

Executive Directors Dave & Elfrieda Loewen 204-869-3691

> Equipping Youth Camp Leaders in the former Soviet Union

**God is at work** all over the former Soviet Union through church-based Christian youth camps. Today's youth are encountering Jesus Christ and are preparing to become tomorrow's leaders.

**God is calling and sending yesterday's campers** to our Leadership Training Seminars to replace the leaders lost in the wars or due to war circumstances. These young leaders, whose lives were changed at camp, are passionate about passing this blessing on to this summer's campers.

**God has blessed us** with well trained and experienced national instructors, to equip returning leaders with **advanced knowledge and skills**, and young new leaders with the **foundational knowledge and skills** that keep the camp disciple-making ministries effective.

2,500 – 3,000 leaders, most of them volunteers, attend our leadership seminars in various FSU countries each year. They are attracted by the quality of instruction, an atmosphere of camaraderie and free exchange of inspiring stories and valuable "best practices", fervent prayer, and encouragement.

**The church-camp partnership** is a two-way productive relationship. Most of the camp staff come from the churches that sponsor the camps. This service brings life into the church. The leadership training that the young adults receive through the camp ministry also equips them to become the workforce in their churches. Churches become the home for the **Follow-up disciple-making programs**. This brings new families into the churches. It's a win-win partnership.

One of our camp counselors recently stated; "Camp is a powerful tool in God's hands."

Wars have and continue to impact all the countries KVI serves in. The impact is beyond description. **God's protection** of our staff, the campsites, campers and churches is nothing short of a modern-day **MIRACLE**. No camp has been interrupted by a war. Parents are anxious to send their children to camp because camps are places of refuge. Many schools in Ukraine are now underground. Despite all the loss of lives, homes, jobs, infrastructure, safety and hope, **God keeps the camps in operation**.

KVI's **Legacy Fund**, managed by Abundance Canada, provides the funds to pay the salaries of eight staff living overseas in the countries which they serve. Five are full-time, three are part-time. KVI also provides some of the funding for the leadership training seminars, but most of these costs are covered by participant registration fees.

The KVI **Legacy Fund** has reached 1.7 million dollars. The interest earned in 2024 provided \$155,000. Your generous donations together with this interest, was sufficient to cover KVI operational expenditures in 2024. Due to the increasing demand for leadership training, and our already overworked staff, we hired another staff in Kyiv in January.

The purpose of the **Legacy Fund** is to provide sufficient funds for salaries of overseas staff on an ongoing basis. We and our staff are deeply thankful for your faithfulness over these past 34 years of KVI's ministry, for your prayers and financial support. We invite you to continue with your prayers and your regular donations. In order to preserve the current principal amount of 1.7 million in the legacy fund, KVI requires additional donations. A check to **Abundance Canada W1125G** (KVI's account), as the Lord enables you, would be very helpful.

KVI, as indicated in this letter, **has much to be thankful for**. Praise the Lord with us for His continued **Awesome Deeds** through Christian camping in the former Soviet Union.

We leave you with a very urgent prayer request. Oleg, Andre and Maxim, the husbands of three of our staff (Oksana, Dasha, Jenya), are recruited and serving in the Ukraine Army on the front line. Very few soldiers survive the front line. Thousands of people are asking God to preserve Oleg, Andre and Maxim's lives and to protect them from injury. God is answering. "Thank you, God". We are also asking God to empower these men to be a living testimony of God's grace to the soldiers serving with them, and to return Oleg, Andre and Maxim unharmed to their families when their term of service has ended.

## Thank you for being part of this POWERFUL TOOL IN GOD's HAND. God Bless You!

On behalf of the KVI Board and staff,

Dave & Elfrieda

Dave and Elfriede Loewen

KVI's weekly update – **THIS WEEK** – is published every Tuesday. If you are not receiving it, and would like to receive it, send your email address to: office@kvicanada.org