

## **Dear Grace church, family and friends,**

I am very pleased to have you around in Grace church. Thank you for making Grace International your spiritual home while in Latvia and thank you for considering supporting the gospel work here.

In one of his letters to the church in Philippi, (Philippians 4:14-20) Paul describes Christian giving as a partnership. It carries the idea that we are invested in the gospel work together. It requires careful and responsible financial decision making, and asking questions like, what percentage of my income am I going to invest in the work that God is doing through this local community of believers?

## **Partner with Grace**

We are deeply thankful for the generous financial partnership that many of you are already within in the ministry at Grace church. It is very encouraging and also essential to keep this ministry going.

On a number of occasions, you may have heard us discuss how things have changed financially for Grace church with Malcolm and Ruth going back to the UK. During their time here, Malcolm and Ruth were supported as missionaries by their gospel partners in the UK. The church only had to cover the rent, utilities and some other ministry related expenses.

With pastor Andis coming on board, the pastor's salary now falls under the care of Grace church. We are currently in a transitional phase where we are moving from our supporting church in Pardaugava covering half of the pastor's salary to a point in time where we will need to cover it all. What does that mean financially for Grace church? Over time we will need to eventually cover all our current expenses of around €35 000 per annum. In the short term, Pardaugava will help with Andis' salary, but this helping hand will go over the next couple years. However, currently Grace church struggles to cover even a half the pastor's salary together with rent, utilities and other ministry costs.

Some at the church family are already very faithful and generous financial partners in the ministry, thank you. But if you are a regular member of the church and haven't considered giving to the work financially, please could I ask you to pray about doing so? Or if you haven't reviewed your giving recently then now may be a good time to do so.

## **Partner with Grace for students**

I do realize that a fair proportion of Grace church are students with very little income. I was recently encouraged by a pastor friend to offer to the students at Grace to become members of the "5+ Club". What does it entail? While you are with us as a student, consider to start giving as little as (5+ EUR/month). But as you finish your studies, find a job and settle down, keep up the financial partnership with Grace International church in Riga by setting aside the percentage that you are able to continue giving towards the work here. We would love to be able to further grow and reach more internationals in Riga.

More than likely, we will continue to be in need for external funds for ministry as so many of us are students here. So may I turn to all of you who have benefited spiritually from your time with us, but have now moved on. We ask that you pray and consider supporting Grace in any capacity you can.

Thank you again for your generous financial partnership in the ministry here at Grace church. It is very encouraging, and also essential to keep the ministry going. Please get in touch with me if you would like to receive any financial details and the budget for 2023.

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**Bank: Swedbank**  
**Name of Account: Reformātu Pārdaugavas draudze**  
**Account Number: LV73HABA0551052724993**  
**Purpose: Gift or Donation**