

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO GIVE . . .

“My youth pastor invited me to attend CCI’s Staff Training Workshop (STW) and that is when my ministry began. Until then I just went to church and did nothing. I was not aware of my own potential and that I have such a love for children and youth. I cannot express my feelings how great it is to tell children about Jesus and listen to their feedback and prayers. This brings me great pleasure and joy I had never before experienced. Thank you, God, for camp!”
 –Alexey Eremin



KVI urgently needs your help for our six camp leaders training workshops April, May and June.

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.

RESPONSE TO KVI – SPRING 2013

My gift for: Training camp leaders \$ _____; Tents \$ _____; or Where Needed \$ _____

I would like to be removed from mail list

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address: Street _____ City _____

Prov/State _____ Code _____

My email address is _____

Donation receipts will be issued. Please make cheques payable and send to:

Kingdom Ventures Inc. PO Box 38144 East St. Paul, MB R2E 1H3



Christian Youth Camps of the former Soviet Union

Promotional

April/May 2013
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“...in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” Luke 15:7

Camp Blessings

MANY THOUSANDS of teenagers in the former Soviet Union who have become Christ’s followers through camp, are now faithful in their churches, return to camp as helpers, counselors and directors and have also found their life’s partners at camp. One of the camps has a record of over 100 marriages. Thousands of new Christian homes had their beginnings in youth camps. Gregory’s story is a typical example of how God is changing the former Soviet Union.

Thirteen year old Gregory was an ordinary teenager enjoying Camp Boomerang. He turned 14 during the camp session. Birthdays are very special times in the Slavic culture so the whole camp arranged a celebration for Gregory during morning chapel. They sang birthday

songs, prayed for him, gave him many hugs and well-wishes. It was a very special experience for Gregory.

However the celebration wasn’t complete. The evening before Gregory’s birthday, his counselor was thinking about the gift he should give Gregory. Just before coming to camp his counselor had finally saved enough money to purchase a Bible for himself. He had dreamt about that Bible and saved money for a long time. It was the most precious thing he had. The counselor presented this precious gift to Gregory, believing he would read the Bible and that God’s Word would become the guide for his life.

Gregory has celebrated every birthday since 2006 at camp. After his first camp he attended the church youth functions and



eventually became a cell group leader. For the past four years he has served as a counselor at camp. Gregory treats his campers the same way his counselor treated him. His counselor’s good example became Gregory’s leadership and relationship norm from the time he counseled his first boys group. Today Gregory is one of the most powerful and sought-after counselors in Camp Boomerang. He is a huge blessing to the boys he mentors.

And the blessings did not end there. Last summer he married a girl who he met in his very first camp at age 13. At that time of course he was completely unaware that she would someday become his wife.

I Declare

“When the camp began the Lord began to work on me. I suddenly realized that even small sins bring pain to God. After the camp I started to read the Bible with a totally different attitude. The camp revived my heart and made a huge contribution to my life. I know for 100% that my coming to camp was not in vain. This year I want to get baptized. By that I want to declare that I dedicate my life to God, not only because my parents are Christians, but because I chose to do that.” –Katya, age 13



Anya's Story

"I WAS THIRTEEN and a typical teenager. I talked to my mother and stepfather only when I needed money. I just lived my life apart from theirs. My father left when I was one. When my sister was born I built even bigger walls around myself.

"In 2005 my mother was invited to be the sports director in a Christian camp. She had no idea what she was in for. A few days after camp had started she called and talked about this camp with such enthusiasm that I decided to visit her for a few days. I asked my best friend Xenia to join me. We lived in the camp and observed everything for several days.

"Having been a camper in non-Christian camps, I knew very well that counselors usually didn't care about the inner world of children in their groups. They smoked, drank and were bad examples. However, in this camp the counselors were servants. I

was shocked as I sat in the counselor meetings listening to them tell their experiences with their children and collectively, with tears in their eyes, planned how to help the children with their problems.

"One evening, after many awards and prizes had been handed to the best groups and after singing many songs, the speaker invited people to the stage. I didn't understand why but my mother pulled me and I went with her. We repeated the prayer of repentance. When I left the camp I felt I had finally found what I was looking for. I became part of the local church and eventually experienced a living relationship with God and His family. I served as a counselor in camps. This summer I served as a translator in a Christian camp for orphans. After camp I decided to become a mentor for an orphan boy and to support him in every way I am able."



Rustam

"MY SON CHANGED so much after camp that I could not recognize him," Rustam's mother told us. "His eyes changed! He decided to follow God. He began to attend church. He prayed. He began telling others about Jesus. He found Christian friends. I am so grateful to God that Rustam came home with a CD of camp pictures and the Workbook from the Bible classes. He studies this book and it inspires him. I look at the answers my son has written and I cannot believe they were written by my son. My son experienced God's love at camp. He memorized Golden Verses and learned to love God's Word.

"Before camp Rustam rejected God, constantly fought with me and his dad and behaved horribly at school. I was called to the principal's office every week. But after camp, the principal asked, 'What have you done with your son? He is a different person now.'

"Words cannot express my gratitude to the camp staff for what they have done for my son. God has a time and place for every camp."

God's Work Cannot Be Stopped

"CAMP MINISTRY is one of the most important ministries of the church," said Natalia, director of Camp Water Stream. "We pray in unity giving the Lord our dreams, hopes and aspirations. We pray hard and fast for God to answer and provide our needs. The children are also praying with us because experience has shown that children are the best prayer warriors. Our camp council gathers monthly to discuss all camp matters, prepare programs for summer camps and to pray. God is faithful and we need to be faithful too! He said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.' John 15:16.

Water Stream is a Day Camp in a country where people who

attend church are threatened with heavy fines or several years in jail. The pastor parked his tent trailer at the beach and the children came running; more children than they could handle. "We played games, taught Bible lessons and sculptured clay figurines on the beach. We feed the children breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea from a samovar.

"The next Spring we sent three staff to the CCI Workshop and we understood what it means to run a real Christian camp. The number of campers increased that summer and children were happy to participate. The camp is growing every year – more staff, more campers, and more camp sessions. We cannot advertise our camp in our country but our stories about our tent camp adventures in nature are spread mouth-to-mouth. And our little



church has grown from 30 to 70 members.

"Attending CCI educational events is a must for Camp Water Stream staff; they attend every year. Two of our staff have even been invited to be instructors at these workshops and this brings us great joy. We believe that God's work cannot be stopped."

What Motivates Them

"I HAD NO IDEA that one meeting, one invitation to a youth camp would change my life. I had been to many camps, but in summer of 2000 I attended a camp that was different from all other camps. The people were always smiling and friendly with open hearts. I felt they really cared about me. They accepted me for who I am. For a teenager this is very important.

"I started to think...What motivates them to be so loving? I received the answer during camp. It was Christ. In camp we talked a lot about the Lord Jesus Christ, how much He has done for us and for me personally. The most significant factor was that I did not just listen to their words, I also saw the truths expressed in their practical lives.

"I wanted to be like the people who surrounded me in camp.

I wanted to be like Christ so I accepted the Lord into my heart. Christ not only changed history, not only the lives and characters of camp staff, He changed my life.

Since then and to this day, I live for God. I try to show the same love that I received in camp to others and hope it will change someone's life too." –Vika A.



KVI PRAISE BRUNCH

June 8, 2013

North Kildonan MB Church
1315 Gateway Rd, Winnipeg

See and hear how God is changing the former Soviet Union through Christian youth camps – Dave Loewen reporting

Reservations by June 4
call Elfrieda 204-224-4175

Admission \$10 at the door

Who We Are...

Kingdom Ventures Inc. (KVI) founded in 1990 is a Canadian faith mission focused on training Christian Youth Camp leaders in the former Soviet Union. KVI's Resource Teams in the former Soviet Union publish program resources and train camp leaders. KVI networks with Christliche Freizeiten Internationale (CFI) in Germany; Christian Camp and Conference Association/USA (CCCA/USA); CCI/Russia; CCI/Ukraine; and with other followers of our Lord.

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VOLUNTEERS HARVESTERS

There are over 1000 Christian youth camps in the former Soviet Union. Over 25,000 volunteers are needed to operate these camps so the children will be well fed, be safe, hear the gospel, feel the love of Jesus and return home waiting to return the next year.

Wow! Can God really call and send over 25,000 volunteers into His camp harvest in 2013? Well, if He couldn't, Jesus would not have told us to "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:38. The Message reads "What a huge harvest!

... How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!" In most camps today, the number of campers who can attend is not determined by the number of beds but by the availability of volunteer harvesters.

MIRACLES HAPPEN

Galina, director of Camp Hope, had the feeling she should pick up the hitchhiker. She stopped the car, they introduced each other. His car had broken down so he needed a ride. He asked Galina where she was going. "To camp," she replied and told him the vacant campsite they had purchased was without electricity. The camp had been vacant for 15 years and all electrical equipment had been stolen and/or out of order. "But God will help us," she said. The hitchhiker informed her that he was the director of all technical inventories in the area.

Two weeks later Galina asked the officials to restore the electricity at the camp. She was told it cannot be done because the documents were not in order. They would first have to construct a building to house the transformers. God reminded Galina about the hitchhiker's words so she called him. He took the papers she had, stamped and signed them and told her she had everything needed to restore the electricity.

God answers prayer. This is why KVI sends out monthly prayer letters. We don't know how far-reaching our prayers are. Thank you for being our Prayer Partners. Like Camp Hope, hundreds of camps are in operation because of your prayers.



REAL MEN

Dave Loewen has been invited to train the Boys Camp Counselors. The purpose of Vertical – the name of Boys Camp – is to inspire boys ages 14-17 to become Godly men, or as our Ukrainians say, "REAL MEN".

It is an honor to be asked to do such an important task, but the responsibility is huge. To fulfill this role of training 26 counselors and program leaders, Dave would like 300 praying (remember Gideon?) for him daily May 8-12.

"Here is what I need from God: health and strength to give it all I got, a deep love and respect for each of the 26 men, an observant eye and sound mind to see the God-given strength in each leader and to encourage them, grace to notice their weak areas and to counsel them,

humility to model Christ-likeness. Ask God to fill each of the 26 men with His Holy Spirit and open their hearts and minds to absorb what He wants to teach them. A note informing me that you are praying would be great; I will send you a report." kingdomventures@msn.com or 204-224-4175 or KVI Box 38144, East St. Paul, MB R2E 1H3



Alexey's family

Mountain Pass – A Year-Round Camp

"OUR COUNSELORS provide answers to questions that distressed teenagers ask on-line. We receive over 2000 hits per week. We have a team of volunteer counselors who are often bombarded with questions," Alexey, founder and director of Mountain Pass, informed us. "For example, a girl told her on-line

counselor that she was embarrassed because she was 18 years old and a virgin. After her conversation she came to the conclusion that she should be proud of her virginity.

"By building relationships with teens and earning their trust, we can tell them about Jesus and invite them to church. Usually our visitors

are unbelievers. They come from every walk of life because they need answers to questions their parents cannot answer."

Mountain Pass is a mission that a number of churches representing various denominations are involved with. Alexey at age 22 caught the vision for Mountain Pass while attending a CCI conference. He was invited to be a counselor in a Christian camp. "God really blessed my group. Their behavior changed radically by the end of camp. In their repentance they turned away from mockery, aggression and contempt of showing kindness. At this point, I understood God was calling me to ministry. Six of us organized Mountain Pass Educational Community which consisted of the camp and the on-line follow-up counseling. Our team has grown to forty people. Most of our graduates are baptized and in the church. Several have married and are raising their own Christian families. Mountain Pass has become a multi-church project."

God Changed Me – Inside Out

"I MET A GIRL on the internet and after a few conversations we fell in love. She was 17, I was 16. She lived in another city so I went to visit her, brought her back to live in my parents' home. We shared the same bed. We became very rebellious, listened to the wrong music and life went downhill," said Stanislav.

"We attended Mountain Pass Camp together not to get to know God but to intimidate the staff by kissing in public. But Alexey, the camp director, approached me in a different way. He did not let me drown in this world's swamp of sin. He didn't nag me or use force... he just showed understanding and unconditional acceptance.

"I broke up with the girl after camp but for the next four years I

tried almost all the pleasures of the world except drugs. I still don't know how he did it, but Alexey gave me another chance and sent me to the Christian Camp Leaders Conference. That event changed my life. It was a miracle. There I saw Christianity in practice. "God has changed me from the inside out and shown me a new way. In 2011

and 2012 I served in five camps as sports leader and helping wherever I could. I talked to people about Christ. We distributed tracts at EURO 2012 Soccer events and shared the gospel with over 2000 people. With Alexey's help, I am serving teenagers 365 days a year. The Lord gives

me many opportunities to warn teenagers of sin and to show them the right way.

"Serving youth at camp and through the internet gives meaning to my life. I have a goal. I am 21 now and miracles are still happening in my life. The most important thing is for teenagers to see Christ in me."



A Drop of Kindness

“CHILDREN WERE ROAMING the village streets because no one did anything for the children. Our announcement to do a Christian Day Camp shocked the village. ‘Who are these believers and what do they really want?’ were questions the parents asked.

“Masha’s Gramma who was raising her six year old granddaughter by herself led the way and took Masha to camp. Others followed. Masha established friendships and soon trusted her counselor. She learned that God loves her. Each day was fun and unique. The camp was awesome.

“On the last day of camp the children were told, ‘the celebration continues’ and were invited to the

Saturday Club. Masha and her friends always wait at the door of the Saturday Club up to an hour before the opening to be sure not to miss anything. Seeing the changes in their children, the parents who initially opposed the camp and forbade their children to attend, began to attend the Saturday Club and offer their help.”

The Day Camp has been operating in the village every summer since 2004. But Masha is no



longer a camper. She is an assistant counselor. She presents Bible lessons in such a way that children listen with great interest. She works at the club every Saturday. The children love her very much. After all, Masha and the Saturday Club are “A Drop of Kindness” to them.

Mother and Child Camp



“MY CAMP STORY BEGAN in 2001 when I was invited to be a counselor and to lead the evening chapels in a children’s camp. Three years ago I became a counselor in

the Mother and Child session. I took care of the toddlers, reading Bible stories, playing with them and putting them to bed. I learned how to take care of children along

with the other mothers. We were taught and shown what it means to be a Christian mother. This is a very powerful program. Besides learning to provide the physical and emotional care, we learned the importance of a living relationship with God.

“I have three daughters. My family and I have decided to serve God together. After camp, we have a Bible Club with refugee mothers and children in our neighborhood. There are many war refugees in the Republic of Georgia who have never heard about Jesus.” – Nurana

Leila

Leila was eleven years old when she attended camp and heard about Christ for the first time. “Aunt Gulia sang songs and told us about God. I found my heavenly Father. This marked the beginning of my new life. I was so happy that I sang the camp songs at school even though my teachers were against it. I am 16 now, baptized and looking forward to the next camp.”



Hymn Sing

April 14, 6:00 pm
with Ruth Ens & Quartet
Eastview Community Church
3500 DeVries Ave, Winnipeg
Featuring Howard & Pam Bredin
and Baptist Youth Choir
Report on Christian Youth Camps
in former Soviet Union
Offering for KVI Youth Camps
Dessert & Coffee – \$5 at the gym door
Everyone Welcome



Theme
Peace

Prayer Partner

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About Prayer

“The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation.” 1 Timothy 2:1 & 2 (The Message)

Why should our first thing be prayer? Because God is sovereign! He knows everything, is present everywhere and with Him all things are possible. Why should we especially pray for rulers and their governments? Because we live in Satan’s territory! He attacks everyone in leadership, corrupting them so that we, the people they rule over, cannot quietly go about our business of living simply.

Our camp directors struggle with corrupted systems of government in all of the 15 countries in which KVI is engaged in camping. Consequently there is no quiet, simple way of going about the daily procedures of operating camps where boys and girls encounter Jesus. Every camp director really needs God to direct the hearts of the rulers who issue the multiple documents to open and operate the camp each season. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well. Why? Because God is ready and willing to perform His awesome deeds in every country.

For those who love to pray



STAFF TRAINING WORKSHOPS

KVI’s spring Staff Training Workshops (STW) are in their 23rd year. There will be many STW’s throughout the FSU from April to June. Why is STW so important? Is the staff not trained yet? There is new staff every season. Camper graduates want to become staff and at STW they see the camp from a staff perspective. STW’s don’t only teach camp logistics. They model something far more important. At the STW the leaders see and experience how to give the “touch of God’s love” to each camper 24 hours a day. Knowing how to run a camp is the order of camp. Giving the touch of God’s love to each camper for 24 hours a day is the power of the camp. Modeling God’s love is being like Jesus.

Thank God for each STW and the instructors and administrators leading the STW’s. They are God’s timely, special opportunities for preparing staff that God will use to call youth to become Christ’s disciples. Ask God to fill each instructor, administrator and leader with His Holy Spirit so that the “touch of God’s love” will penetrate every STW.



TENTS

KVI has supplied tents for many camps. Some tents need replacing. All tent camps need tables, folding benches, cots and more tents. Armenia has been asking for a whole tent camp. This is a wonderful project for Sunday school classes, home cell groups, youth groups and families. To supply one 8-person tent with cots, a table and two benches costs \$1,460. Each tent makes it possible for 35 children to attend camp every summer. Fifty-five tents equipped with cots, tables and benches are needed. Praise God for the tents He has supplied in the past and all the children who have been able to attend camp as a result. Ask God to provide 55 tents for 2013.

