



# Mission Eurasia

## What's happening?

Thanks to the care and partnership of each of you who have aided the Eurasia Mission, the Bombaro family makes our permanent move to Latvia to serve the Rīga Luther Academy in just a few weeks. We thank you for your prayers that the visa process has been relatively trouble free. And we thank you for your messages of encouragement to keep our spirits high during this transition overseas.

## Marines and Morale



Pastor John with the USMC

The 4th Marine Tank BN invited Pastor John (USNR Chaplain) to speak on the religious rights of Marines, military morale as faithful moral living, and the challenges of an increasingly non-religious Western society. These Marines form part of NATO forces based in Rīga, Latvia, where an English-speaking parish is starting.

## Partners with you

Together, we can do this! Help with prayer and support. Give at [www.lcms.org/bombaro](http://www.lcms.org/bombaro).



Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School, Kahalui, Maui, are addressed and led in chapel by Pastor John during a special missionary presentation.

## A Return to Christianity

The Eurasia Mission is all about strategy. Our partner church in Latvia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia recognizes that today's geo-political circumstances have caused people in the Baltic States and throughout Eastern Europe to reconsider their heritage and reassert their culture. For a thousand years in some areas, that heritage and culture has been Christian. Christianity, then, is gaining an audience in a region that was once trampled by Nazis and oppressed by Communism for as many as four generations.

Milan Kundera, a Hungarian, explains that the Eastern European mindset is quite different from the Russian way of thinking. Latvia, Poland, Hungary, and Czech Republic believe in their countries *and* in Europe. Countries like Latvia, for example, see themselves as Western because they are *European*, and they believe their identity and destiny is bound up with Western European Christian culture and that culture has been Lutheran or Catholic. With that identity being threatened by EU politics, complex Russian relations, and godless Humanitarianism, Eastern Europeans are reasserting and rediscovering their Christian heritage. The gospel, then, is getting a fresh hearing again; praise be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Meeting the mounting needs for pastors, evangelists, and church workers is precisely the opportunity the Rīga Luther Academy aims to fill with God's truth.



Pastor John, with Sophia's assistance, perform the Rite of the Blessing of a Home, while at St. Matthew's in Koloa.

## Family Resolve



Pictured above: Sophia engages her schoolwork through the online Wittenberg Academy. She and her siblings have made the most of every opportunity to fill their vocations as students and deploying missionaries.

**Please Pray:** (1) for student visas to be granted to the Pakistani men; (2) for increased enrollment of students in the fall of 2020; (3) our visas to be granted without difficulty or delay; (4) and FY 2021 support that keeps us in Latvia.

## Journeying East, East, East



The move from Washington, DC, to San Diego, while developing a network of support could not have happened, much less have happened so speedily, without the selfless and loving care of dear friends and family, as well as the grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many, many dear Christians to thank for getting us abroad so quickly. The Lord has mobilized His people to prayer and action: We can do all things through Christ!

Mission Central has been tireless in their efforts and encouragements. So, too, many churches have adopted us and Mission Eurasia as their focus of missional care abroad. Thank you. Amazing families have hosted us for weeks or months(!) at a time, at no small expense to themselves — providing meals and transportation while Pastor John presented, preached and taught in dozens of churches, schools, and private gatherings. We offer our heartfelt appreciation to the Willis, Lewis, Thompson, Dillberg, Pierce, Vidal, Schneider, Johnson, Hass, Bowditch, Smith, Seifferlein, Hersey, Houts, Overstreet, Lin, Pickering and Breitwieser families. Thank you, too, to Herman and Michael and the amazing team at OIM and the IC.

The journey to the East Coast brings us to the final stages of the move to Eastern Europe. To be sure, it has been a challenging endeavor, perhaps for none more than the kids, who have logged countless thousands of miles on the road, living for the most part in our Toyota. They have done school in every imaginable place while on the road — restaurants, libraries, sitting in trees, hammocks, floors and that overpacked backseat. They are more eager than anyone to see our family establish a home in Latvia. Melinda and I are proud of them for their resiliency and confidence in the Lord's mission and, so, their willingness to pursue something so bold. Jesus, please bless them.

## Please Partner with us in this Mission

- Thank you for supporting the training of pastors and missionaries.
- Send tax-deductible contributions to: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, Iowa (memo-line must include Bombaro/Latvia)
- Give securely from any device [www.lcms.org/bombaro](http://www.lcms.org/bombaro).