

**“The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126:3 NIV**

## A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

I remember my counselor and she was a very good counselor. I remember peeling potatoes in the kitchen. I remember seeing a slug for the first time in my life. It was during our hike on the hillside.

I remember feeling very thankful for the opportunity to attend camp when most of my friends could not. My cousin had invited me to Burrard Inlet Bible Camp. I was in my early teens.

My counselor was genuinely interested in each one of us girls in the group. She was not at camp to do a job; she was there to give herself to us.

My next camp adventure occurred two weeks after our wedding. Columbia Bible Camp was in its first year of operation so I volunteered to be a counselor at the teen camp session while Dave worked in the berry industry to earn his tuition to return to Bible College.

It was payback time for me. I wanted to give to others what I had received at camp as a teenager. I wanted to show the girls in my group the same sacrificial love my counselor had shown me...**The Touch of Divine Love.**

Since it was the first summer of operation, everything was very basic. Staff training consisted of an exhilarating hike around the primitive camp grounds. When the nine girls entered our cabin, I felt challenged beyond my abilities. However **nothing stopped me from enjoying my girls.** Our highlight of the day was the evening campfire chapel.

Little did I realize that I would invest the next 58 years of my life in administration of Christian youth camping. You may well ask what is so magnetic about Christian camping that draws young and old into this temporary community.

Camp has the opportunity for meaningful engagement for everyone. This complete community functions best when people from all walks of life serve one another with their gifts and skills because they know and serve God. Staff are essential – food services, house-keeping, maintenance, transportation, construction, grounds keepers, administrators, fundraisers, teachers, sports, music, creative arts, programmers, medical, public relations, technicians, and the list goes on.

The function of these people is to operate the camp smoothly so the counselors can give the **Touch of Divine Love** to each of their campers. It is this counselor/camper relationship that makes camp **a life-changing experience.** Staff, by performing their services, are contributing to making the camp life-changing.

These **Redemptive Relationships** contribute to a **Camp Atmosphere** that welcomes the Holy Spirit to do His work of grace in the hearts and minds of staff and campers.



**Elfrieda Loewen teaching campers English**

## Group Leaders at Armenia STW



## SOWING SEEDS OF TRUTH

"I have come to this Staff Training Workshop to learn how to lead sports effectively and how to improve safety in our camp," Miro told Vladimir Shevchenko as Miro and Vladimir sat down for a conversation. Miro, the 24-year old sports leader in his church camp, has attended camp from his childhood. "I am engaged in Christian camping because when we instruct children in the Truth, they will not deviate from it even when they get older. I am an example," Miro said, smiling.



Miro

"The purpose of New Bethany camp," continued Miro "is to sow the seeds of Truth into the young hearts of our children and trust God to grow those seeds. Our camp began in 1994. The generations that grew up in our camp have become the leaders of our camp. The entire camp staff comes from our church and I am really excited about this.

"All first-time staff must attend the CCI/Georgia STW. Our own staff training starts in March. As former campers, they know a lot about our camp. But it is important for us to train them how to serve others.

"Camp has a great influence on our church. It gets our youth involved in meaningful ministry for the Lord. They prepare their Bible Lessons and camp programs from March to June. This means they spend time in God's Word. After camp they begin preparations for winter camp. And with their other church work, our young leaders are engaged in ministry the entire year.

"If it hadn't been for camp our youth would be spending their time, energy and money on entertainment.

"A family sent its children to camp. They became Christians. The children brought their mother to church. She became a Christian. They are all Christians now and serve in our church. This is a big motivation for us to continue our camp ministry.

"All finances for our camp come from our church. Campers pay for food and lodging and our church covers the rest of the camp budget.

"As the sports leader, I work to improve sports in our camp. If I lead correctly, sports opens windows for campers to perceive the Truth. I am passionate about helping our leaders learn how to use sports to talk to campers about Jesus.

"Our goal at camp is to grow and to improve what we do. We "...press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14 NKJV

## CAMPS AT RISK

Kingdom Ventures sponsored four leaders to one of our Staff Training Workshops. These leaders operate a camp every summer for a few hundred children and youth. They have a passion for children and youth who reside in an area where their lives are at risk. The churches still existing in this area offer some support but not enough to operate a camp.

### **We asked them what they are thankful for.**

#### ***Their list included:***

- the God-given opportunity to serve these children and youth caught in this hopeless situation
- for our staff – counselors, program leaders, kitchen staff, pastors, sports leaders, support staff
- for answered prayer, especially for campers who have become Christians
- for friendships made at camp

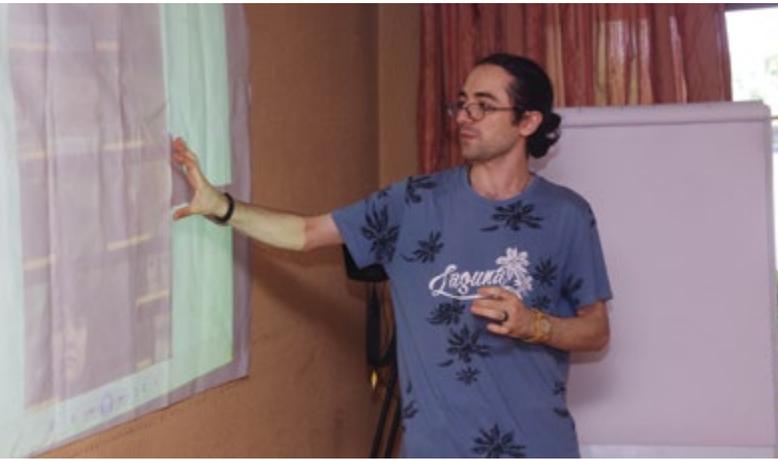
#### ***Their prayer requests include:***

- for God's blessing on everything
- for all staff to actually be able to come and serve at camp
- for the health of all campers and staff
- for good weather – it's an outdoor camp
- for safety and protection from the forces of evil surrounding them
- for all four sessions to be for the glory of God

This is only one example of dozens of camps operating in areas of imminent danger. Please pray God's protection and blessing on all these camps.

# WHY I ATTEND STW

I need new inspiration. Our church believes in camp as a great tool to develop leaders and to bring the younger generation to church. I am here to improve my level of competence as a camp leader. ~ Alexander



Four years ago I heard God's call to serve at camp. I didn't know how to understand my staff and their needs. At STW I learned how to build relationships among our staff. I learned how to observe campers and to develop them to become staff. ~ Lasha – medical doctor



STW has become a turning point in my life. It has inspired me and given me new experiences. Vladimir Shevchenko's chapel messages, Myths to be Busted, compelled me to Bust the three Myths in my life – Be like everybody else; You have to try everything in life; Success is Never Final and Failure is Never Fatal. ~ Anna



Vladimir Shevchenko

STW is the best platform for exchanging experiences, networking, and collecting new ideas. ~ Marina

It's been a great three days in a great place with great people in a great atmosphere that resulted in great knowledge. ~ Natalia

CCI/Ukraine is unstoppable again. It's been a very informative time, full of useful knowledge, activities and fun. Lots of wisdom, enthusiasm and great incentive to move on – that is CCI/Ukraine's STW – food for the soul and spirit. ~ Karina

I met 460 camp missionaries, 40 instructors with years of camping experience and made 50 new friends. And I became a certified sports leader. ~ Mariana



There were many moments in class when something the instructor said, would speak directly to my needs. This motivated me and gave me the desire to get to work at once. ~ Dara



## FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO GIVE

God is doing a very big thing through Christian youth camps in the former Soviet Union. If you are praying for this ministry, you are part of this mission that has grown to over 1500 camps in fourteen of the 15 countries. THANK YOU!!

To carry on, KVI needs much more prayer to engage God in every person and activity in this ministry, and much more funding to pay the salaries of our sixteen staff.

Please send us your email address so we can send you our weekly activity update "THIS WEEK" to guide your prayers. And please remember the financial needs of our staff. We are thankful for our faithful donors and we welcome new donors.

## KVI LEGACY FUND

The purpose of the Legacy Fund is to provide for the salaries of our key staff.

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 with a note indicating 'for Kingdom Ventures Inc'. 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.**



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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.

## FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO PRAY

### PROTECTION

The Staff Training Workshop in Country Y is scheduled for June 28 to July 7. Five instructors are prepared academically and spiritually. Surveillance is certain. Thank God that He has made this STW possible, that He has given faith to the five instructors to enter a hostile environment. Ask for safety, health and peace for everyone. Ask God to bless every aspect of this STW and every person present. Ask your friends to pray for this seminar.

### NEW OPPORTUNITY

About 35 camp leaders from Country Z will be attending the STW in Country Y. Thank God for opening the door in Country Z to attend the STW. Ask God for safe, trouble-free border crossings. Ask God for friendly relationships as the people from the two countries mingle. Ask God to bless these people from the first day to the last day.

### GREENHOUSE PROJECT

The purpose of the vegetables grown in the greenhouses is to fund CCI-Transcaucasus. The cucumber and tomato crops are already being marketed and the peppers will be ready soon. The stink bug is trying to enter to destroy the plants.



Thank God for the progress of this project and for Vaghktang who is in charge. Pray for healthy plants, for the stink bug to be kept out of the greenhouses, for a bumper crop and a good profit.

### 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Dave Loewen and Vladimir Shevchenko plan to attend the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the church in Shchuchinsk, Kazakhstan, July 17-21. Dave & Elfrieda helped the church open its camp in 1991. The camp has operated every summer under God's blessing. It has caused the dying church to grow and serve the local people well. Thank God for blessing the camp and church and ask Him for His blessing on the celebrations.



First camp in Shchuchinsk, Summer 1991

### SUMMER CAMP STAFF

Thank God for providing volunteer camp staff. Ask for God's protection and great blessing upon them. Ask God to remove all obstacles so all of them will be able to keep their commitment. And ask God to supply the thousands of staff, especially men, still needed.

## VERTICAL BOYS CAMP

Dave and Vladimir plan to visit Vertical Boys Camp July 23-24. Then Viktor, director of Vertical, will join them to investigate a prospective campsite for Vertical in the Shatsky Lakes area. Pray for God's guidance to the site He is reserving for Vertical Camp.

Camp Vertical operates June 17-28 and July 22-August 2. Your prayers for these teenage boys learning to become godly men are most appreciated.



## MOLDOVA SEMINAR

A follow-up seminar for an entire denomination in Moldova is scheduled for July 15-18. Our instructors from Ukraine have been asked to return to continue to teach the camp leaders how to improve their camps. They will also teach their youth leaders how to work with youth. Thank God for this opportunity and ask for His blessing on this seminar.

## THE CAMPERS

Thank God for the many thousands of children and youth who will be attending a Christian camp in the former Soviet Union. 50% or more of them have never heard the Good News of Jesus. Thank God that His Word "will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

Ask God to bless the counselors with grace and truth to teach and to be a living example of the Word. Ask God to open the hearts and minds of the campers to believe in Christ, our Saviour.

