



# Christian Youth of the former Soviet Union Camps

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**“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” Proverbs 14:34**

## An Unforgettable Experience

“My name is Nina. I am eleven years old. I had never attended camp before and was expecting seven days of boredom. But I was delighted and fascinated by the way I was met at camp. And when I saw the beauty of nature surrounding the campsite, I realized this experience was going to be a great gift from God.

“People prayed for us. They asked God to heal us from all our sicknesses, forgive our sins and enter our hearts. One night they woke us in the middle of the night and led us to a glowing cross reminding us of Jesus’ crucifixion. I was a little afraid but very impressed so I invited Jesus into my life. When I felt the cross in my heart I experienced joy, the joy of salvation. Now the Holy Spirit lives in me.

“I grew spiritually at camp. I also met many friends there, but the most precious friend is Jesus. I thank God for all the organizers of this camp, especially for Gela, the director. In future, I want to become a camp director too. I want God to make children happy through my camp as He made me happy.”

We thank God for Nina and all the youth He has given the joy of salvation in the camps and planted within them the desire to become camp staff. There are millions of youth in the former Soviet Union who are longing for the same experience. That is why God planted the desire to become a



camp director into Nina’s heart. The Communists had over 25,000 godless camps. Today there are over 1000 Christian camps in the former Soviet Union. Thousands more are needed for youth to have the opportunity to meet Jesus. Pray that Nina and all young campers who are being called to become camp leaders will keep their vision alive so there will always be places where Jesus makes children happy.

**“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”  
Daniel 12:3**

**Notice:** The Praise Brunch held in Winnipeg every spring will be replaced by a Celebration Banquet on November 1, 5:30 pm in the NKMB Church, 1315 Gateway Road.  
See ad on page 3.



“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”  
II Timothy 2:2

*Staff at Camp Gloria*

## FAITH POLISHED

“I came to camp at age 15. Camp did not impact me much but I did begin to attend church as a result. It was a protestant church that was criticized by everyone. When I turned 18, the pastor invited me to be the camp coordinator. Wow! I was excited!

“Everyone has his own way to Jesus. Mine was quite unusual. Even after attending church for three years and helping with Sunday School, I did not know God. I did not comprehend that I am sinful and needed forgiveness.

“I needed training to fulfill my new responsibilities so I attended the KVI winter conference. There, among many passionate camp leaders, new acquaintances, great music and new knowledge, I met Jesus. Listening to a sermon, I realized I needed to repent. The fact that I never drank or smoked, was never rude to my parents and I was

a good pupil in school did not take away my sin. This reality had passed me by during the past three years.

“I came home renewed. In May I attended the Staff Training Workshop and that was the beginning of eleven years of ministry at Camp Gloria. Camp became a part of me; it became my family. My faith and relationship with Jesus was aligned and polished there. Here God melted away my pride and replaced it with humility. Again and again Jesus wiped away my tears, washed me and renewed me. I became a whole person.

“Those who think camp is only for the children are wrong. Camp is also the place for polishing the souls of staff. It is the place where character is built and faith is renewed. Camp is as important for the staff as it is for the campers.”

## Who We Are...

Kingdom Ventures Inc. (KVI) founded in 1990 is a Canadian faith mission focused on training Christian Youth Camp leaders in the former Soviet Union. KVI's Resource Teams in the former Soviet Union publish program resources and train camp leaders. KVI networks with Christliche Freizeiten Internationale (CFI) in Germany; Christian Camp and Conference Association/ USA (CCCA/USA); CCI/Russia; CCI/Ukraine; and with other followers of our Lord.

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## SERVING HIM ONLY

"I seldom attended church even though I considered myself a Christian. My studies and job were more important to me. I was an engineering student at the State University and worked as a nargileh specialist for a prestigious company. The nargileh is a Turkish instrument used for drawing tobacco smoke through water to inhale. My job was to provide the instruments to entertainment centers. I was very well paid with a salary, commission on sales plus tips. I earned more than I needed. Everything was great!

However I was not honest; I had the habit of cheating my customers. In fact it was not the money that motivated me, it was the process of cheating. It had become my addiction and I was no longer able to work honestly.

Then I went to summer camp. I asked God to give me a sign to prove that He is real because I doubted His existence. The next day I told God if He really did not like my job as a nargileh specialist I would leave it. The same day a sister who I didn't know, came to me and told me that one of my everyday activities did not please God. "Is it my job?" I asked. "Yes" she replied.

When I returned back to work, I told my boss I was leaving my job. I found another job that paid 75% less. However, now that I give God the tithe, my small salary lasts longer than my former huge income. I have decided never to turn my back on God again but to serve Him only."

*G. G.*

## TWO ORPHANS

A camp staff reports: "My pastor is an orphan himself and he is passionate about our orphan camp. Orphans are difficult to follow up because at age 15 they are sent to various vocational schools around the country. We try to stay in touch with them but the fact is we don't know what happens with two-thirds of them.

"Recently we visited a large church some distance away. After the service, two young men ran up to us, gave us a hug and since we did not recognize them they asked, "Do you not remember us? We were in your orphan camp in 2006. We were age 14 then." That is when we recognized who they were. After the camp these two boys stayed close to God, read their Bible on their own and

*Cont'd on page 4*

## Celebrating God's Awesome Deeds

### KVI Youth Camps in the former Soviet Union since 1991

**Winnipeg Banquet – Saturday, Nov 1, 2014, 5:30 pm**  
**NKMB Church, 1315 Gateway Rd.**

**Abbotsford Banquet – Sunday, Nov 9, 2014, 4:30 pm**  
**Columbia Place, 2940 Clearbrook Rd.**

**Music: Pavel Bakum - Russian Soloist**



**Valeri Buiglishvili - President**  
**Christian Camping Int'l**  
**Transcaucasus**



**Vladimir Shevchenko**  
**Academic Dean for**  
**Leadership Development**



**Pavel Bakum**  
**Director – CCI/Ukraine**

**Ticket reservations – [kingdomventures@msn.com](mailto:kingdomventures@msn.com) or call 204-224-4175**

stuck together as the only two Christians in the orphanage. At age 15 they were sent to technical vocational school. They found a local church, started attending the services, grew in their faith, got baptized and now are playing on the worship team in that large congregation. We were grateful to God for such a meeting and inspired to continue serving the orphans. Indeed, for many of them camp is the turning point in their lives.”

### THANKFUL CAMPERS

Nuria writes: “I accepted Jesus into my life at camp. Something changed inside me. God touched my heart. Now I am free from telling lies and from cursing. Jesus is now in first place. This day became the most important day of my life. I met God at camp and I would like to be in this camp again next year.”

13-year old Mahir said: “I am very thankful to God that I had the opportunity to be in this camp. I liked the Bible lessons, games and fellowship very much. I learned how to be a friend and I made new friends. I accepted Jesus Christ as the Son of God. I stopped lying, swearing and using foul language. Now I pray and participate in Bible study classes.”

### CABINS FOR GEORGIA

Ever since we began Christian camping in the Republic of Georgia in 1996, the lack of available suitable campsites has hindered us. Funds to purchase a campsite were not available so leasing

various sites became our solution. Churches became dependent on CCI/Georgia for a place to have their camps. After years of praying and searching, God provided a suitable vacant campsite along a river near Kutaisi, the second major city of Georgia. The owner leased the camp to us in 2013. We moved in with our tent camp and operated very successfully for ten weeks. The owner is not ready to sell the camp but has agreed to lease it to us for the next three years at a price we can afford.

The leased camp has only four cabins. Our tents are worn out and leaking so we have decided to build portable cabins on our tent platforms. We chose durable sandwich panels for the walls, mounted them on metal frames and added metal roofs. All labor was volunteered by camp staff and churches that use the camp. When we told merchants what we were doing they reduced their prices.

When the churches learned about the improvements we were making to our camp, they immediately reserved their dates so the camp is already fully booked for 2014. We thank Kingdom Ventures and all the people who were involved in this project both financially and physically. Five cabins are up and two are in process. We plan to build eight more in 2015.

*Valeri Buiglishvili, President, CCI/Transcaucasus*

Six of the volunteers  
in front of  
one of seven cabins  
being built this spring...



### About Prayer

**“Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.”  
II Chronicles 20:15**

Like King Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, so Ukraine faces a vast army. God’s reply (vs 15) was to Jehoshaphat’s prayer before the assembly of Judah. He prayed, “For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.” vs 12.

Up until this point, Ukrainians have chosen prayer over war. This is God’s doing. God is at work in the crisis in Ukraine. He has spread the spirit of prayer throughout Ukraine. Prayer tents have been set up in public places where people come to pray around the clock. They are on their knees - in city centers, in the streets and in metro stations. Churches meet for prayer daily because their hope and confidence is in God.

The battle for truth and righteousness has always been the Lord’s. When we admit that we have no power to face our enemy, that we are at the end of our own resources and depend on Him, we are inviting Him to fight our battles. His solutions are always in keeping with His good, pleasing and perfect will.



#### STAFF TRAINING WORKSHOPS

A bishop recently informed our staff that the Staff Training Workshops (STWs) “are indeed very valuable because they change our leaders and our camps.” Experienced leaders need advanced training and new leaders need the basic training. The theme for our 2014 STWs is Achieving Quality.

Thank God for our instructors who are mostly nationals, and ask God to fill them with the Holy Spirit and to equip them to teach with authority. Ask God to call and send camp workers to the STWs who have a passion for youth evangelism, a deep desire to learn and a sacrificial spirit to serve with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.

Ask God to inspire the churches to encourage their young adults to become camp workers and to provide funding for them to pay the registration fee.



Country X STW – May 16-23

Ukraine STW – May 17-21

Armenia STW – May 26-June 1

Georgia STW – June 9-16

Several STWs cannot be listed because they are held in countries where Christian gatherings outside of church buildings are illegal. Pray God’s protection upon these STWs and those attending them.





## ORPHAN CAMP

Plans are well underway for the Orphan Camp scheduled for August 1-15. We already have sponsors for 70 of the 75 orphans. We thank all who have sponsored the 70 orphans and are hopeful the remaining five will also be sponsored.

Pray for God's guidance for the selection of the orphans to attend this camp. There are thousands who would like to attend. Ask God to send those orphans that are ready to trust and forgive and become responsible citizens. We want those who God has called to be His faithful servants. Thank God for Oksana, director of the camp, and ask God to bless her with wisdom and grace to radiate His love as she prepares for this camp.



## CRIMEA

The peninsula of Crimea on the Black Sea is a favorite summer holiday resort. Many of the former communist camps are located on the Crimean seashores. The churches have been renting those campsites for many years and operated their youth camps there. Operating their camps under Russian occupation concerns them. Many are searching for suitable campsites in Ukraine.

Ask God to provide campsites in Ukraine. Thank God for the camp directors who in spite of all the disruptions have decided to operate their camps this summer. Ask God to give them wisdom and discernment in their search and lots of courage to face all the setbacks they will encounter.



## BUCKLE UP

Recently one of our staff in Ukraine commented on the cause of the crisis saying, "there is no truth anywhere!" The public protest broke out over government crime and corruption. The years of atheism have produced liars who have deceived the nations. The truth is not in them, 1 John 1:8. Yet Truth is the foundation of life. Jesus is the way, the truth, the life. We come to the knowledge of the truth by holding to His teaching, John 8:31, 32. Truth sets us free. Therefore we are commanded to buckle the belt of truth around our waists, Ephesians 6:14.

Jesus is truth personified. Thank God for the Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth, John 16:13, and for all the people in the former Soviet Union who live by the Truth today. Pray that He will fill their hearts and minds with truth in these hard times. Ask God to cause truth to prevail in every home, church, camp and at every government level world-wide.



## UKRAINE CRISIS

Our board and staff in Ukraine have decided to go forward with all their plans for the 2014 camping season. They understand that their first task is to encourage the churches and camp leaders to have faith that God will provide all their needs in the face of current conditions. The inflation caused by the crisis has increased operating costs significantly so parents have less funding available to send children to camp. Fewer people will be able to volunteer for summer staff. The uncertainty of the future makes parents hesitant to let their children out of their sight.

The crisis is a strong reminder of how huge the need for Christian youth camps is. Ukraine would look different today had the elected officials attended Christian rather than communist youth camps in their teen years. So pray that the Christian youth camp movement would be strengthened and greatly increased. Claim God's promise to supply the needs of all camps. Philippians 4:19.



## MAY 25 ELECTIONS

After the overthrow of the government, the interim parliament of Ukraine called an election for May 25. Ukrainians long for a just government which will eradicate crime and govern with righteousness. Thank God for Alexander Turchynov, interim president of Ukraine, who is a Christian. Ask God to give him wisdom and to surround him with men and women of integrity who will stand for the truth without compromising it.

Ask God to call and prepare a president and electoral candidates who will form a government of God's servants ready to do good to the people, Romans 13:4. Pray for fair election procedures. Pray that God's will be done in Ukraine. His solution will be better than anything man could devise.

For updates on current developments in Ukraine and the youth camping ministry please check KVI's website [www.kvicanada.org](http://www.kvicanada.org) - Click on News Updates

This prayer bulletin is published monthly. If you are not receiving it monthly and would like to, please notify us at [kingdomventures@msn.com](mailto:kingdomventures@msn.com) or call us at 204-224-4175 or write to: Kingdom Ventures Inc. PO Box 38144, East St. Paul MB R2E 1H3 to receive the monthly issue by post mail.



### ALWAYS A SMILE

Elena came in contact with Christians for the first time in her life at Camp-of-Wonderful-Miracles. She was very quiet and shy. She rarely smiled. But she read her Bible every morning. After camp Elena started attending church, participated in Bible groups and sang in the choir. She made her decision to follow Christ and stands firm in her faith. She is involved in everything the church does. Her mother is really against it! Her parents argue a lot and many temptations come her way. However, Elena knows her goal – heaven. Now when her counselor meets her, there is always a smile on her face.

KVI works with Music Mission Kiev (MMK) in Kiev, specifically with their youth camp. They have planted two churches in Kiev and serve 375 destitute widows. MMK performs for governments, the Orthodox Patriarchy and many other organizations, always giving a clear gospel witness. KVI was honored to have the Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in concert in Kiev at our 15th anniversary of camping attended by over 1100 people. We are privileged to have them at our September HymnSing; a performance you won't want to miss. See ad below.

**Next KVI**  
*Hymn Sing*

**September 28, 6:00 pm**  
**Calvary Temple, Winnipeg**  
Reserve the date

**Special Guests – Kiev Symphony Orchestra & Chorus**  
**Conductor: Dr. Wes Janzen**

**Admission – Offering for**  
**Music Mission Kiev and Kingdom Ventures Inc.**

# FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO GIVE . . .



Experienced leaders require advanced training to keep camps relevant to changing circumstances and true to God's unchanging Word.

New leaders need the basics of Christian camping philosophy and operations to lead youth in righteousness.



Developing a new generation of leaders.

Kingdom Ventures continues to be committed to developing national leaders to evangelize and disciple youth. Six training events are scheduled for this spring. \$250 covers KVI's expenses to train one national leader.

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.

## RESPONSE TO KVI – SPRING 2014

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