

Winter Camp Report

Our God is great! And this is true in our country, in our community and by faith in God's Word. We are grateful to God for everyone who has come to know Him in our city. King David sings in Psalm 4: ***When I was in distress, You gave me mercy and heard my prayers.*** And it is truly amazing how, in the midst of sorrow, grief, weeping and sheer horror, God gives joy, peace and the opportunity to fulfil His mission. God is great!

It was a difficult start for our camp, because the enemy began shelling our country and the air raid siren sounded for 5 hours. Many children stayed at home, but 50 children came every day. We were constantly following the news to see where the greatest danger was and whether we would have to stay in the shelter all day- which would mean that the children wouldn't attend-or whether we would still be able to proclaim God's Word to the children. At a time when all around them was unstable, the children responded better to the Gospel and were honest about why they didn't want to accept Jesus as their Saviour. One boy, S, said after class that he was more like Pilate than Jesus because he loved what the Bible calls evil and sin.

Most of the children in the camp were children whose parents were abroad and this impacts on their psychological state and behaviour. Because of this, we decided to hold the camp for the whole day. We tried to focus on gentle communication and have times when we could sing together and pray. Every day, someone from the team told their life story and how they met Jesus. This made quite an impression on the children.

Here are some of the stories:

Vika lives in the yard near the mission and I have known her since she was small. God is working in her life and Vika came to the camp and heard the gospel. If I'm not mistaken, Vika's mum was against all believers during her school years because she was an atheist. Again, this is the beautiful work of God that He does incredible things in our lives. Although Vika's mum had insulted us in the past for preaching the gospel, she was the first to enrol Vika in the camp having called constantly asking when she could enrol her so as not to miss the opportunity. At other camps, Vika used to be a distraction to others, not listening and playing with her phone. However, at this camp, she put her phone aside and told the other children to turn off their phones and show respect to the leaders. A beautiful transformation!

Andrey is a boy who attended the camp for the first time. He had wanted to come before and his parents enrolled him, but he kept refusing to attend at the last minute. At the end of the camp he said he had made up his mind to read his Bible every day. He not only kept his word, but he posts what he has read on social media every day. Other teenagers follow him and this is a testimony of how a child can spread God's Word. A few days ago he wrote to me to say that he wants to be baptised in the summer and we talk to him about it every day. Please pray for Andrey.

After the camp, we created another home group for these children which is run by Svetlana. We only had one group before the camp, which I lead, but now a number of children meet with Svetlana in the mission apartment. We had a meeting after the camp and most of the children came. This tells us that the work we do, the Word we sow, is being successful!

Pastor Bohdan

Mission Director - January 2024



Svetlana's new group.

More Pictures from the Camp

