

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO GIVE . . .

“We used to baptize 25 adults and three youth. Today we baptize 25 youth and 3 or 4 adults...all because of the influence camp has on the church.” – *Pastor Mikhail*

“What God is doing through KVI in this STW is incredible. Those who have not attended a Staff Training Workshop, **MUST COME!**” – *STW student*

“Children are our future. They will run our country when they grow up. If we do not take care of their upbringing and shape their values then perhaps...” – *Nakshun, Camp Coordinator*



Your support for developing camp leaders not only changes lives, it transforms society. Support KVI's Camp Leadership Conferences scheduled for October, 2013.

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 – SUMMER 2013

Donation for: Training Camp Leaders \$ _____; Where Needed \$ _____

_____ Please send the Praise Brunch DVD \$15 enclosed

I would like to receive the KVI Newsletter by:

_____ Post mail

_____ I read the newsletter in the MB Herald (inserted in May, August and December)

_____ 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

August 2013
Published by Kingdom Ventures Inc. Volume 23 Number 2

“This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” – Nehemiah 8:10

Camp is a Celebration

“GOD MADE US DO IT. Our Sunday School teachers asked for a camp. God gave us the vision, put the desire in our hearts and we have had camps every year since 1990,” said Savva. He is the unpaid pastor of two village churches east of Moscow. He lives away from family and churches from Monday to Friday because his employment is 100 km away. On Friday evening he returns home to serve the churches until Sunday evening. He is also the director of their summer camp.

When asked ‘What drives you, Savva?’ he replied “I love children and every camp is a celebration. The New Life begins at camp and the church develops it. Follow-up happens year-round. Life with God is always interesting.” Savva brought

19 of his camp staff, all former campers, to the STW in Ukraine. His purpose was to encourage his staff for their faithful service and to develop and equip them for more effective leadership in the camp and the church. And the celebration continues.

569 camp leaders from eight countries attended the five Staff Training Workshops and the Instructors Training Course that KVI sponsored this spring. All instructors were nationals trained and equipped in KVI's leadership conferences, workshops and seminars over the past 23 years. Most of the leaders were campers at one time. The camp experience changed their lives and camp has become their ministry. They want to give to others what they received and the celebration goes on!

What are they celebrating? **Unity in Christ...** “It was encouraging to study with people from three nations united in one purpose.” “I have been in similar situations but have never experienced the unity and harmony that I felt here.” **God's Presence...** “It was good to seek God's face in the mornings. I felt God's presence in the chapels. They were cheerful, joyful and full of happiness. It was good to go to bed with such feelings.” **Spiritual Gifts...** “I discovered absolutely new things about myself. My self-confidence increased. I experienced spiritual healing and was freed from my complexes.” **Friendship...** “I gained new friends. I learned how to build relationships with people and how to solve problems with love.” **Leadership...** “I enjoyed communicating with the instructors and listening to them talk about their experiences. They were punctual, caring, demanding yet understanding servants who executed their responsibilities well. They taught by example. I am thinking how to put into practice all that I have learned about leadership.” **Service...** “STW prepared me for service. It made me aware of my huge responsibility before God. I thought about my life and how to serve Him. Our staff saw new potential for our



con't next page

“God made us do it” continued

camp and adopted the STW theme IT IS POSSIBLE as our camp operational policy.”

One student wrote in her evaluation form, “What God is doing through you in this STW is incredible. Those who have not attended a Staff Training Workshop, MUST COME!”

Not everything was perfect at the STWs. Some students thought the schedule was too full and the pace too hectic. Waiting in line for a shower wasn't a good use of

time. The chorus of frogs kept them awake. Others thought the menus were not balanced. We appreciate these comments and take them into consideration when planning the next events.

Your prayers and donations were well invested. Investing in camp leadership development brings high returns because the leaders influence so many lives. Over 100,000 youth are attending Christian youth camps in the former Soviet Union countries this summer.

Called to be a Pastor

“I CAME TO STW because our church needs counselors for our camp. The children's ministry is the strongest ministry in our church. We have strong Sunday school, teens, youth and camp follow-up programs. We go for quality and all programs are unique. I work in the youth program. On Easter Sunday we were on the streets telling people about the meaning of Easter. Our camp follow-up program runs every Saturday and is called Christian Camp Friends Forever.”

David attended Vertical Boys' Camp in 2011. He grew up without a father. His father spent 13 years in jail and left the family after serving his sentence. David says, “Vertical gave me what my father failed to give



me – self-confidence. After camp my relationship with my mother improved greatly.” He completed the ten-month Vertical follow-up program.

David finished his first year of university last winter. He is a philology (languages) student and speaks five languages. He is engaged in missionary activity teaching on creationism and apologetics (why I believe).

He travels much teaching in churches who invite him. Recently he published his lecture on The Errors of Exorcism on his blog and got 2000 hits. David says he is called to be a pastor. After another four years of university he plans to attend seminary. It is great to give young men like David direction for life at Vertical. David is 18.

Who We Are...

Kingdom Ventures Inc. (KVI) founded in 1990 is a Canadian faith mission focused on developing 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.

Christian Youth Camps is published in April, August & December. Editors: Dave & Elfrieda Loewen. We welcome your inquiries. Layout & Design: Gwendolyn Penner / Board of Directors: Stan Hamm, Bev Hamm, Esther Unruh, Dave & Rose Froese Address: PO Box 38144, East St. Paul MB R2E 1H3 Tel 204-224-4175 Fax 204-222-7371 Email kingdomventures@msn.com www.kvicanada.org – visit our website for more information



At our June 8 Praise Brunch we made a **45 minute DVD** featuring Dave Loewen's **illustrated report on his May trip to Ukraine and Georgia and The 4-Given male quartet.**

This inspiring DVD can be yours for only \$15, tax and postage included.

Mail your cheque to Kingdom Ventures and we will send the DVD to you.

See response form on page 8.

KVI HymnSing Theme: JOY

Sunday, September 22, 6 pm
North Kildonan M.B. Church
1315 Gateway Rd, Winnipeg

Featuring: Men of Song male choir, Art & Clara Priebe and KVI report on youth camps in Ukraine

Admission: Offering for KVI camps
Dessert & Coffee: \$5 at the gym door



Ruth Ens



Clara & Art Priebe



“HymnSing is heart-warming and inspirational”

Better Together!

“**BETTER TOGETHER!** That is the motto of CCI, organizers of the seminar held in Kiev, May 8-12, 2013. For me it was a new and wonderful experience. I came to the seminar to be a group leader. The seminar was run in such a way that all the participants were treated like campers so that they could learn firsthand what it means to be a camper in summer camp. As a group leader, I modeled how to be a camp counselor.

“While I was on the train I felt confident and happy but when I arrived at the campsite I was worried. All the memories from 2003 surfaced – that was the time when I came to STW as an inexperienced 19 year-old girl. It was my very first STW with CCI and they have given me a start. I became a good facilitator. CCI had ignited a camp ministry fire that is still burning in my life. At first, our camp copied the structure proposed by CCI. Over the years, we developed our own camp, our own rules, the administrative system, and much more. But CCI gave us the start when we knew nothing about camp and how to start a camping ministry.



Better Together Christian Youth Camps
Camp Gloria staff who attended CCI/Ukraine STW

“I look back with tenderness and warmth when I think about the girls who were in my group. I was entrusted with wonderful girls that will become camp staff this summer. In many aspects it depended on me what kind of mood and atmosphere they would bring with them to their camps. My group was simply the best. I love these girls with all my heart and I wish them a blessed ministry in their camps this summer.

“CCI offers a tremendous opportunity for people, gives a lot of ideas and opportunities to share the experiences and always energizes

and brings positive emotions. Many thanks from all the staff of camp “Gloria” that participated in the seminar. I commend the coordinators of the seminar, Director of CCI Ukraine, Pavel Bakum, and of course, Dave Loewen, the founder of CCI/Ukraine, for their hard work and dedication in the preparation and leadership of this STW. This is exactly what is needed to recharge your spiritual and moral tanks and to bring this charge to your own camp. May God bless them all and thank you once again.” – Olga E, Camp Gloria

I Like Vertical

I'VE BEEN TO MANY Christian camps but I have never seen anything like Vertical Boys Camp. It is very spiritual and aims to develop boys into godly men. I really liked the diverse, challenging sports program. I became acquainted with heroes of faith like Daniel, Paul and Jonathan. My goal is to become like them and to serve God with the same loyalty as Daniel did! I thank God that He sent me to Vertical. If God allows, I would like to send my son to Vertical too when I will have a son. I like this camp very much. – Dmitry, 2012 camper



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Praise God for the 5 Staff Training Workshops (STWs) and the Instructor Training Course (ITC) we were able to hold this spring. Two of them were successfully held in countries that prohibit anyone besides the government to teach children. In total, 569 camp leaders were trained in the seminars. Ask God to give them wisdom to apply what they have learned, love for their campers and boldness to show them “the way, the truth and the life.”

Thank God for our team of national instructors who did all the teaching. Ask God to develop them further so they will continue to understand the growing needs of camp leaders and be able to encourage and help them as they serve in their camps this summer.

Thank God for supplying KVI with the funds to make these leadership development events possible. KVI, the churches, camp leaders, campers and their parents are very thankful for our faithful, sacrificial donors.

FAITH AND COURAGE

“Pray that nothing and no one would prevent us from having the joy of running our camps this summer.” This request comes directly from camp leaders in a country where the government has cancelled all church registrations. The churches are now illegal but continue to meet. Camps are not allowed but our STW was run without interferences and camps are being planned for this summer. Praise God for such courage and faith. Ask God for a rich harvest in every camp. Thank God for the churches and ask His protection upon them.

LIGHTHOUSE AZOV

Lighthouse Azov is a privately owned Christian camp on the shores of the Sea of Azov. Ivan and Elena are the owners/operators of this 700 bed camp. They rent the facilities to churches for their summer camps. This is a great service to over 30 churches and organizations that use these facilities. The camp is well maintained and well run. Ivan and Elena also organize and operate their own camp programs providing the opportunity for many children, youth and families to attend a Christian camp.

Thank God for Lighthouse Azov camp and for all the churches that can have their camps in this suitable facility. Ask God to bless Ivan and Elena and to give them wisdom for dealing with all the legal issues connected with operating the campsite and to make this ministry fruitful.

KIEV STAFF

Our staff in Kiev is looking for an administrative assistant for our director, Pavel B. Pavel joined our staff one year ago and is responsible for all administrative aspects of our training events, services to camps, legal issues and finances. Volodia S. has served us in Ukraine since 1997 and is our academic dean in charge of all leadership programs, resource materials, publishing and online education. Pavel K. is the Boys’ Camp program director; we recently increased his employment from parttime to fulltime follow-up minister. Our secretary left us June 30 to be married to one of the boys’ camp counselors. The administrative assistant will take on the duties of the secretary plus help the director so he can free up some time to assist the dean in program development. Thank God for our wonderful staff and ask Him to provide an administrative assistant to become part of our team.

DETERMINED PENSIONERS

The small village church in one of the countries consists of senior ladies and a Sunday school class of children. It is the perfect place for a small camp because the officials have a hard time finding it. These ladies eyes just light up when the camp starts! They bring vegetables from their gardens, bake pies and cookies and feed the campers. The Sunday school grows after every camp. The camp is the highlight of the year for these village children who have little to do but to wait for the camp to happen. The church was built before World War II and survived the Stalin regime. The oldest member in the church was baptized in 1939. Pensions are pitiful and working adults have all left the village because there are no jobs. Yet these pensioners are determined to have a camp. Thank God for them and ask Him to supply all their needs to have a camp for the village children and another session for the orphans.



Worshipping the Only True God

HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS

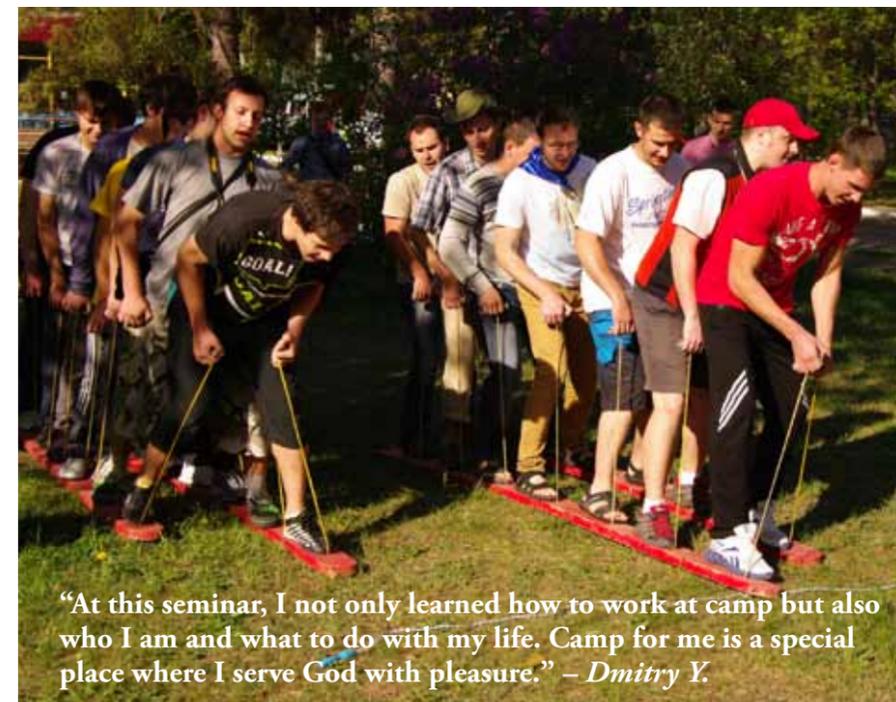
– name of location withheld – a one building Christian camp was established and became the spiritual center of the community. Twenty-five children who once were Satan worshippers, meet weekly year-round for Bible Club. 15 youth and 10 adults have their own weekly Bible studies led by a local couple whom God also rescued from Satan

worship. Instead of worshipping idols and making financial sacrifices to them, they acknowledge and worship the Only True God.

Parents told Anna and Liana, the Bible Club teachers, that for children to be thieves is normal, however the children in the Bible Club don’t steal anymore. They obey God’s laws. Teenagers who are following Jesus are helping in the

camp and the Bible Club. Parents who are following Jesus are being persecuted by their kinsfolk who are still keeping their traditions and beliefs. Jamal and Sveta, the local Christians leading the spiritual work continue to serve their people boldly in spite of the opposition. They are worthy of our prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

2013 STW Testimonials



“At this seminar, I not only learned how to work at camp but also who I am and what to do with my life. Camp for me is a special place where I serve God with pleasure.” – *Dmitry Y.*

“The seminar was simply awesome. I was inspired by the evening chapels. The call to stand out from the world by our behaviour, dress and manners touched my heart.” – *Ekaterina*

“I really liked the theme Face-to-Face at the Moldova STW. I learned more than I expected. The Morning Prayer Summit was very special! The evening songs on the dining hall steps were unforgettable!” – *Karina*

“I decided to change my life, to set right goals and to achieve them. I met interesting people from other camps who inspired me, gave me interesting ideas and encouraged me.” – *Eugenia*

What Camp Means for Me

“CAMP IS A PLACE where I give myself completely to the service of God and the children. I live in the camp. I cannot imagine my life without the camp. Not because it is the place where you can have fun and rest although many think so. But because here in the camp I fulfill God’s will. I am doing what God wants me to do. I understand that camp might be the only place where a camper has the opportunity to change his life completely. This is the place where I feel responsible for the destiny of the children who come to the camp. In camp I fulfill the great commission that Christ gave to his disciples.

“The goal of our camp is to tell and to show children and teenagers that living with God is much different than a life without Him. We provide an opportunity for each camper to change his life and to make the right choices. We tell everyone that God loves him. After all, in today’s world, many children

feel very lonely and abandoned. Many of them do not even experience the elementary family relationships even though they might have a mom and dad. Most of the children come into adulthood quite early in life. Some ten year-olds have felt and seen things not everyone has experienced at 20.

“At our camp we teach our counselors and leaders to be more responsive and attentive to other people’s destinies. We are compelled to tell others about salvation. The most important thing for me in the camp is to tell campers about Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary for the sins of the world and for the sins of each camper in our camp.

“Our staff is chosen very carefully and attentively – a person



who is a member of the church and is a well- established Christian. He accepts the responsibility to be an example and a model of a Christian, not only during camp, but all year long. During the year we

develop our skills and learn together as a team to become even more effective ministers. Each member of our team is a volunteer; none of them receive financial rewards or payment for their work.

“Children are our future. They will take care of us when we grow old; they will run our country when they grow up. And if today we do not take care of their upbringing and shape their values then perhaps no one will give us a glass of water when we cannot take it ourselves.”
by Nakshun B., Coordinator, Camp Gloria

Prayer Partner

August 2013 Number 84
Published by Kingdom Ventures Inc.

For those who love to pray

About Prayer

“O God, whom I praise, do not be silent...but I am a man of prayer.”
Psalm 109:1-4

The psalmist David was a man of prayer because his hope and trust was in God. When reading through the Psalms you get the impression that there was always a prayer in his mind and on his lips. It seems every circumstance was an occasion for prayer, either praise or petition or both. David always felt welcome at the throne of grace. Like David, let us utilize this privilege.



FREEDOM TO TEACH

Thank God for the 25 camp leaders who attended the STW in RTC (name of country withheld). The government reserves the exclusive right to teach the children, however God has given the local churches the courage to have camps. Ask God to protect the camps from harm and to open the hearts and minds of the campers to His Word.

Elections in RTC will be held in November. If the present government will be re-elected, conditions will remain as they are. If the opposition party will be elected, Christianity will be opposed even more strongly. Please support the churches in prayer asking for God’s will to be done in the elections. Ask God to strengthen the believers with courage and wisdom to continue to proclaim the gospel.



NEW LAW

The parliament of Ukraine recently passed a law stating that all official camps must operate for 21 days per session. This was the practice during the Soviet period when the purpose of youth camps was for physical health and recreation. Of course, there were ideological goals also. Our Christian camp sessions are 10-12 days. To extend them to 21 days would double the cost and reduce the number of youth attending camp in summer by 50%. Thank God for the hundreds of Christian camps in Ukraine and ask God to grant our camp leaders wisdom to deal with this new law.

My Turning Point



“SUMMER HAD JUST BEGUN and my 12 year old friends and I had a plan...to try a few forbidden things. My mother, like a bolt of lightning, suggested I go to camp. ‘Don’t ruin my summer,’ I cried. However, she won!

Camp was not the boring place I expected. For the first time in my life I picked up a baseball bat and learned to play baseball. Then success at archery and American football! But most importantly, I discovered that the Bible is not a boring book...it’s full of wonders and extraordinary stories. Then I met someone I thought did not exist. I met God, and saw that He is real, a loving and forgiving Father full of grace and mercy. That experience

changed everything in my life.

When I returned home, I had no desire to engage in my previously planned exploits. Instead, I went to church where I met all my camp friends. Sunday after Sunday we read the Bible and played football. We attended a home Bible study together. The change in my life convinced my mother of the reality of God and soon she became a believer.

Fifteen years have passed since I first went to camp. My mother and I have faithfully attended church and served in the church together. I have not missed one summer at Camp Bethel. I advanced from camper to counselor to coordinator. Camp was the turning point in my life.”
– Alexey A.

