

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”
Matthew 28:19

VERTICAL GRADS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!

I came to Vertical Camp by coincidence. I did not know that this camp would change my life. Before camp I was just a Christian who attended church every Sunday. I did not see myself in any ministry in church. I didn't want to serve.

During my first summer at camp, I experienced serious difficulties in my group. To overcome them I had to develop self-control and self-discipline. I took Proverbs 16:32 seriously. “It is better to be patient than powerful; it is better to have self-control than to conquer a city.”

At camp God gave me the desire to become involved in ministry. **To Serve Like Paul** was the title of one of our ten Biblical character studies. At the dedication service I asked God to give me a ministry. I couldn't stay the same. I wanted changes in my life.

Our church had no worship group. People thought it was not possible. But the desire God put into my heart became greater than my excuses. Together with my friend, I managed to start a chamber orchestra “Credo” in our church. I play accordion. I began to sing in a vocal group. Soon I was teaching Sunday School. I made many new friends and truly fell in love with my church.

This year I attended the Vertical Leadership Program (VLP). Our instructor, Viktor Kornichuck was phenomenal. He helped us to identify the behavior traits that dominate the lives of young men and how to bring them in line with the Bible. Each day one of us was put in charge of our group with the responsibility of performing all the tasks of a counselor, including teaching the Bible Study. At the end of the day we sat down to hear Viktor's objective analysis of our performance. He pointed out our strengths and how we could expand on them, and our weaknesses and how we could correct them. This whole experience raised our self-esteem and self-confidence.

It was really cool to see how God changes boys through Vertical Camp. He definitely changed me. I learned to love the Word and pray fervently. It was a blessed time during which I received many revelations from God. I am thankful for VLP and how it helped me to improve. **Vertical graduates can change the world!**



VLPs: l-r, Dima, Viktor K - instructor, Ruslan, Andrey

~ Dima, age 18



A NEW GENERATION

Volodymir S., commonly called “Vova”, is a Ukrainian young man currently studying at Steinbach Bible College (SBC) in Manitoba. He is a second generation Christian, a great-grandson of the post WW1 generation classified as “The Lost Generation”. The lost generation and the children after them were forbidden to know and worship God. When the Soviet Empire collapsed, the floodgates opened and people turned to God by the millions. Vova’s parents, who work with KVI, were among those people. Hundreds of Christian youth camps came into existence to raise up a new generation. Many camps, conscious of what was happening, were named “New Generation”. Vova is the product of one of these camps and he certainly is a New Generation young man who is changing the world in which he has influence.

With KVI’s help, Vova began his studies at SBC in September 2015. His parents, who have interpreted for Dave & Elfrieda Loewen for many years, saw to it that he mastered the English language from his youth, so Vova has had no difficulty with his studies. His desire for building his life on a solid theological foundation was fertile ground for the program and environment at SBC.

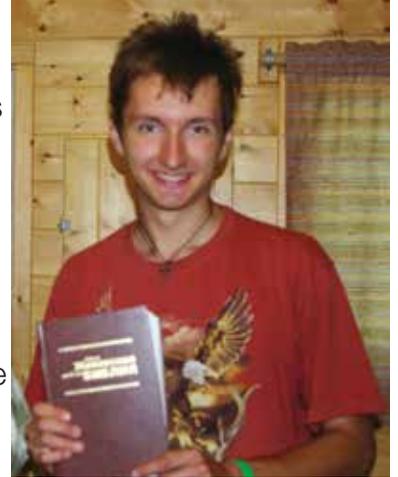
**THIS NEW GENERATION IS BOUND
TO CHANGE THE WORLD!**

In one of his courses Vova was given the choice of either writing a term paper or memorizing the Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5,6 & 7. That is 111 verses! Vova called Dave to ask his opinion. Dave’s offer of \$100 if he recited all 111 verses without error was enough motivation for Vova. And, he has earned the \$100!

But that is only the beginning. The message of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount given over 2000 years ago comes alive as Vova relives it in his recitation. His face beams. His eyes have fire in them. His whole body is engaged as he recites what he believes and lives.

To help earn his tuition for the second year at SBC, Vova is serving a four month term at Winkler Bible Camp (WBC) in Manitoba. He finds the work stressful

because the youth in his country generally don’t work as hard as the Canadian youth do. However he has managed well and his leadership is greatly respected at WBC. After his fifth week in counseling he called Dave to say he was exhausted and had no energy for counseling a sixth week. Dave encouraged Vova by promising to ask several hundred people to pray for him. During his sixth week, Vova told Dave he felt spiritually renewed and that he was enjoying counseling his group of ten campers. At the end of the week he called to say, “Prayer works. Five of my boys became Christians this week. Camp is one of the best places in the world because people pay money to come to you to be evangelized.”



Vova’s first Bible given to him by his parents after he became a Christian at camp.

To Dave’s question: What makes camp so special? Vova replied, “The strong three-way relationship component – God – staff – campers. Otherwise working at camp is just a job.”

Vova observes that Canadians have less to worry about than Ukrainians. Canadians don’t worry about their daily needs, relatives being killed in the war, the opportunity to get an education, or to be drafted into the military. Canadians are friendlier, more trustworthy, more caring and less discriminatory.”

Vova says his greatest challenge is to trust God in every aspect of his life. “God provided everything for me. I own nothing but I have everything I need.”

Vova’s next project is to memorize the book of Romans. He is already half way through chapter four. When Dave asked Vova what motivated him to memorize Romans, he said, “I considered what the best use of my time would be to benefit me the rest of my life. I decided nothing could benefit me more than knowing the Scriptures.”

This new generation is bound to change the world!

NASTYA EXCHANGED ORDINARY LIFE FOR PURPOSEFUL LIFE

I was living the ordinary life doing what everybody does – living for myself and nothing to do all summer.



My first visit to camp was in 2014. I really liked the cheerful atmosphere. The camp with its variety of sports activities gave me the opportunity to develop my skills. The staff was very helpful and always encouraged me. The chapel programs were upbeat and left no one indifferent. I did not believe in God before I came to camp, but here I began to realize that God is very important.

It was very difficult for me to accept God. Did I really want to leave my ordinary life without purpose for a life full of purpose with God? With everything I experienced at camp it became clear to me that God wanted to help me, so my answer was “YES!” It became much easier to live after I accepted God. Summer camp encourages me to keep living a purposeful life with God.

CAMP STAFF TESTIMONY

Camp changed me a lot. I learned to be responsible for myself and others. I am sure that after my ten weeks at camp as sports coordinator, I will experience life differently at home. – Ivan

CAMPER TESTIMONY

Camp taught me to respect people. I discovered my talent to sing and I do it well. The ten Bible character studies helped me to realize what a man of God should be like and how to improve my character. Now I pay much more attention to what I say and do. – Gleb

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOUR CONCERT

Enjoy the **Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus**

Sunday, Sept 25, 6:00 pm
Calvary Temple, 400 Hargrave St. Winnipeg

Monday, Sept 26, 7:00 pm
Winkler Mennonite Church, 31 Willowdale Cresc.

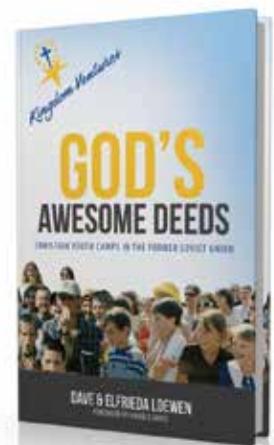
Admission: Offering for Music Mission Ukraine and for Kingdom Ventures Inc. ministries

KVI will give a report at the Calvary Temple Concert



“As you read this book you will be encouraged and surprised at what God can do through people who are committed to Him and believe that prayer and miracles go hand in hand.”

Herb & Erna Buller



To order, call **204-224-4175** or email **kingdomventures@msn.com** or mail cheque for **\$25** to Kingdom Ventures Inc. PO Box 38144 East St. Paul, MB R2E 1H3

INVESTING IN MY CHILDREN'S SOULS

Slava visited his daughter who was attending Alpha Teen Camp for the third summer. He stayed for several days to observe how the camp operates. His church bought a small parcel of land 15 years ago and developed a summer camp. Slava is responsible for the physical upkeep of the camp.

Dave was at Alpha Camp at the time and had the opportunity to speak with Slava. His 16 year old son who attended Vertical in 2015 was with him. Dave asked him why he was sending his children to our camp, an eight hour drive from his home, when his church has a camp. He answered, "My children attend our church camp every summer. But your camp is at a higher level than our camp. Here our children get much more than we can offer at our camp. **Every dollar I pay in camp registration fees is an investment into the souls of my children.**



"And I have another reason for coming here for a few days. I am observing everything you do here to get ideas for how to improve our camp. My son, based on the training he received in Vertical last year, will be the sports director in our camp this summer."

Our world could use a few more faithful fathers and servants like Slava.

LOVE IN ACTION ~ by Dave Loewen

I had the opportunity to spend July 12-14 in our model tent camp near Poltava, Ukraine. The warm atmosphere created by the staff put smiles on the 62 teenage camper's faces and excitement into their hearts. The campsite, studded with tall pine trees, is

located on the banks of a slow-flowing river suitable for fishing and swimming. The white tents provide comfortable temporal homes under the shady pines for staff and campers.

The counselors are trained to build a personal relationship with each of their campers through many different activities. Cleaning their tents and territory daily, engaging in a variety of character-building sports, daily group counselor led Bible studies, memorizing and reciting Bible verses, cooking their own suppers – these are some of the activities through which strong relationships develop. The small groups of 6 or 7 campers gives occasion for everyone to be included, engaged and loved. Many campers speak a little English so I enjoyed interacting with them and taking their pictures.



Orphans sponsored by generous donor

Suddenly I was surrounded by a group of cheerful campers hugging me, giggling and saying SPASIBA (Russian for Thank You). Their counselor noticed my surprise and said, "these are some of the orphans KVI sponsored."

Last Spring KVI received a sizeable donation with a note asking that it be applied to orphans. We immediately contacted our staff in Kiev and told them to recruit 18 teenage orphans for teen camp.

There are several thousand biological (no known parents) or social (irresponsible parents) in Ukraine. These children live predominantly in government run orphanages where they are not cared for properly and not loved. These children have been abused, beaten, lied to, starved, abandoned, etc. by drunk parents or caregivers. Most have become dysfunctional in some way. At age 18 they "graduate" from the orphanage, have no place to go unless someone takes compassion on them.

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO PRAY

PASTORS ENDORSE STW



Oksana M.

God heard your prayers for Oksana M. and the STW she, and her team, led in a country where Christians are under constant surveillance. 82 camp leaders became so carried away in the learning process that they became like children. Pastors gave full support, actively participated

and observed that their camps began working more effectively since the first STW held five years ago. Their dream is to hold an STW in neighboring countries which are sending leaders to their STW. Shortage of funds is the reason it has not happened. The cost to KVI for each leader is \$320.

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING

In our Apr/May Prayer Partner we asked you to pray for Pavel Bakum and his family. We are pleased to announce that on July 11 Viktoria gave premature birth to twin girls, Sofia and Solomea. Sofia has a cleft palate and will require cosmetic surgery. On August 6, Pavel wrote "Today my princesses have come home. This is joyful news. They are so tiny."



NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN

Sergiy Karachevtsev has accepted the responsibility of chairing the CCI/Ukraine board. Sergiy is a former camp director who knows the value of camp and is investing much time into the development of a dynamic Christian camping association in Ukraine. He is well educated and a skilled professional leader in organizational management. Many changes have taken place in Ukraine and the board is working diligently with our staff to make the needed changes so that CCI will continue to be the voice of Christian camping in their country. Sergiy and the board covet your prayers as they analyze the situation and make decisions.



Sergiy
Karachevtsev

TEEN CAMP CELEBRATES

Dave & Elfrieda congratulated Rudi Dueck and camp director, Johann Hildebrand, cofounders of Teen Camp in Germany, on the occasion of the camp's 20th anniversary. The camp has a strong influence on camps in Germany, especially among Russian immigrant churches. Rudi and Johann served as instructors at our leadership conferences in the FSU for many years.

Teen Camp is a modern facility with winterized washrooms, showers and kitchen and facilities for small retreat groups. Summer campers enjoy the adventure of living in tents. Thank God for this well-run camp and the youth who have met Christ. Thank God for the significant contribution Rudi, his wife Olga, and Johann with wife, Katrin, have made to Christian camping in the FSU and in Germany and ask God to continue to bless their ministry.



CAMPERS BECOME BELIEVERS

“God’s presence was felt every day,” said Georgia camp director, Valeri. “Staff carried out their duties 100% and better. When something needed attention they looked after it before I could say something. When campers in the tents were soaked due to heavy rains, everyone helped to make them comfortable. Campers learned how to make beautiful craft projects. They learned how to sing and pray. They forgave one another when things went wrong

60 TEENAGERS HAD MADE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST.

and realized that with God they were capable of doing much more than they thought they could. By the end of camp about 60 teenagers had made the decision to follow Christ. Some of them were from families that worship other gods. “I give glory to the Lord Jesus because we are messengers of His Love.”



FOLLOW-UP VOLUNTEERS



Campers who make decisions need coaching after camp, especially those who do not live in a Christian family or have church connections. Follow-up is usually done by volunteers who were on camp staff during the summer. To be a volunteer follow-up coach takes a relationship with the camper, a desire to mentor the camper into spiritual maturity and a willingness to walk alongside the camper in his successes and failures. To do so calls for commitment and weekly personal sacrifices. Thousands of follow-up volunteers are needed. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send Follow-up Volunteers into His huge harvest field.

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They have not been prepared to enter society. Statistics reveal that 80% become criminals or prostitutes or commit suicide.

So what was the background of these 18 orphans? "I have never eaten so well in my entire life," a boy told his group. The boys asked him what he usually eats. "A piece of lard (sala), one slice of bread and one onion. But even that I don't get every meal."

Lyosha, age 17, came to camp with a broken arm, very few teeth and he smelled awful. Silent and sad, he avoided people by sitting alone at the beach. His counselor sat down beside him and befriended him. Slowly his bruised heart softened. By the end of camp he opened up and even performed on stage. He left camp giving friendly embraces.



Vova, age 12, would not look anyone in the eye and when he spoke it was nothing more than "yes" or "no". To everyone's surprise, he stepped on stage one day and in three sentences told the audience why they should ask him to be a sports instructor. By the end of camp, he was singing camp songs with everyone else.

Sveta, age 13, cried for several days. No one could calm her spirit. She came with next to nothing, not even suitable clothes for sports. Many prayers went up to the Throne of Grace. Sveta's wounded heart was full of resentment but God used the love she saw around her to soften her heart. One day when Sveta was alone by the river, one of the staff approached her with a chocolate bar. At once Sveta smiled, gave the staff a hug, ran to her tent and ate the bar. Her eyes were filled with joy.

Ilia, age 13, came to camp deeply wounded physically and emotionally. He had closed his soul, spirit and emotions so no one could hurt him again. He was proud, untouchable, loud-mouthed and cold as ice. Even though he was small, looking more like a 10-year old, he was a rebel. He proclaimed himself an unbeliever who was not interested in the prayers at camp. His group was to perform a skit. He refused to participate but all the support and encouragement from his group convinced him to play his role. The skit was so successful, Ilia ran from the stage sticking out his tiny chest announcing his idea for a skit for the next day.



A few days later, with fire in his eyes, he ran to the camp director asking what he had to do to stay for the next camp. "I don't mind that this is a Christian camp and that you pray everywhere. I'll do any job to stay here," he pleaded. The love around him helped Ilia to overcome the Goliaths within him.

Sasha, age 12, told his counselor Vitalik after an evening chapel, "I want to be like all of you here. What must I do to be like you?"

"Ask God to forgive your sins."

"I have already done that but I still do wrong things."

Vitalik prayed with Sasha and encouraged him to read the Bible. That is how God speaks to us. After that conversation, Sasha got up early every morning to read the Bible with Vitalik.

Love in Action from a staff filled with God's love is irresistible. We thank God for everyone who makes camp possible for love-starved teenagers.

Kolia's response to the donors "I really want to hug you and say Thank you".

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO GIVE

The stories you have read in this newsletter attest to how richly God has blessed the donations of our cheerful, generous donors. You have been faithful in supporting KVI and its ministry year after year. We, together with all our staff, campers and their parents, accept your support with respect and responsibility. Please continue your generosity. There are always new leaders waiting to be trained and trained leaders who are asking how to increase the effectiveness of their camps.



We appreciate your prayer and financial support!



“Camp taught me how to become a servant. I saw many examples of godly servants here. Talking with them and watching them do their jobs with devotion was something amazing! After three summers at Camp Vertical I am totally captivated with becoming a better servant leader.”
Daniel, Sports Instructor



Every dollar given to KVI is invested in leaders who invest themselves into the souls of youth.

Please make cheque payable to Kingdom Ventures Inc.

Donation Policy: Spending of funds is confined to KVI Board approved projects. Gifts designated towards approved projects are used as designated with the understanding that when the need for a project has been met, or the project cannot be completed for any reason determined by the Board, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged with a receipt for income tax purposes.

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