

Dear Friends,

The beautiful colors of Summer are upon us. In America it's a time of fun in the sun, vacations, and lazy days sitting comfortably on the front porch. Indeed a time to enjoy all of God's wonderful creation, for as David said; "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works." (Psalms 9:1)

We are welcoming orphans, at-risk children, disabled campers, kids from rescue and foster homes, adolescent street children and children from isolated villages to enjoy a free week of Christian care.



Praise the Lord that honorable Christian people have volunteered to openly share God's love with these children and give them a week to remember. It will be a fantastic time with Bible instruction, fun, games, healthy foods and an outpouring of God's love.

Later in this issue, I will share with you some stories of rescue, healing and restoration from the front lines of God's ministering work through our camps. Considering their tragic backgrounds, you will learn of our campers profound transformations.

If God has been leading you to deepen your personal ministry to children in need, then I invite you to sponsor a child for summer camp. You will be offering a blessed message of love and hope to a child devastated by poverty and life's circumstances. Thank you, and may God bless you!

At this same point in time, Russian Missions is extending God's loving arms to a devastated region of the world. For months our indigenous missionary teams have been praying and preparing for our annual Safe Haven Summer Camps throughout the lands of Russia. Our goal is to express God's love through human hands that reflect the selfless, giving nature of our Lord.

Your Brother in the Lord,
Pastor Sasha
(Rev. Alexander Yuchkovski)

MAKING MAGICAL SUMMER MEMORIES



Childhood summer memories seem to be a little bit stronger than others. Remember summer vacation when you were a kid? That exhilarating feeling you had on the last day of school, with the days of summer stretching before you? It's every kid's summer dream to climb and swing from trees, go fishing, play in the outdoors, lounge in the sun, and have parties with friends.

While those dreams may seem impossible for at-risk children, our camps allow kids to just be kids for one week every year. Some wait all year to apply and call it "the best week of their lives." The whole point of bringing kids to our camps is to share with them God's love that they might not have experienced anywhere else.

"I think everyone here is like me. You don't feel different; everyone has their own problems. You just feel like any other normal kid because we're all the same and no one looks or judges you." - 11-y. o. camper, Osh.

"I am very lucky because I got to go to camp for two summers. We did all kind of stuff at camp like running an obstacle course, playing baseball, dodge ball and basketball. Best of all, I got to swim at a nearby lake. We did handicrafts, too. That's never been my best territory. I confined myself to making a pot holder which wasn't very pretty. But Mama was overjoyed to receive it." -13 y.o. Zlata.

"The first memory that comes to mind was the first time I ate fresh peas. (Which I had never tasted before). Because I was hungry, I remember mixing them in with my mashed potatoes just in case they tasted 'yucky'. By the end of the week, I was asking for seconds!" - 9 y.o. Ekaterina. -

"Hearty greetings from Irena. This camp brought me joy and tears, friendship and new beginnings. So I wish all you guys a very nice and hopefully blessed life. Maybe someday I will come back with a son or daughter. I wanna show them a really nice place filled with God's people." - 17 y.o. Lena.

"I remember sitting around the camp fire as one pastor said that when we face trials in life, it is God's way of preparing us for a promotion. Well, this camp gave me a promotion...a new chapter of my life has begun. I now have an opportunity to look for ways to promote our Lord. I can tell others of His love, grace and guidance." - 16 y.o. Altai.

CARING FOR CHILDREN GOD'S WAY

By Valera Boychenko, Missionary,
Tyumen

I had the pleasure of spending this summer investing in children's lives through Russian Missions Summer Camp. I am a pastor and this year I was funded to direct a camp in my own community. It was our desire to glorify God through Christian camping and have these at-risk children leave refreshed and changed... all for His glory.

My campers were from the neighborhood, our church and nearby farms. Some children had never been to a church before, no less meet and become friends with a pastor and his church volunteers.

Every day I would arrive at our site nice and early or so I thought. I'd arrive to find almost all of the campers smiling and eagerly awaiting to start the day. Many had already done their farm chores and then walked long distances to be there "before the Pastor" ...a game they created by the second day of camp. I am still uncertain how early they had to get up in order to get everything done at home and still be there before me. I can testify that they still had plenty of energy throughout the day and were often reluctant to have the day end.

My favorite part of any day was when we joined in games. They were all very competitive. So this was a great way to get everyone involved together, being silly and playing together. What's more, I loved to see their art, their creativity, whether it was face painting or stories. One anecdote included these lines: "Love your enemies and when they try to hurt you, God will save us and watch over us. ...I love God even when I have the flu."

One week at our camp can serve as one of the most powerful and life-changing



experiences in a child's life. I was blessed with an incredible lay team who served these children. Our team was great at building relationships with their campers and modeling what it means to live a life for Christ. The results were smiling faces, new friendships and lifelong memories for the campers and us! I know that these relationships will continue throughout the year.

I often wonder who looks forward to these summer camps more. ...the kids or ...my church team. This camp was, and is always, a great experience for everyone who volunteers their time and talents. It gives us a chance to practice God's love, and also just be a kid for a while again. I am very thankful for all those opportunities.



Ways to Get Involved

What are your hopes and dreams for our at-risk children this summer? What would you expect to hear and see when the day is over? **ELATION? ... EXHILARATION? ... GLEE?** We hear all of this and more for sure!

We rely heavily on contributions to continue our level of scholarships offered to current and new campers. We are honored to have you partner with us. Please know that all gifts are tax deductible as we are a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Once we have received your contribution, we will mail you documentation noting the date and amount of your donation.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have!



General Donations Will Be Used Towards:

- Nutritious meals: yogurt, fruits, juices, good quality meat, and other vitamin and mineral rich food that is not readily available to these at-risk children.
- Special needs: Items for disabled children such as mobility equipment, visual aids, etc.
- Clothing and shoes: Our disadvantaged children simply can't do without clean clothes and proper fitting shoes. Unfortunately, many children in the orphanages are forced to wear shoes that are not their size.
- Camp supplies: art supplies, decorations and costumes for skits, items for active play, etc.
- Transportation: Funding for gas. There is a need in some locations to use private vehicles to transport the children, in particular disabled children.
- Medical assistance: Purchase vitamins and first-aid kits.

Would you prayerfully consider sending in an **extra \$50, or maybe even doubling your usual gift this month?** If you have never given before, now is the time to send a gift of support for these children. I will leave the rest to the Lord and to you – and whatever you are able to send this month will be much appreciated.

WAYS OF GIVING:

- Financial donation (one-time donation, monthly pledge, etc.)
- Prayer support (individual, small groups, church groups, etc.)
- Include Russian Missions in your personal will and/or donate stock.

Call our Churchville office for more details on these programs.



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