



LBC News Flash

Dear friends, greetings from Latvia!!!

The Advent season is upon us and that means that the most exciting festival of Christmas is coming! At times we don't feel joyful looking at the news and what's happening in the Ukraine and in the land where our Saviour was born. Yet, this period is a time for reflection and anticipation. "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Mt 1:23 NIV These words were reassuring then and now.

As we reported in our previous newsletter we had 60 new students on 4 different programs, and they joined us from different countries.

We wanted to give you a 'taste' of what's happening at LBC this academic term.

School of Preaching



I am Aivars Treimanis and I study in the 'School of Preaching'. In my 'daily life' I work as a heating and plumbing engineer and in the 'Church life' I work as a youth leader and also involved in the Church Multiplication Mission as Latvian coordinator. The study at LBC is very interesting - it is the place where I meet students from different churches and denominations. As a part of learning process we go to preach to different churches and the amazing thing is

that it doesn't matter whether I am in a church of my own denomination or another - we have one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The acquired knowledge of the specific topic of homiletics gives the knowledge of how to correctly compose sermons in different ways and for different target audiences. I have realized that there is not only one way to make sermons, but there are many different ways to present the message of the Bible to different groups and different ages. Further, as the coordinator of the ministry of the Church Multiplication Mission in Latvia, this is a good opportunity to get to know and make contacts with representatives from different denominations and congregations. It gives us a possibility of establishing a new church or a small group in every populated place in Latvia, which proclaims the Gospel message and the testimony of Jesus.

Christianity, Work & Society



My name is Linda. I started my studies at LBC as a young Christian, housewife, wife and mother of a 3-year-old son. My husband is the unbeliever. I know that God called me to LBC. I started with program 'Theology and Ministry' and I really fell in love with the Scripture. I continue my studies this year in the program - 'Christianity, Work, Society'. During my studies, God has led me to work as a caregiver for children with special

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needs - three orphans in Riga State Social care center.

Studying at LBC has given me many blessings. I really enjoy both studies and meetings with sisters and brothers. It was also a great blessing to meet a mentor during my studies who helped me to see how God works through me in serving others, in different places where God puts me. I am especially excited that God has answered my prayers and has led me to LBC. I have gained a lot during my study. I feel prepared and armed for the future to serve God for the rest of my life!

Counselling program



We also had a wonderful time with Steve Spires, from Overseas Instruction in

Counselling. This is a Level 2 program in counselling that we hope to develop in the next academic year. The need in churches is great and we already can see that the counselling program is bearing good fruits.

LBC needs

We live in the shadow of the ongoing war in Ukraine, which affects all of us. LBC is not an exception, and the rising costs of utilities and food puts considerable pressure on the finances of LBC. We realize that we need to

find some additional sources of income for LBC as a ministry to maintain the same level of staff and to afford the ongoing 'operations of LBC' like paying salaries, etc. If anyone of you know of any foundations which provide grants for institutions like LBC, we would be most grateful for any advice/help.

Prayer needs

Praise

- We praise the Lord for every new student who came for this academic year.
- For Crisis centre and for all healing and transformation which takes place through its work and for the new group of students on "Counselling program".
- **Pray for:** the recruitment of a new director to succeed Victor.
- **Pray for:** - The financial needs of LBC and Lord's faithful provision for us to meet the rising costs.

Thank you, dear friends, for all your prayers, support, and love for LBC's ministry. God bless, Victor Petrenko, (*On behalf of LBC staff, students, and teachers*)

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