

# PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY



October 2019

## Transformation

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Fine Arts Director



I have had the privilege of taking performing arts students to Estonia for the past 5 summers. Why do we continue to lead a conversational English camp in a country so far away? This trip provides students with the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in an environment where language, culture and religion are barriers. Students see God work in miraculous and astounding ways.

Estonia is predominately an atheist country. Those who consider themselves religious are either Lutheran or Eastern Orthodox. There are very few evangelical Christians in Estonia. Since many of the campers are from eastern Europe or Russia where the arts are an important part of culture, the arts provide an avenue to share the Gospel through drama, music, improvisation, dance and art. As we laugh during improv games, sing and dance simple songs, and present biblical stories through drama, many of the campers are learning about God's love for the first time.

Teenagers often ask how God can use them to impact His kingdom. As relationships are formed over meals shared and playing Four Square during free time, campers experience love they have never seen or felt. A smile, a pat on the back, Americans speaking broken Russian and Estonian, are all ways we express our love and compassion for the campers and camp staff. Our students become witnesses as to how the Holy Spirit can use them when they are willing to step out of their comfort zone, share their own testimonies, pray for others, and encourage each other. I have seen our students place aside their own needs and desires to serve someone else. Students who are extremely homesick or afraid to teach the lesson they created become empowered through Christ. We have seen orphans who were unresponsive to any type of authority become self-controlled and then tearful when our students depart from camp. I have seen students muster the

strength to teach when they are tired, and sleep deprived and bring order to chaos when we are teaching lessons, playing games, or worshipping together.



God continues to use Prince Avenue Christian School fine arts students to bring the Good News of hope to the children of Eastern Europe. During our camp adventures we have seen not only the lives of campers transformed, but also our own lives transformed. God works powerfully through us when we allow ourselves to be humbled and then strengthened through Christ. Thank you for your prayers during our past trips, and please continue to pray for the ministry as we prepare for the 2020 mission trip.