

War In Latvia : Christians against Christians

“Together in Toronto” July, 2006

Rev. Maris Sants

Latvia...

- Population 2.4 milion,
- Member of EU 05.2004, of NATO 10.2004
- Russian Occupation from 1940 – 1990 (shortly interrupted by the Second World War):
homosexuality decriminalised in 1991
- Major denominations: Lutheran - 297 congregations, Roman Catholic – 185, Russian Ortodox – 100, Baptist – 78
- Some fast growing charismatic free churches,







Geji 'drāž' mūsu nāciju

Rīga pmt AID 200



Christians against Christians

- So called “Priest’ s party” , the First r of Latvia – initiated to change Latvian Constitution
- The common statement of four church leaders , where gays are blamed to be a cause of the fall of Rome, and destruction of Sodom, where gays are blamed to seduce youth
- The family values demonstration – June, 2006
- Aggressive Christians at the Riga city council
- The leader of the biggest Charismatic PPentecostal church – among the national Bolsheviks, national fascists and right wing extremists
- Gays are blamed to be a cause of God not blessing our country and poverty, communist threat, low birth rates, corruption etc.













Theological Messages

- Latvian and Russian nationalists, traditional religions with pentacostals, christians with sincretists, all have joined in one crowd. As Roman Empire officials in Jesus time friends with Synedery. Old conflicts become resolved through hatred
- The dirty job is not done by bishops or politicians, it is done by youth and “less respected” sectants – pentacostals, and other “odd” people. Jesus was tortured by roman soldiers
- When the church becomes a real shelter against a hostile crowd the churches meaning really shows up, “Mighty fortress”
- When heterosexual pastors are ready to sacrifice their career and literally do it in order to stand for truth, the presence of reformation and profecy is visible
- My 68 years old mother came to be with us, she did not try to protect me and others, but stood side by side with us
- If women protect men from being beaten up risking their own health the Christs presence becomes very visible
- A lot more things. Gods presence is visible. I do not know the future







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"RĪGAS PRAIDS 2005"

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THE HEART
HAS
NO
GENDER