

Dear Friends,

I'm back from our ten day English camp, and while it was exhausting (and super hot), it was awesome to see the Lord at work! I've been involved in Christian camps for the last ten years, but this one was very different than all the past ones.

I should first explain that this camp was not a "Youth for Christ" project, but rather was organized and sponsored by several Protestant churches, and our "Youth for Christ" team helped out. Whereas past camps where I've worked have had lots of crazy fun with a little Gospel thrown in, this one was mostly Bible-focused with fun and games much less dominant.

The camp's theme was Solomon's life and his success, and all the English texts were about the wise king. The campers memorized verses from Proverbs (both in English and Russian), and one person from each group recited them in front of everyone at the big morning meetings. Most of the skits each evening were based on Solomon's life and making wise decisions. And all the songs, with the exceptions of "What A Wonderful World" and "Old McDonald" were Christian praise, and each night there was a lecture about different successful biblical figures. And at the end of five of those talks, there were "altar calls" and 51 (out of 180 total campers) came up and prayed to give their lives to Christ! And even if many didn't know exactly what they were doing, it's a spiritual start to a new life!



I admit that I was rather hesitant about having a call to repentance on the fourth day, as in past camps where I've been, that's usually near the end. I was afraid that an overkill of biblical content would scare off kids, and some did complain, but I was greatly surprised to see how many teens embraced memorizing verses, desired to know more about Solomon's wisdom, and wanted to accept Jesus.

But we had a lot of fun too, with country line dances, paintball, soccer and volleyball tournaments, an "American Party," and a fire show on the last night. Most of the kids were from Moscow, but there were also groups from a few smaller cities near the capital, and even 13 kids from a nearby orphanage. Two guys, Sergey (left in photo) and Nikita, who attend our "Youth for Christ" weekly teen club in Moscow came to camp; and then I met a boy, Ilya, who lives two buildings down from us, so I've already invited him over for tea.



Another first for me was that I didn't have my own group but rotated around since there were only 13 native English speakers and 15 small groups. So I helped out with two different groups for the morning and afternoon English lessons, and then was usually with a third team for their evening "snack" time, where there were usually deep spiritual discussions, along with juice and sweets. At several of those meetings I told my testimony of how God used Russia to bring me back to Him. And while most of the campers weren't alive in 1992 so they don't know the dark and gloomy Moscow that I came to when I was 15 (it's a totally different city now), they always asked why I returned to Russia after college, and so I tell them that God changed my heart and called me back to this land to reach out to young people with the Gospel.

One thing that didn't differ from past camps was that I was the camera man, so I had to run around and film everything. We had a couple of relay races and an obstacle/ropes course, and while I didn't officially participate, I went through them several times as I had to keep up with and record each team. So that was draining, especially in the 90 degree weather that we had almost the whole time, and no ice or air conditioning at camp!

Oksana and our girls came out for the last two days of camp, and it was fun to show them off. Everybody was awed at how cute and energetic they are and at how they know two languages.

As I wrote in our last letter, we recently switched our "sending" agency and are now with Ripe for Harvest. This change doesn't alter our ministry but only affects how we receive funds. Our support has gradually decreased since we were in the States 18 months ago, so we are grateful for any donation, no matter the amount or frequency.

But the best for us is regular support so we know roughly what we'll receive each month. If you want to just do a one-time donation, checks can be made payable to **Ripe for Harvest** and sent to **Ripe for Harvest, P.O. Box 487, Monument, CO 80132**. And please put #325 (our account number) on the memo line. But if you want to support us monthly or quarterly, then Ripe for Harvest can help both you and us, as they offer "electronic fund transfers" (EFT), where your bank will automatically send us support each month. This should save you time and help you not forget, and it helps us by guaranteeing that we get your donation each month. I know that sounds self-serving, but I'll just say it's hard to plan a family budget when we never know how much support we'll receive in a given month. I'm attaching a short form for the electronic contributions that you can fill in and mail (along with a voided check) to the above address. Thanks in advance for whatever support you can give!

And we thank you for your prayers as well, and please lift up those teens who prayed to receive Christ, as we try to get them hooked into churches or small groups. We invited everyone to a follow-up party on July 31st at a Moscow park, and we'll start back our weekly club in September, as most kids (like Oksana and our girls) will spend the rest of summer at their country houses. In early August, I'll go to our church's camp for young kids (also a first for me), where the theme is making movies and we'll teach how God wrote the script and directs our lives. I'm not exactly sure what to expect, but I know I'll be filming the events and that there are over 50 kids signed up, including Oksana's two nieces.

In His Service,
Caleb, Oksana, Karolena and Amelia Kyzer

