

**“Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered
by all who delight in them.” Psalm 111:2**

2024 – A GLORIOUS YEAR

As you read and ponder the comments of campers and their leaders contained in this NEWSLETTER, you will delight in God’s glorious and majestic deeds of righteousness. Our people have experienced the power of God’s faithful, just and trustworthy works.

Reports from across the former Soviet Union where God blessed Kingdom Ventures and established church-based Christian youth camps, say the same thing: **“Great are the works of the Lord.”**

You, our faithful supporters, with good will, prayer and generous donations over these past 33 years, are worthy of our respect and deep sense of gratitude. **THANK YOU!!** Enjoy the read and share your excitement with your friends.

Your comments, suggestions, and questions are always welcome. You can contact us by email: office@kvcanada.org or by calling 204-224-4175.

On behalf of the KVI Board of Directors,
Dave Loewen

HAPPY CAMPERS SPEAK

“Some of our best moments included playing football, billiards, participating in camp games and sharing stories. The Bible lessons have been eye-opening for me. Both morning and evening services have truly made me think about God, igniting a desire in me to grow closer to Him. I genuinely want to live according to the commandments of Christ.” **Nino, age 13**

“My desire to read the Bible intensified while I was at camp. The way it is written is so interesting. I genuinely want to know God more. During prayer, I thanked God and asked for forgiveness from

those I had offended. I also realized that I have an addiction to my phone. It wastes much of my time.” **Nina, age 12**

“The camp atmosphere is filled with camaraderie, laughter and shared experiences. My favorite moments included evening meetings, snacks, games. The Bible classes, the nurturing environment and relationships with other campers, contributed to my spiritual growth. Now I strive to live in a way that pleases God.” **Saba, age 16**



“One of the special aspects of camp was memorizing Bible verses. It is fascinating to see how much of God’s Word I can commit to memory. Now I have a clearer picture of what the Bible means. Looking back, camp added many verses to my Scripture database.” **Milen, age 15**

“I arrived at camp with many questions swirling in my mind, like how God was created and what happens after we die. I received good answers to

my many questions. Coming from an Orthodox family, I often discussed the Bible with my mother. I was excited to share with her what I was learning at camp. I am very happy that I was baptized. I have changed my life by 180 degrees. Staying connected with the friends I made at camp, and the deeper insights I gained, will help me find my way on my spiritual journey.” **Katya, age 15**

“Without a doubt, the sermons were the highlight of my camp experience. Each sermon helped me to realize that I should strive to be like my teacher, Jesus.” **Esther, age 13**

“Coming to camp, I had questions about my faith. If God is supposed to be forgiving, why do so many people end up in hell? I felt welcomed at camp and connected with others in ways I never imagined possible. One of my best moments was during a volleyball game when I fell. Instead of feeling embarrassed, someone quickly helped me to my feet. That simple act of kindness made me feel accepted. I also enjoyed singing camp hymns and engaging in Bible lessons.

“On the last night of camp, we made crosses and prayed together. It was a powerful experience. I felt as though angels were watching over us. Everyone prayed wholeheartedly. I felt a deep connection with God. As I move forward, I am determined to embrace the life God has for me.” **Nia, age 13**

“Before camp, I doubted whether people would like me, or if I would be of interest to others. I found a warm, welcoming environment and became more accepting of myself as a person. My self-esteem improved. I loved the Bible stories and the songs we sang. The stories of people who repented and began to believe God, really touched me.” **Alina, age 15**

THE JOY OF COUNSELING

“Having been a camper ignited my desire to deepen my relationship with Christ, so I gladly accepted the opportunity to serve as a camp counselor.

“In all my interactions with my campers I concentrated on modelling Christian principles



through my relationships. I shared my own story which created a bond of trust and led to similar stories from my campers. Telling Biblical stories, and giving examples from the lives of Biblical heroes, sparked their curiosity and led to many insightful questions. I taught my campers to pray before meals. At first, they were reluctant. By the end of camp, they eagerly participated in prayer, enjoyed the Bible lessons and asked significant questions.

“I am overwhelmed by the heartfelt letters which I received from my campers after camp, thanking me for teaching them about the Christian life. As I reflected on my six years of serving as a counselor, I realized the impact that camp has had on my own faith journey. My daily life is vibrant. I currently lead the teenage ministry in our church.” **Roza, Camp Counselor**

“As a counselor I am in direct contact with my teenagers 24/7, ensuring their safety, fostering a team spirit, resolving conflicts, praying for each one, and sharing God’s love with them, especially during our late-night discussions.

“Every camper carries an internal struggle, a question, or a need they hope to address. The most painful challenges my campers face often revolve around relationships with their parents – harsh upbringing, lack of love, and attempts to shield them from their own mistakes. Some of the most significant moments that fostered spiritual growth were the evening sermons and group discussions. Now, years later, seeing my

Kingdom Ventures Inc. (KVI), founded in 1991, is a registered Canadian nonprofit charity. Our mission is to develop national young adults in the former Soviet Union to establish church-based Christian youth camps. KVI is governed by an active board that oversees the work of the mission. KVI's Prayer letter "THIS WEEK" is published every Tuesday. KVI can be contacted by email - office@kvicanada.org or by calling 204 224-4175. Our post mail address is: Kingdom Ventures Inc. PO Box 38144, East St. Paul, Manitoba Canada R2E 1H3

campers choose to follow Jesus and serve Him, inspires me. I strive to be a supportive figure for my girls, both at camp and beyond."

Svitlana, Camp Counselor

"Participating in the Leadership Training Seminar was enlightening. Interacting with people from various churches was eye-opening for me. One of the most important lessons I learned was patience, especially as a leader. As a counselor, I paid attention to each child, learning their preferences, and making sure to involve them in the activities in meaningful ways."

Ani, Camp Counselor

"I had the joy of participating in the Baptist Church Kids Games Day Camp. My favorite activities were hockey and the water games. The laughter and friendly competition created bonds that I will cherish for a long time. Six of the boys in my group made commitments to faith in Jesus during the camp session and each one took significant steps in their spiritual journey."

Ruslan, Camp Counselor



"From the very beginning of my Christian journey, I have been surrounded by remarkable counselors who were shining examples for me. The camp setting provides countless opportunities to connect campers with their Saviour through Bible Lessons, theme programs, and games that foster a sense of kinship.

"Four of the boys had never prayed, never read the Bible, and were very skeptical about everything Christian, especially group prayer. Witnessing their first prayers was a profound encouragement for me. A great challenge we face today is the ongoing war which increasingly closes opportunities for non-believers to comprehend and embrace

God's love. **Please pray for a swift end to this painful conflict for our church and nation."**

Vladyslav, Camp Counselor in Ukraine



"I attended the recent Leadership Seminar full of anticipation, eager to learn more about Camp Leadership. I longed to become a leader who would reflect God's love to a younger generation, how to model the love of God in all my relationships with campers. I left the Seminar with a renewed sense of purpose and clarity on how a leader should act, speak, and make decisions." **Salome, Camp Counselor**

EFFECTIVE PROGRAM LEADERS

"I have an Orthodox upbringing. The camp I was attending introduced me to the need for a personal relationship with God. I started as a helper with the camp program and gradually received more responsibility with coordinating it. This responsibility allowed me to build deeper connections with campers and to show them that I genuinely care. Observing them grow and become leaders themselves was deeply fulfilling. This was a turning point for me.

"The camp environment and my interaction with mature staff was an ideal setting for the development of my faith. Eventually I was baptized and am now actively serving in the church. My camp experience as a program leader transformed my life." **Karina, Program Leader**

"From my childhood on, I have always felt a deep connection with camp life. As program leader throughout the year, I prepare, learn, and plan, pouring all my energy into the summer camp experience. We focus on presenting fundamental Biblical doctrines of salvation, repentance, and

forgiveness, weaving these truths into every aspect of the program including recreational activities.

"About thirty percent of our campers have never attended church. We tell wonderful Bible stories, emphasizing the gospel and inviting children to accept Jesus Christ at this formative age. Over the years, some campers have become counselors and are also actively serving in the church, and living God-honoring lives." **Olya, Program Leader**



TRUST FALL - LEARNING TO TRUST

"One of our key focuses was on developing personal relationships with God. We included the importance of Christian values in everyday life, especially in their relationships with parents, friends, and their teachers. This led to open conversations between children and staff. The children expressed their thoughts and emotions freely. I found great joy and inspiration in being part of the spiritual development of others, especially children." **Nataliya, Program Leader**



"After nearly nine summers as a counselor, I stepped into the role of program leader at our camp. The theme this summer was, 'Leave 99 for the ONE'. The key phrase was 'God, Find, Save'. One girl profoundly felt God's love while hearing the parable about the Lost Sheep. A few weeks later she returned to camp as a team leader.

"The testimonies we received after camp were incredibly affirming. **Salome, Program Leader**

"While developing the Bible-based camp curriculum, our primary objective was to cultivate what it means to be a real leader. We recognize this as a specific need within the churches we serve. We focus on two key concepts: the Good Shepherd leaving the 99 to find the one, symbolizing the essence of good leadership, and the story of Jonah, representing the pitfalls of failing to heed God's Call. Many counselors emerged as strong leaders when they returned to their churches." **Dato, Program Leader**

"My program team developed the Bible-based curriculum focused on sin, salvation, repentance, the Fruit of the Spirit, the Armor of God, the importance of the church, and spiritual growth. The program fostered a positive atmosphere causing many campers to understand the importance of attending church. The camp was a transformative experience for both campers and staff, developing stronger relationships with God and one another." **Tamara, Program Leader**

"Our church Family Camp consisted of a diverse group of families. It was heart-wrenching that many of the families were single parent households, due primarily to divorce. Thanks to the training I received at the Leadership Training Seminars, I have a solid foundation for what Family Camp could entail. The engaging sports program, the skits and dramas performed on stage, and the daily Bible Lessons, created a wholesome learning environment.

"I witnessed two families, single mothers with one or two children, praying the salvation prayer with us. It brought immense joy to see them return to our Sunday services and for the children to join our Sunday School." **Eldar, Program Leader**

CREATIVE CAMP DIRECTORS

"Nineteen enthusiastic teenagers, eager to learn and grow as camp leaders, participated in the Empowering Young Leaders Seminar at Country X. The seminar included lesson planning, effective communication with campers, and activity and recreation organization. Laughter echoed as they learned teambuilding exercises.

"By the end of the seminar they were equipped with the tools needed to make a lasting impact on their peers and the children they would serve.

They were ready to take on the challenges of camp leadership. We were filled with hope for the future of our camps. *Irina, Camp Director*

"My main goal for the camp has always been to help people embrace Christian values and lead them into salvation. Our staff is chosen based on their spiritual maturity. Campers are selected for their sincere desire to grow spiritually.

"In my first year as camp director, I've already seen recovery from addiction and remarkable spiritual developments. Being a camp director has made me more responsible and dedicated. Financial shortfall is a big challenge. My main prayer is for the salvation of souls. *Karen, Camp Director*



"I have come through the ranks of camper, counselor, and program leader at our camp. I accepted the role of camp director because I saw areas for improvement and growth. This year we added daily Bible reading to our program. We also ran some of our program activities in our beautiful forest."

"Our campers are a mix of children from church backgrounds and those with no exposure to Christianity. We designed two programs so the children without a spiritual background do not feel out of place. One program for deepening the faith of believers and another program to introduce campers to the basics of the Christian life.

"Our aim is to build a staff team that views camp ministry not just as a short-term task but as a Calling. Looking forward, I dream of the camp with better facilities and of expanding our outreach to children and teenagers who don't yet know God." *Hasmik, Camp Director*

"I have been a camp director since 2009. My journey to God began at camp where I decided to be baptized. My motivation for the camping

ministry is anchored in Christ's command to make disciples. Mark 16:15-16. The Leadership Training Seminars offered by CCI/Ukraine, were a powerful influence to expand my vision to add winter camps to our summer camp program.

"The war in Ukraine scattered us Ukrainians to various countries, including Germany. God increased our faith to organize a camp in Germany for the Ukrainian refugees. The financial aid provided by KVI helped to make this possible. Now I am directing three camps, one in Germany and two in Ukraine.

"Our driving force is the Word of God. Our role is to willingly 'serve, sow, water, and harvest'. I know individuals who struggle with sin, addictions, or bad habits, and found victory at camp where God opened paths for them. Camp is a temporary experience. Support and ministry lie within the local church. Our staff and campers understand that the camp exists for the church, not the other way around. **The main thing is that God leads and His fire does not extinguish.**"

Olexandr, Camp Director

PASTORS WITH VISION

"Our pastor shared his vision of establishing a camp for our children's and youth ministries. The whole church came on board. The camp would be a means for reaching unsaved children and youth and integrating them and their families into our church community.



"Every church member who could contribute came forward whether with music, food services, organizing activities, providing transportation, or providing funding. Our pastor's clear vision united the church, which minimized conflicts.

"The camp was not just a summer event. We organized weekend camps once per month to maintain contact with the campers. As a result,

many of the campers eventually became church members and now serve as part of our camp team. **The camp is embedded in our churches DNA as a means of reaching the unsaved.**
Oleksander, Assistant Pastor

“Our church has always placed a strong emphasis on children’s and teenage ministries. Camps have played a crucial role. Every year we see newcomers brought to Christ and established believers refreshed in their faith. Many children, teenagers, and young adults from unbelieving families have repented at camp over the years and their lives have been changed forever. Many of our church members have recognized their leadership gifts while serving at camp. **The unity that camp has developed within our church is remarkable.**”
Artavazd, Pastor

THANK YOU, GOD

- Most camps are committed to camper follow-up, usually done in the churches, by volunteer camp leaders. This is where discipleship-making happens. Thank God for this fruitful ministry. Ask Him to equip the leaders to teach and model discipleship, and to open the hearts of the campers to become His faithful followers.
- For the KVI Legacy Fund which is supplying the finances for the overseas team serving in camping ministries. Thank God for **Abundance Canada W1125G**

who is so ably and effectively managing this fund. Thank God for the KVI donors who have and continue to generously contribute to this fund.

- For miraculously protecting the campsites, staff, and campers operating in the war zones. Some campers and staff had to rush to bomb shelters while the camps were in operation, but no injuries or damages have happened.
- For our camp leaders who plan Bible-based programs and operate evangelical camps that are fruitful and pleasing to God. These programs equip the leaders to make lasting impacts on the lives of the campers.
- For the impact camping has on the churches. A pastor wrote: “Camp has become a significant part of our mission, fostering the spiritual growth and development of both campers and church members. As campers grow up, they take on leadership roles within our church, becoming the backbone of our ministries.”
- For answered prayers! All of KVI’s camps operate on prayer. Our leaders have learned that prayer engages God in every aspect of camp operations, and the lives of staff and campers. A staff member wrote, **“it is through prayer that we align our efforts with God’s will.”** They are diligent in teaching the campers to pray. Hearing campers’ first prayers is always a great joy.





For those who love to Pray

"Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song... The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand." Rev. 5:8-14; 8:4.



INTERCESSION

- Christmas camps operate from the middle of December to the middle of January. Campers and staff look forward to meeting their summer friends. Most importantly, their opportunities to encourage each other in their faith and to celebrate the birth of Jesus whom they serve. Pray that God would supply suitable campsites, the staff and the funding. Pray God's blessing on these camps. There are always needy campers whose parents can't afford the registration fee. As funds become available, KVI supplies funds to camps so that they can invite campers, especially orphans, who need assistance.
- After almost 3 years of brutal war in Ukraine, the people have suffered huge losses, are exhausted and many have lost hope. Andre, husband of our team member Dasha who produces our weekly prayer letter, was drafted to enter the military. He is temporarily in training. His right as conscientious objector was denied. Soldier fatality is high. Please pray that Andre will not be assigned a position where he will have to carry a gun. Ask God to fill Andre and Dasha's hearts and minds in these heart rending conditions, with the peace of God that transcends understanding and that Andre will return home unharmed.
- Many campers attend our camps whose families have no Christian background. One of the first requests of these campers after they become Christians and experience the joy of forgiveness, is to ask the counselors to help them pray for the salvation of their parents. What a noble request!. Thank God for these campers that have become children of God and join them in prayer for the salvation of their parents.
- The work load of our team members in Ukraine has more than doubled during the war. Thank God that He has sustained them with emotional and physical health, faith, courage and passion to faithfully provide the leadership our camp leaders so desperately need under these traumatic circumstances. Pray that God would continue to protect and sustain them, and to give them wisdom and discernment for all the critical decisions they face almost daily.
- Pray for God's will to be done in Ukraine. Pray that the sovereignty of Ukraine as a nation would continue to be preserved. Pray that President Zelenskiy would honor God's mandate to govern the country so that its citizens could "live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." 1 Timothy 2:2.
- Camp ministry requires much travel. Travel consumes much time. Fuel and travel tickets have increased tremendously in price. There are many risks accompanying travel, particularly in war conditions. So far God has kept his hand of protection on all travel connected with Christian camping. We owe God much Thanksgiving. Ask God to continue to protect all staff and campers in their travels.
- Summer camps and winter follow-up programs require many trained leaders. Most programs don't meet their full staff requirements. The main reason for staff shortages is that the programs are run with volunteer staff. For a person to volunteer, requires vision, passion, and sacrifice. These spiritual qualities of character come from God. When God calls a person into ministry, and the person submits to God's call, God equips His submissive disciple with the vision, the passion, and the willingness to make the sacrifice needed to server Him. "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

"YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN" JESUS

For those who love to Give



DAVE & ELFRIEDA LOEWEN

**God loves a
cheerful giver
(2 Cor. 9:7)
and so do
thousands of
campers, parents
of campers, and
KVI staff.**

The stories in this Newsletter from those directly engaged in the camps in the former Soviet Union, indicate that it is a blessing to have the privilege of giving to help make all this happen. The KVI board, the overseas team working with us, and the staff, campers, and churches who have benefited, join us in expressing our gratitude to each of you.

We are also deeply thankful for **Abundance Canada W1125G** who has processed all the donations to the Legacy Fund at no cost to KVI. Abundance Canada has also contributed significantly to the growth of the Legacy Fund from the interest that the fund has generated since its inception in 2019.

Your generous donations plus the Legacy Fund interest have not only helped to keep KVI debt free, but also experience healthy growth and assist staff and traumatized campers during 1,000 days of brutal war in three countries. In all this we bow our heads in **Thanksgiving to God** for His guidance, protection, and the continued opportunity to carry on the ministry.

Our team is passionate about continuing the fruitful camping ministry in 2025. Our goal is to provide the funds needed to **sustain our overseas staff**. Our leadership training seminars are almost entirely funded by the leaders in attendance. Our urgent need is to increase our overseas staff who are exhausted before the necessary work is completed.

Donations can be made as follows:

Write a cheque payable to: Abundance Canada W1125G and send it to Abundance Canada in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

OR

by Bill Payment to Abundance Canada W1125G and notifying Abundance (1-800-772-3257) or winnipeg@abundance.ca) of the amount you are donating to KVI, and your name and address.

OR by Pay Pal

Including Kingdom Ventures in your WILL is appreciated and a significant help.

The information in this Newsletter is prepared by the CCI/Ukraine team and edited by Dave & Elfrieda Loewen.

The Newsletter is distributed by post mail, email, and on the KVI Website www.kvicanada.org

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