

**"This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." ~ Nehemiah 8:10**

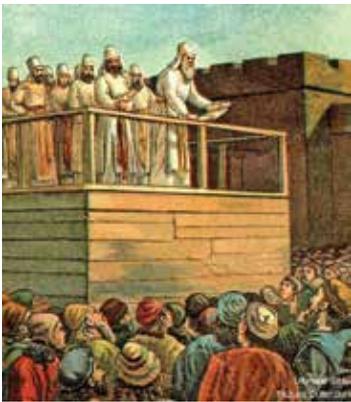
## GREAT JOY!

The walls of Jerusalem had just been rebuilt, and the remnant of God's people settled in the City of David. It was the seventh month. Ezra, the scribe, stood on a high platform. 49,942 people with their 8,136 horses, mules, camels and donkeys had gathered around the platform so they could see and hear him.

Ezra read "the Book of the Law aloud from daybreak till noon...as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!"

"The Levites...instructed the people in the Law... while they were standing there. They read from the

Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read." The people wept as they listened. The Levites calmed them saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day."



On the second day "they found written in the Law... that the Israelites were to live in booths during the feast of the seventh month." So the people went to the forest, got branches and built booths to live in. **They literally set up camp so they could listen to Ezra.** "Day after day...Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly." Nehemiah 7:66 – 8:18.

Read Chapters 9 and 10 to learn what results this reading and understanding of God's Word produced. **No wonder "their joy was very great!"**

And so are not 50,000 but hundreds of thousands of people in the former Soviet Union rejoicing after reading, studying, memorizing and understanding the Bible when they attended one of the 1500+ Christian youth camps; three of the camps began operating in 1991. God's Word is still living, active and sharper than a double-edged sword and accomplishes the purpose for which God sent it. Hebrews 4:12 and Isaiah 55:10 & 11. This newsletter tells more of what God is doing today through the Christian camps in the former Soviet Union.



## A MIRACLE OF PRAYER

A conservative evangelical denomination in Moldova that had never allowed people outside of their denomination teach their people, invited our staff to teach a seminar on camping. It happened January 18-20. The bishop of the denomination opened the seminar and welcomed four of our staff to do all the teaching. Everything our staff needed for teaching was provided. Our staff was impressed with the hospitality.

It was the very first camping seminar for this denomination. The atmosphere was very friendly. The 93 students, hungry for knowledge, were actively

The invitation from the denomination's headquarters has a history. Some twenty years ago, Dave Loewen visited the large campsite they had just purchased. Being conservative, they scrutinized us, evaluated what we taught and stood for, while they struggled with camping on their own doing the best they knew how.

Over the years, they began to trust us and mustered up the courage allowing a few of their camp leaders to attend our annual Re-Camp Conference in Kiev last November. One of them was the Youth Leader for their entire denomination. He wanted to set his people on fire for camping. During Re-Camp he began to



**Myroslav P.**, meditating on new insights picked up at the CCI/Ukraine Annual Conference Re Camp.

learned so much, we have even more desire to learn and to run our camps on a higher level!"

engaged; they asked many questions. "We have done camping as the Lord led us, as we could figure it out ourselves," explained a student. "This seminar has changed our view of teamwork and our approach to working with children. Having

understand that CCI/Ukraine was positioned to do exactly that. He shared his recent experiences and insights with the leadership of his denomination, asked for permission to organize a camp leadership seminar for all their camps and to invite CCI/Ukraine to teach. Permission was granted. **A MIRACLE OF PRAYER!** Thank you to all who have faithfully prayed for KVI all these years.

This is not the end. The denomination's leaders along with the camp leaders attending this seminar were so impressed with our staff and the content of the material they presented, they invited our staff to do a second seminar in July.

## ORTHODOX CAMPS

From our beginning, KVI's policy has been to serve all people who love Jesus. We were made duly aware of the tensions among the many different religious groups in the former Soviet Union and were advised to choose the denomination we would work with. Aware of the consequences of choosing one over the other, we chose to serve all who were interested in our focus on Jesus.

Last November, Dave Loewen attended the annual Camp Leaders Conference. One Greek Catholic and two Orthodox priests also attended the conference. Orthodox camp leaders had been attending our training events for many years. They have invited our instructors to teach their camp leaders. We have visited some of their camps. Dave has visited the Patriarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kiev Patriarchate).

While having lunch with the Orthodox Priest, he informed us that he had permission from the Patriarch to attend our conference. In our discussion about Christian camping, he said all that really matters is Jesus.



Vladimir with priests

In February, two of our staff, Vladimir Shevchenko and Pavel Bakum, were invited to the annual Orthodox Church of Ukraine Youth Conference. They were the only Protestants invited. They invited us in order to show their youth that the unified Orthodox Church of Ukraine was open to co-operating with all Christian confessions, including Protestants. As Vladimir was introduced before he gave his speech, the priest introducing him mentioned that they had been working with CCI for some ten years.

Vladimir's presentation was well received. After the meeting, people approached the priest who introduced Vladimir and questioned him why he had not informed them about CCI long ago.

Praise God for the interest the Orthodox Church of Ukraine has for Christian camping and for giving us the opportunity to serve them.

## YOU ARE INVITED

### KVI's Itinerary in the Fraser Valley

#### Dave & Elfrieda reporting

- Sun, April 21, 7:00pm** Clearbrook MB Church  
Hymn Sing
- Tues, April 23, 11:50** Fraserview MB Church  
11295 Mellis Dr. Richmond
- Fri, April 26, 11:30** Northview Community Church  
Seasons, 32040 Downes Road
- Sun, April 28, 10:00** Central Heights Church  
Living Hope Adults  
1661 McCullum Rd.
- Wed, May 1, 1:30** Culloden MB Church,  
6060 Culloden St.
- Thurs, May 2, 1:00** Willingdon Church - Chapel  
4812 Willingdon Ave. Burnaby
- Fri, May 3, 11:30** Garden Park Tower  
Golden Age Society Luncheon  
Tickets \$15. Call 604-853-5532  
2825 Clearbrook Rd.
- Sun, May 5, 9:30** Bakerview MB Church  
Current Issues  
2285 Clearbrook Road
- Sun, May 5, 11:00** Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church  
2051 Windsor St., Abbotsford

## EASTER REALITIES

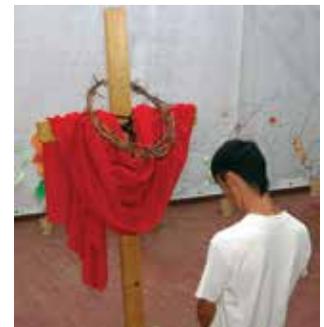
**PAIN** – Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

**DEATH** – Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

**RESURRECTION** – “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”

**VICTORY** – “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**SERVICE** – “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”



## FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO GIVE

*The KVI Board and Staff are impressed with the giving practices of our supporters. Many of you increased your gift in 2019. Thank you for standing with us in this fruitful work that God has blessed so abundantly.*

*We work by faith. Commitments must be made long before we have the finances. As the work multiplies, so do the expenses. Your continued generosity will insure that KVI can carry out all programs mentioned in this issue.*



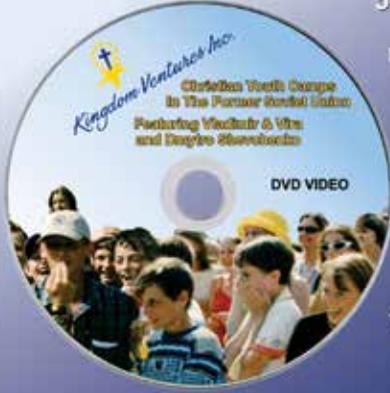
Make cheque payable to:  
**Kingdom Ventures Inc.**  
PO Box 38144,  
East St. Paul, MB R2E 1H3  
or donate via PayPal on  
our website at <https://kvicanada.org/donations/>

## KVI LEGACY FUND

There are millions of youth in the former Soviet Union (FSU) who have not heard about Jesus. Your gift to the KVI Legacy Fund is a gift that keeps on giving during and after your lifetime.

Vladimir Shevchenko, KVI's CEO, recently stated that although there are over 1,500 Christian youth camps operating in the FSU, we have only scratched the surface. The purpose of the KVI Legacy Fund is to ensure that the Christian youth camping ministry in the FSU keeps on growing. We invite you to support Christian youth camps across the FSU.

The KVI Legacy Fund is being held by Abundance Canada, a faith-based public foundation registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. To support the Fund, please make your donation directly to Abundance Canada. Donations can be made by cheque, credit card or e-transfer. They can also receive gifts of stocks, mutual funds, life insurance and gifts through your estate. Charitable tax receipts will be provided. To learn more, go to [www.abundance.ca](http://www.abundance.ca) or call Harold Penner at **1-800-772-3257**.



50-minute DVD VIDEO  
Recorded at the  
KVI Luncheon in Winnipeg

**Features**

- Impact of camp on a teenagers' life
- Impact of Christian Youth Camps in the former Soviet Union

\$13.00 includes postage

To order, send cheque to  
KVI, PO Box 38144  
East St. Paul, MB R2E 1H3

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](http://www.kvicanada.org) If you want to receive the Newsletter or would like to change method by which you are receiving it, email [kingdomventures@msn.com](mailto:kingdomventures@msn.com) or call **204-224-4175** or post mail: **Kingdom Ventures Inc. PO Box 38144, East St. Paul, MB Canada R2E 1H3**

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.

## FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO PRAY



### SPRING TRAINING EVENTS

April 6-7	Counseling School in Odessa
April 13-14	Counseling School in Lviv
May 9-12	Camp Days in Kiev
May	Staff Training Workshop in Moldova
May 20-24	Staff Training Workshop in Country X
May 16 -21	Staff Training Workshop in Armenia
May 31-June 6	Staff Training Workshop in Georgia
June 20-27	Staff Training Workshop in Country Y

Thank God for our well-trained and competent staff who organize the training events as well as teach. Ask God to equip them with an abundance of health, wisdom, joy, and grace. Pray that the churches sending their camp leaders for training will support them fully with prayer, encouragement, and finances for the registration fee.



### SECOND GENERATION LEADERS

The picture on the front page shows some of the 159 second generation leaders of the March 15-17 Counseling School in Krivoy Rog, Ukraine. They are young, experienced and dynamic leaders who grew up in camp, accepted Jesus and experienced the "joy of the Lord". They are passionate about sharing their joy with the next generation. Thank God for these Spirit-filled leaders and support them in prayer as they rely on God to make it possible to serve at camp this summer.



### GREENHOUSE PROJECT

The purpose of our greenhouse project in the Republic of Georgia is to generate income to fund KVI's CCI/Transcaucasus camp leadership development ministry. This project needs much prayer. Operating greenhouses successfully is a science. The stink bug infestation is a huge obstacle. Vegetable marketing is very dependent on correct timing. Suitable weather is crucial. We welcome an experienced person from the



west to help for a month or two. Housing is provided. God knows everything and every good thing is possible with Him. Prayer is a great and effective solution.



### 45,000 LEADERS NEEDED

It will take at least 45,000 volunteers to supply the staff needed for the 1,500+ Christian camps operating in the former Soviet Union this summer. The sacrifices demanded of them are significant. The rate of inflation in Ukraine for daily needs like groceries, home heating, etc. is up to 30%. Most camp staff give up their summer holidays or a few weeks wages to volunteer. Thank God for the commitment of these people. Most camps are always short of male staff. Pray fervently asking God to CALL & EQUIP volunteers to supply all staff needed for summer 2019 camps.



### COUNTRY Y

Christian camps are forbidden in Country Y, yet the people keep on inviting us to train their staff. The staff training event (STW) will be June 20-27. Keep asking God:

- to provide a suitable campsite.
- for all the logistics to be resolved and for the safety of the instructors and the participants.
- for camp leaders from surrounding countries where camping is restricted, to be free to attend this STW.

## FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO PRAY CONT'D

- to remove all obstacles facing the local team responsible for organizing the STW.
- for the \$27,000 needed to sponsor this training event.

### THIS WEEK

God is doing so much through Christian camps in the former Soviet Union (FSU) that we have added THIS WEEK to our KVI website. Google [www.kvicanada.org](http://www.kvicanada.org) and click on Prayer Partner THIS WEEK. See what to THANK GOD FOR, current ACTIVITIES, and INTERCESSION, what to ask for. THIS WEEK is new every Tuesday. Our goal is to have 10,000 people praying each week. Please tell your friends about THIS WEEK and the AWESOME DEEDS God is doing through Christian camps in Ukraine, Russia and another twelve former republics of the FSU.

### VERTICAL PROJECT

The Vertical Project is much more than a 12-day camp for teenage boys. Mentoring them through the process of becoming godly men is an encounter with Satan. Broken manhood is a cultural satanic stronghold in the entire former Soviet Union. Few of the more than 400 boys who have attended Camp Vertical have successfully completed the 10-month Discipleship Program. Those who have completed the program are certainly on the way to becoming godly men. Watch Dima's testimony on the DVD advertized in this newsletter.

Vertical is by far the most difficult mission KVI has undertaken in the entire FSU. Please ask God to empower Viktor K and his team with the Holy Spirit to fight this battle. Ephesians 6:10-18

### CCI/UKRAINE STAFF

Our seven staff members in Ukraine are knowledgeable, hardworking, friendly people who love what they are doing. All are certified instructors. They teach at a training event almost every week which requires much preparation.

**Vladimir S.** – CEO; teaches advanced courses

**Alexey S.**  
– Marketing Manager; teaches Church Relations

**Oksana M.** – Training Program Manager;  
teaches Camp Program Development

**Tetyana L.**  
– Translator/Interpreter; teaches Camp Counseling

**Dasha S.**  
– Office Administrator; teaches Camp Counseling

**Pavel B.**  
– Business Manager; teaches Financial & Legal  
Management and Program Development

**Viktor K.**  
– Vertical Director; Team Developer and Financial  
Manager

*These staff are essential to our leadership development mission and worthy of our prayer and financial support. Thank God for each one and ask Him to bless them with health, the joy of service, and the filling of the Holy Spirit.*

*"IT IS BETTER TO  
BUILD CHARACTER  
IN CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH THAN TO  
REPAIR THE BROKEN  
LIVES OF ADULTS."*

