

Summer Bible Camps: UPDATE

Joy and laughter spread all across Eurasia as our summer Bible camps for children and teens have replaced sadness and tears.

Joy and laughter are replacing sadness and tears across Eurasia as our summer Bible camps for children and teens are now in full swing. As of the middle of July, nearly 15,000 children have attended 150 summer Bible camps in 13 countries of Eurasia and Israel.

Thanks to your prayers and generous support of this vital ministry program, many young lives are receiving the love, care, and hope of the gospel they so desperately need. This is especially true for thousands of children and youth from the war-torn nation of Ukraine who are either displaced within the country, or who have fled to neighboring Poland or Moldova as refugees.

Since the time that our summer Bible camps began in early June, we have been receiving many encouraging reports about the young lives you've helped touched, and we would like to share some of them with you in this midsummer report.



UKRAINE

As a result of your partnership, some 8,500 vulnerable children and youth, like Alina and Kyrylo (see below), have attended one of 65 summer Bible camps in Ukraine this summer.

Story of Alina: A Child Who Found Hope

Alina is a nine-year-old displaced child originally from the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine. Her family was forced to flee from Kharkiv since it is located near the Russian border and was constantly under attack by Russian forces. She now lives in relative safety with her family near Lutsk in the western part of Ukraine away from the front line.

Alina was invited to a Bible camp this summer by a friend at school. At camp, she encountered a whole new world—one she knew nothing about. Not only did she learn about God for the first time and hear many inspiring stories from the Bible, but she also learned that she could talk to God directly through prayer. That's why, every evening before bed, Alina now prays to God, asking Him to help her family and heal her young heart that has been scarred by the events of the war.

When Alina received her first Bible at camp, she was simply thrilled because she could now read about the Bible heroes herself whom she had come to love at camp.

Through your generous support, Alina found hope at camp this summer. She is now looking forward to coming back to summer camp next year and plans to attend Sunday school classes at New Life church this fall.

Alina
— Kharkiv, Ukraine ▼



Kyrylo
—Kyiv, Ukraine ▼

Story of Kyrylo: A Child Who Found Love

Kyrylo is a young boy from Kyiv, Ukraine. He lived there with his parents until they decided that it was no longer safe for him to stay because of the enemy's relentless attacks. So Kyrylo went to live with his grandmother in the Korosten district where life is somewhat more peaceful and power outages are less frequent. Kyrylo's grandmother learned about Mission Eurasia's summer Bible camp in Korosten from her neighbor, and Kyrylo was eager to go.

At camp, Kyrylo was delighted by all of the fun activities, especially the water activities that took place on Water Day when it was 104 degrees Fahrenheit outside.

But he was most excited by the gift of the children's Bible that he received on the last day of camp. Even though he couldn't read the Bible himself yet, he knew that his mother or grandmother could read it to him. As Kyrylo's counselor Marina explained, "You will learn how much God loves you from this book." But Kyrylo reminded Marina he already knew that God loved him, because she had told him that during the Bible class at camp. Now, Kyrylo can grow in his understanding of God's love as he begins his life-long journey of faith.



MOLDOVA

More than 1,200 hurting young lives have already attended one of 17 summer Bible camps in Moldova this summer because of your prayers and generous support. Here are two of their stories.

Story of Oleg: A Teen Who Found Peace

"Hello, my name is Oleg! The Christian summer camp I just attended was a real revelation and blessing for me. I'm very grateful to everyone who made it possible for me to spend seven days at a tent camp in the Carpathian mountains.

"This camp helped me get closer to other Christians and to improve my relationship with God. Every day was filled with prayer, group discussions about spiritual matters, and discovering new aspects of faith. The staff members created an atmosphere of support and friendship, making everyone feel comfortable and confident. Because of this, I found a deep sense of peace and unity with God and other believers.

"Also, I was in awe of the beautiful natural surroundings where this camp took place. The majestic mountains, forests, and fresh air were the perfect setting for rest and spiritual renewal. The hikes and nights under the starry sky were unforgettable moments that I'll cherish forever.

"This camp gave me much more than I expected. It gave me new friends, a deeper faith, and a sense of blessing and peace from the Lord. I'm so grateful for this experience and for the chance to feel God's love in such a special place as the Carpathian mountains."

Oleg
—Moldova ▼



Diana and Milana

— Moldova ▼

Story of Diana and Milana: Children Who Found Joy

Alena and her two young daughters, 7-year-old Diana and 3-year-old Milana arrived in Moldova from Chernomorka in the Odesa region of Ukraine. Their home by the Black Sea didn't have a basement, so they had no refuge from the frightening air raid sirens that would go off unexpectedly. Rockets and shells also occasionally flew overhead from the sea, and one explosion near the window of their home left Milana traumatized. It was then that Alena decided she needed to leave with her children.

Both young girls participated in a Mission Eurasia summer Bible camp in Chisinau and absolutely loved it! Milana especially enjoyed playing with the other children, while Diana liked the Bible stories that Mission Eurasia's leaders shared with her group. When the camp was over, the girls didn't want to leave. Diana said that she wanted to learn even more about God and take part in other fun activities because they helped her to be happy again and forget about the war.



POLAND

Thanks to your generous investment in our summer camp ministry, nearly 600 needy children and youth have attended one of five special summer Bible camps in Poland so far this summer. One of these children was Anya.

Story of Anya: A Child Who Found New Life

When the war in Ukraine began, Anya, her mother, and older sister fled from their hometown in Ukraine to Warsaw, Poland to begin a new life. Anya's father could not join them because he was tragically killed in a car accident several years earlier.

When they arrived in Warsaw, Anya's mother began looking for a church right away since she had become a believer in Ukraine, and understood the importance of Christian support. But Anya had never been interested in spiritual matters, and preferred to stay home alone with her phone.

However, all that changed when Anya was invited to a summer Bible camp that the church in Warsaw organized with the help of Mission Eurasia. Anya's mother couldn't imagine how she would cope for five days at camp without her phone, but Anya had no choice except to follow the rules. Yet from day one, Anya immersed herself in camp, hearing and reading God's Word daily and participating in all of the fun, Bible-centered activities. Camp changed Anya's life for eternity.

When Anya returned home, she shared how deeply everything at camp had impacted her. Not only did she keep reading her Bible, but she started going to church. Anya's mother was overjoyed by the change she saw in her daughter, who had found new life in Christ.

Anya

— Poland ▼



THANK YOU!

We want to thank everyone who gave sacrificially to make Mission Eurasia's summer Bible camps possible: for our generous donors; teams from the West who helped with Bible-centered activities, sports, games, music, and crafts; young leaders and volunteers who invested in these children; and for the Mission Eurasia staff who coordinated the camps.

We trust that the Lord will use these summer Bible camps to impact these children's lives in the years to come, and that the seeds that were sown will produce fruit that will remain.



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