked if they could translate both books that I have written into Lithuanian. When the translations were complete and the books were published, they invited us to Lithuania to promote them.

In August we traveled to Lithuania and spent two weeks with these wonderful people and their leadership team. We were given the opportunity to minister in multiple cities throughout Lithuania. We started in the west in Klaipeda which is a port city on the Baltic Sea and we traveled all the way to the eastern border near Poland. The country is absolutely beautiful! But the history behind Lithuania is full of human abuse and slavery. Thousands of Lithuanians have lost their lives through the brutality of foreign oppressors who came in over the years and laid claim to their land. The Lithuanian language is one of the oldest Indo-European languages and the Lithuanians are very proud of it. It is a miracle that it survived. Every time a foreign nation took control of Lithuania, the foreigners attempted to strip the people of their national identity. They made it illegal for the people to speak and write in their native Lithuanian language and the schools that promoted the Lithuanian way of life were shut down. The Lithuanians gained independence from the Soviet Union 28 years ago when they got the world's attention by uniting together in a peaceful demonstration forming a human chain 1000 kilometers (620 miles) long. Freedom to them has been long in coming and it is precious! This all reminds me of the identity crisis this whole world is facing. Christians seem to be caught up in the battle just as much or more than the world is caught up in it and it is no wonder. We have an enemy who is trying to steal our God given identity. If we can't see God in ourselves, how is the world going to see God through us? The enemy wants to steal our language of freedom. He takes us back to the principles of the law that are all about maintaining our Christian position by our performance. This leads to frustration and feelings of guilt and condemnation because in and of ourselves, it is impossible to do. And as a result if we are not careful to guard our tongues, we begin to speak as though we don't have a savior. The whole world is watching! We need to stand fast and guard the words that come out of our mouth.

Galatians 5:1. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. The Lithuanians took back their land from the aggressor without firing a shot. Can you imagine the impact we as Christians could have in the world if we banded together with the same determination to guard our God given heritage. *Revelation 12:10-11 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;*

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