

“My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow.” ~ 1 Corinthians 3:6

GOD’S WORK... AMAZING!!

“My most vivid impression of the Staff Training Workshop (STW) was the way we were welcomed, the ‘Camp Game’, the morning and evening chapels, and the cabin group time – it was sincere, useful and drew us together.”

“My most vivid impression was the way the STW team worked and how everything was organized!”

“Meeting good old friends, making new ones, and communicating with leaders and teachers is what impressed me.”

The preceding are a select few of the hundreds of comments camp leaders wrote in their evaluation of the STW. It was a “burst of energy” for the 214 leaders representing 55 camps. The material presented was instructive and inspiring. A camp leader stated, “I will apply it in my career too. All that was presented in this friendly, joyful atmosphere makes me want to come back.”



CCI/Ukraine Staff

Attendance in 2017 at the CCI (Christian Camping Int’l), which is the name KVI is known as in the former Soviet Union (FSU), leadership events has more than doubled the 2016 attendance. “To date 2153 leaders representing 271 camps in seven FSU countries have been touched by our teaching in the 35 training events,” reports Vladimir, CEO of CCI/Ukraine Association. What brought on this marked interest in the training CCI offers?



CCI/Ukraine board and staff conducted a major review in 2016. In the fall the CCI board, of which Dave Loewen is a member, set new goals for 2017. Three of the six staff were released and three staff well known to us were hired. After about 1000 telephone conversations all within one month, our staff had an understanding of the needs of the camping community. Every morning at the office began with focused prayer. “We decided to depend on God even more. We sent out weekly strategic prayer updates,” reported Vladimir.

The rest of the day was spent in research, discussion, preparation of material content for teaching, upgrading teaching methods, and designing and organizing training events.

Our staff also implemented a professional approach to Facebook marketing by communicating what they have been doing. And they revised their website, giving it a professional look.



Word of the new wind blowing in the CCI office spread rapidly. Our staff couldn't keep up with the flood of inquiries and invitations to 'hit the road' to teach in local communities. One result of the 1000 telephone calls was the realization that "it is better to go to them than to invite them to come to us."

Friends, your prayers have also contributed very much to this unprecedented and welcomed response to our training for camp leadership. Consider yourself part of this amazing increase in ministry.

SEMINAR IN MENNONITE CHURCH

A Staff Training Seminar with 42 leaders representing 8 camps was held in the Mennonite Brethren Church (MB) in Molochansk, Ukraine. The seminar was hosted by its pastor Alex, who was a camper in 1991, in the first KVI camp in Belorechensk, Russia. “Frankly speaking,” said Pastor Alex, “it was our dream to



hold a camping seminar in Molochansk, Ukraine, the heart of the Mennonite presence in our land. This was accomplished in cooperation with the Association of MB Churches of Ukraine.”

“These two days,” Pastor Alex told our staff, “encouraged and inspired all of us before the start of a new camping season. We have received valuable, practical insights on how to prepare and run a Christian camp. We were able to share our best Mennonite camping practices with one another. We are thankful to CCI/Ukraine for your input into the life and ministry of our local churches.”



After participating in the 4-hour team building experiential learning activity, Alexander, a camp director from Zaporozhe, thanked us, and asked permission to use our method used in the team building activity to develop a similar method for his ministry. We were happy to share. As we visited Alexander's camp this summer, he told us he was successful with using our training to expand his training.

SEMINARY COURSE

“While every seminar this spring was a highlight, we were privileged to have been invited to teach a camping course at the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary in Lviv, Ukraine. The class consisted of 23 Christian Education students, representing 17 camps. It was a one week module taught in the Christian Education Bachelor’s program.”

Student comments indicate that the course was well received:

“The course was immensely interesting, detailed and intensive.”

“Everything was applicable and helpful.”

“The instructors were well prepared, positive and included much practice in class.”

Our staff has taught camping in nine Seminaries and Bible colleges this spring.

“Treating camping as a science is one of CCI/ Ukraine’s priorities,” says Vladimir. “We are thankful for Christian educational institutions who understand the need to approach camping in a systematic, scientific and professional way.”

ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION

Ministering to the camping community has always been the main mission of CCI Ukraine. We believe that our association has been called to be a network, helping camps to maximize their ministry. If Christian camps in Ukraine keep serving their churches by leading more and more youth to Christ, giving priority to safety and excellence, then we as an association are accomplishing our mission. Our work is to help camps in Ukraine and neighboring countries to do their job better.



**Sergiy Karachevtsev,
Chairman of the CCI/
Ukraine Board of
Directors**

Starting in the fall of 2016 and into 2017 has been a time of reviewing our methods and approach. Changes were made that helped us accomplish our mission. The changes required extensive preparation and much prayer which yielded the expected results.

A big part of our success I attribute to the prayers sent to God on our behalf. Thank you all who have been praying for us and supporting us financially.

Our priority for 2017 has been to strengthen ties with the camping community and serve its needs. CCI is a catalyst in experience exchange among the members of the camping community. We made ourselves available to local churches and camps to serve them in their local contexts.

Our accounting procedures have been upgraded to meet all government requirements. The 43% income tax for staff was the most difficult challenge of this upgrade. We are grateful to KVI donors for supplying the funds for the monthly salaries of our staff that are the core and essence of our ministry.

Thanks to the generous donor who included KVI in her will, CCI has a well equipped Education Centre in Kiev. The facility has a classroom large enough to accommodate 25 students, office space for our staff and a guest room for out-of-town staff and camp leaders on business in Kiev. It also has a full kitchen. Doing specialty seminars and workshops in our Education Centre has become less expensive and less time consuming.

Today CCI Ukraine has a high level of support, involvement, and interest on the part of camp leaders and staff. It is amazing to see what God has been doing. It is exciting to be part of His work.



New Education Centre

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO PRAY



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Our staff is planning and preparing for a major camp leadership conference in Ukraine, November 1-3, 2017. Camp leaders need wisdom and insight into the current opportunities and needs to conduct fruitful follow-up in the fall and winter months and to prepare their staff, campsite and program for 2018. The logistics involved in preparing for such a conference are huge. Finding the right instructors requires the right connections. **Thank God** for our staff and their ambition for undertaking this challenge. **Ask God** to guide them to the right resources for putting it all together. **Pray His blessing** on every aspect of the conference, including the advertising and the people who will attend.



ORPHAN CAMP

Nastya, a 14 year old orphan, knows nothing about her father. Her mother, an alcoholic, lost her parental rights. She was so drunk when it was time to give birth, Nastya had to attend the delivery by herself. Now Nastya and her five younger siblings live in orphanages. This summer she had the privilege of attending Orphan Camp. "Camp is the best time and place. I am so excited about all the activities," she said, "especially canoeing and cooking supper. Thank you for the chance to be here, but I don't know if I will be able to follow Jesus at the orphanage."

146 teenage orphans attended the two Orphan Camps done jointly by KVI and MMUC (Music Mission Ukraine Canada). The orphans' stories, like Nastya's, are heartbreaking. Follow-up is in progress.

Your prayers are important.



STW IN COUNTRY Y

Our staff operated a eight day STW in Country Y where Christian activities outside the church are forbidden. 101 camp leaders arrived though in fear of being arrested. "We prayed a lot for a long time," said Oksana, CCI staff, "knowing that we were being prayed for by many churches in Canada and Ukraine. God stepped into this situation and gave peace in people's hearts and the desire to continue in ministry. All 101 camp leaders attending the seminar agreed to serve in camps this summer, even in regions they had decided earlier not to because of current oppression." Two new camps were also opened.



The STW turned out to be a great victory. "It is the answer to many prayers of many church people!" stated the bishop. **Praise God** and **keep praying for all** Christians in Country Y, especially for all campers who have decided to follow Jesus.



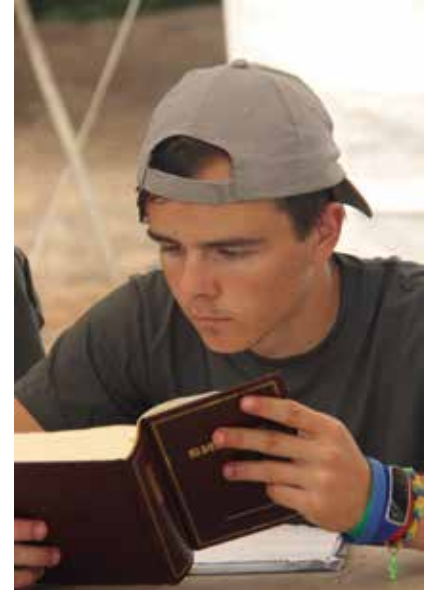
CAMPS EVERYWHERE

Vladimir S, CCI/Ukraine CEO, observes a growing interest in Christian camping on behalf of church youth leaders and young adults. "It looks like camps are everywhere. This is also proven by the fact that we taught at 35 locations this past spring. Our annual STW filled up within ten days of registration opening. A new generation of counselors is stepping up, so training is in demand." **Thank God** that Christian youth camps have taken hold in the former Soviet Union. **Thank God** for the CCI staff **and ask Him** to equip them with all they need for doing His will.

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO PRAY CONT'D

BOYS CAMP VERTICAL

Thank you for praying for Boys Camp Vertical. Enrolment jumped from 17 teenage boys in 2016 to 60 this summer. Of the 27 staff, 23 had either been campers or staff at Vertical previously. As in past years, the 10 character building sports activities were very popular. Scripture Memory had a strong emphasis to which the boys responded well. 58 of the boys chose to commit to work at becoming godly men. Following camp, Viktor K., director, received a letter from one of the boy's mothers, saying, "the seeds of faith that you have sown will bear the fruits of righteousness in the hearts of future men, husbands and ministers in the Kingdom of God." **Pray** for effective participation in the Vertical follow-up program.



NEW GENERATION

The head bishop of all evangelical churches in a country where Christian activities outside of churches are forbidden and where a pastor was recently shot and the church closed, said; "The most important part of our work in our country is to change the culture and the curse of the relationship between fathers to their children and children to their fathers. Through CCI's teaching we are raising up a new generation of leaders who are able to care for their children. Through CCI's quality training, camp leaders are challenged to become specialists in their work of teaching children."



"The fruit of a changed person is the transformation of his community," said another leader. "We pray for the Lord to use CCI conferences to transform our society according to His will." **Thank God** for raising up a new generation and **join** the nationals **in their prayers** for a transformation of their societies.

500TH YEAR CELEBRATION

Christians in Ukraine are preparing to celebrate 500 years of the Protestant Reformation in Ukraine. September 17 has been designated as Thanksgiving Day. Various Christian organizations will make presentations of their ministries during a large-scale Festival in Kiev City Square. CCI will be presenting its Christian Camps movement which has spread across Ukraine. This celebration has been decreed by the president of Ukraine. Praise God for this development and **pray that God will be honored**, the Protestant church in Ukraine strengthened and CCI expanded.



Dima S. age 15

GOD FIRST

I knew about God since my early childhood. I attended church with my parents, became familiar with many Bible stories and learned to pray. But I did not do God's will. I didn't know that God wanted something special from me, so I did not even try to listen to Him.

I lived this way until I came to Camp Vertical as a camper last year. At this camp I came to know God in a personal way. I had never had a personal relationship with Him before. I did not understand why it is important to read the Bible on a daily basis. At camp I began to want to fellowship with God.

"I have decided I am going to take a stand," the theme song we sang every morning, became filled with meaning for me. These words were no longer empty

words. I went home and began to serve in our church by taking charge of the PA system.

This summer was my second experience at Camp Vertical. I was convinced the camp had what I needed so I enrolled in the leadership program. I had been thinking about baptism and at camp this desire grew even stronger, so I got baptized five days after camp.

I had always put God into second, third or tenth place in my life, but never in first place. My stubbornness did not let me put God above my own self. God turned my stubbornness into persistence, my weakness into strength. And I have the faith that there will be "no turning back".

I am happy to follow Jesus, to feel hungry for God's Word. I am happy God has strengthened me so much that I cannot think of living without Him. I am happy that God has first place in my life. He is molding my character into that of 'a man after God's own heart.'

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO GIVE

"Thank you for introducing camping in our country. It was a special blessing to have so many young leaders from various churches and denominations together in unity learning to serve the next generation. This ministry also unites pastors. CCI offers a high level program that changes ways of thinking and motivates us to move forward regardless of the difficulties ahead." Bishop K.A.

Thank you for your donation that makes this ministry possible. KVI's financial resources are almost depleted after the intense increase of activity this year.

Please be generous in your giving so we can continue.

Make cheque payable to:

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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.

The KVI Newsletter is written and edited by Dave & Elfrieda Loewen. We distribute it by email and post mail and on our website www.kvicanada.org If you want to receive the Prayer Partner or would like to change method by which you are receiving it, email kingdomventures@msn.com or call **204-224-4175** or post mail: **Kingdom Ventures Inc. PO Box 38144, East St. Paul MB R2E 1H3**