



Baptist International Evangelistic Ministries 2021 Summer Camp Report

The following letters and reports come from pastors and other leaders of the Christian camps that BIEM had a role in sponsoring in 2021. Please note that the following does not represent every camp that received funds or supplies from BIEM. Typically, some reports will be similar to others. For simplicity, we offer this sampling to provide donors with a representative overview, complete with joyful reasons to praise the Lord!

(Note: beginning last year, BIEM no longer names exact people/churches/cities inside of Russia. It has come to our attention that the police in at least one region have used the Internet to glean information about a local congregation. Rather than provide fuel for unnecessary questions or confrontations, we will use the same procedure as we do for predominantly Muslim lands and simply give broad, regional descriptions.)

Thank you again to all who have supported the camp ministries!

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Nahabino, Russia

At the beginning of summer, I prayed to God with this prayer: “Lord, use me during these summer days, so that I work for Your glory while there is still strength and time.” I didn’t know which way God would lead, but I listened to His voice. When we began to prepare for the Pilgrim camp, I prayed to God to minister to children and adolescents there, if it was His will. But at the last moment we realized that the Pilgrim camp would not take place this summer [due to Covid concerns].

Then God sent me a desire to create a small camp for the teenagers of our church. I remembered my childhood, when, as a teen, I was several times in summer Christian camps, where I repented, learned a lot about God, memorized many the key verses and psalms of David. I shared my desire at the pastoral council and received the brethren’s blessing to proceed. My nephew, Alexey Rumachik, wished to help me in this ministry. We gathered all the teenagers of our church and traveled to the Lipetsk region, to friends who have their home in the village.

There, they hospitably received us, and our large team of 11 people lived with them for a whole week. We could not all fit in their house; therefore, we lived in two large tents next to the house. God sent us very warm weather, and we had a blessed time. In the morning, after breakfast, we gathered in the shade of trees for the morning Bible reading and meditation on what we had read. Bible stories

called the teens to be faithful to God, gave guidelines on how to find good friends, and taught purity in their personal lives.

We helped our friends dig a ditch to bring gas into the house. The ground was hard, rocky, but the guys worked hard and within three days had completed the job. After lunch we would go to swim in the river. Then we had music lessons.

Most teenagers study at the music school, mainly in the piano. One boy is learning the trumpet and the other the saxophone. We took these instruments with us, as well as a guitar. The end of our stay in Lipetsk region was participation in a Sunday service in a nearby church. The guys prepared two hymns on trumpets and a synthesizer: “How Great Thou Art” and “Oh, grace to be saved by you.” We also learned the song “You Will Come Soon.” Two teenagers prepared to recite the psalms. In all this, we were able to serve the local church, which was very grateful to God for our arrival and encouragement. They have never had such a musical ministry in their church.

Every day after dinner we had an evening bonfire, where we sang, analyzed the day we had lived, and recalled the morning Bible study. I also talked about my life in childhood and youth, about serving in the Army, as well as about the life of my parents. The youth listened to these stories with great interest, asked questions, and learned lessons. The Lord abundantly blessed our fellowship. The time passed quickly. After the Sunday service, our friends cooked pilaf over a fire in a large, cast-iron cauldron. It was a nice, festive meal.

On the last night, the time around the bonfire was especially valuable, since each of the teenagers testified whether they liked the trip and what God had taught him or her during this time. Everyone was very happy, and God called everyone to progress in some way: someone decided to read the Bible more, another said that he wants to be truly born again, another said that he wants to prepare for baptism. It was very dear to me, and I thanked God for giving me the opportunity to serve the teens, just as other brothers once ministered to me in childhood, ready to pay with their freedom. No one wanted to return home. Some said goodbye with tears in their eyes. Praise God for the privilege of serving Him and the teenagers! We pray that they all find salvation and become God’s servants.

Pavel Rumachik

Ternopil, Ukraine

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters, coworkers of the BIEM mission!

We are thankful to the Lord for each of you, for every worker of the mission, for volunteers, and for those who pray, for those who sacrificially give toward various ministries, for those who take an interest and offer advice.

In this letter I’d like to tell about a special ministry—the extreme Christian camp in the Carpathian Mountains.

Summer always provides an opportunity to evangelize about Jesus Christ through camp ministries. On the one hand, summer is the culmination of various ministries. On the other hand,

summer is a beginning; it's new opportunities, new acquaintances, new perspectives, and new plans. Summer—in ministry it gives a particular grade to the work done all year. If you served well, fellowshiped with people, built relationships, and witnessed about Jesus Christ—then you'll have people that you can invite to camp, you'll have people with whom to fellowship in camp, there will be people to whom you can tell the Gospel. Yet, summer ministries are also opportunities to get acquainted with new people. They are good chances to minister to new people, to recall forgotten individuals and to renew contact with them. One way or another, summer ministry provides enormous openings for the Gospel.

The youth ministry in our church is one of the most dynamic and developing ministries. This ministry never stops. They have no vacation. One season simply gives way to another. The season of home groups and youth meetings that are held from September to May morphs into camp ministry. Then the camp ministry transitions into the season of home groups and youth meetings.

Before this summer, our youth were greatly concerned about the people who would be going with them to camp. There is always the risk of taking along people who are not interested in the Gospel and not interested in serious things of life, people who generally cause problems for the team and the campers. But fortunately, or unfortunately, we do not see the hearts of the young people who want to go with us. Therefore, our youth undertook very seriously their preparations for camp. They prayed a great deal for the upcoming camp. They conferred together and thought through various possibilities concerning how to maximize taking to camp not simply people who want a good vacation but those with whom the Lord is working.

People with whom the Lord is working—this is always the most promising category—then you can say with certainty that we are coworkers with God.

The Lord answered our prayers. There were people registering for camp that you could boldly describe as people sent from God. Two weeks before camp, the list of campers began to change. Some removed themselves from the list; others came along and wanted to go. As a result, the camp filled up. We had 40 people. Half of them were people who needed to get their relationship with the Lord in order. Some heard the Gospel clearly for the first time there. Others had already heard the Gospel previously but needed to get some unanswered questions clarified, to hear answers regarding complex matters. Some who came were with us for not the first time, and they also needed the Gospel and reminders of things they had already heard earlier.

On the last evenings of camp, we called these youth to make a decision. We explained to them that repentance is a conscious decision before the Lord to leave a past, sinful life and start a new life with the Lord. On these evenings we heard several prayers where young people asked God for forgiveness and for strength to begin a new life. Some did not dare to pray aloud but announced their decision to change their lives.

The camp is over. Everyone went home happy and joyful. But the youth ministry continues. Someone asked me, "Why are we doing the youth extreme camp at the end of the summer?" This is because we have a strategy: immediately after camp, we actively continue work with young people. We've already experienced how things go when we did a youth camp at the beginning of the summer. The weather in June is definitely better for rafting and hiking in the mountains. However, there is a

problem—when the young people return home and two months pass before the start of regular youth meetings, we lose those with whom we worked at the beginning of the summer.

Please pray with us for those young people who were in the youth camp, who made a decision, for those who prayed and those who did not dare to pray but want to change something in their lives. Pray for those who, in the camp, thought that they would live for God, and were sincere but then returned to their old friends, to the university, to school, and have already begun to forget about wanting to live in a new way, according to God's will. Please pray for the youth ministry team. Pray that the Lord will send young people with whom they can work.

Many thanks to all of you who supported the camp services. We also express thanks to two friends from America, Caileigh and Jonathan, who came and served in this camp. They made it brighter, more international, and added atmosphere as they supported the team from our church. Thank you to everyone who donated finances for this camp and prayed for it. In such moments, I clearly realize that we are one big team of the Lord's co-workers.

Vitaly Bilyak

Litvinovka, Ukraine

Praise God, by His mercy and thanks to your assistance, this year we were able to hold a Christian camp on the church property in Litvinovka from August 16 – 20. Sixty-four children came. Unfortunately, we had no such opportunity last year due to the coronavirus.

After receiving \$500 from you at the BIEM mission, our church used those to purchase necessary supplies for our camp (food, sports equipment, first-aid items, hygiene and sanitation items, and also stationery and transportation expenses.

Our goals for holding this camp were as follows:

- To get acquainted with new children, teens, and their parents;
- To spend a good time with them, so they could rest and participate in various games and relays; learn important truths about God, God's love, and salvation in Jesus Christ; learn to sing good Christian songs; and also to labor with their hands creating crafts;
- To lead children and teens to God through learning about God and His love;
- To invite new people (kids and their families) to church services.

Each day, the camp had from 36 to 42 children, and these were mainly children from age 9 to 14. Among them were many new children from non-Christian homes. Previously we could not work with them since we didn't know them.

Our team of 14 people labored effectively and in a friendly way. The team was primarily youth. Each one knew his place and took responsibility for his ministry. But whenever they were available, then they helped others. The kids really enjoyed this camp. They didn't want to go home. In the morning they arrived early.

I'll give a few testimonies of God's blessings in our camp.

1. We had wonderful weather.
2. None of the children or parents suffered any harm. There were no injuries, and no one got ill.
3. The team had good, quality food three times per day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) since they lived in the church building. The children received a good lunch, and then they got as much as they wanted of popcorn and were treated to boiled corn since this was a day camp from 10:00 to 5:00. The children ate breakfast and supper at home. On the last day, they were also treated to cotton candy.
4. Over the course of 5 days of day camp at the church, we taught 5 important Biblical lessons on the theme "What does it mean to believe?" Each day presented a hero of the faith:
 - a. Enoch
 - b. Noah
 - c. Abraham
 - d. Joseph
 - e. Moses

Each lesson drew attention to the qualities of that day's hero of the faith, which were expressed by how they walked before God, how they had patience and trust in God, their faithfulness to Him, and how they clung to faith in God's promises. The team tried to convey to the children how important it is for them to act properly in their lives, imitating the heroes of the faith, and that their guidance should be the Word of God, which is true and true. Also, in each lesson, the children heard the message of salvation in Jesus Christ and that it is important to know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and live according to His commandments.

1. In the camp the children got to know each other and made good friends. Some children were from neighboring villages. They all learned Christian songs and participated in staged scenes together with the leaders.
2. Interesting master classes were held in the camp. Children made different crafts and painted with their own hands, and then took their creations home to show their parents.
3. Parents and grandmothers also came to see how the camp was going. Three mothers even helped in conducting master classes.
4. At the end of the camp, all the children received New Testaments and children's Christian literature.
5. The most joyful outcome is that 6 children turned to Jesus Christ in prayers of repentance, accepting Him as their personal Savior.

Therefore, we sincerely thank and praise God for His abundant blessings, which He generously and daily sent to during the camp for the children of Litvinovka and surrounding villages. And one of those blessings is your aid in holding these children's camps!

Alexander Kravchuk

First Baptist Church in Bilogorodka, Ukraine

In the last days of August, the Lord helped us to hold a one-day children's camp on the property of our church. Earlier, we had already held similar camps with the goal of bringing the Gospel to children. Reminding them of the 6-day camp that we'd already held and the marvelous time we all had, we once again invited them to come for this day.

For this time of the camp, we chose the day before the prayer over children who would be going to school, so they would have more motivation to come to the church again and again. As a rule, the number of kids who come to the one-day camp is 50% of the number who come to the six-day camp held at the end of June. And that's what happened this time. There were about 30-35 kids, although were scared away by the rain we earlier that morning. However, the Lord blessed us—after a short rain, we had wonderful weather the rest of the day, and everyone who came was very glad!

We prepared a very interesting program: The kids sang, listened to a Bible lesson, and played a big, all-camp game, which showed how their lives develop from kindergarten up to the time when they'll be working, or studying in an institute of higher education, and even getting married. The game even showed how their decisions influence their whole lives. As always, at the end of the camp the kids expected rewards. Those who were the most attentive and put in the most initiative received extra prizes. And besides those, by God's mercy, we were able to make all the kids rejoice by giving them gifts. It's hard to put a value on the joy that was on the faces of both children and their family members. We are praying and waiting for future meetings with them!

Once more, we'd like to thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for your prayerful and financial support that you provide. They are extremely valuable to us in our ministry before the Lord. May He reward you abundantly and bless all your lives. Amen!

A. Kosyanchuk

Desna, Ukraine



For us, it's always a great blessing and a source of huge support when our brothers and sisters from America come to visit. This year, in the last month of summer, God gifted us with an amazing opportunity and led to us a group of eleven Americans, who took an active part in our evangelistic children's camp. They helped us to

attract to camp around 80 children, who were involved in our camp for four days.

The children heard Bible lessons, learned Christian songs, memorized verses from the Bible, and also played and fellowshiped with our American brothers and sisters. What's amazing is that in Ukraine people relate very favorably to Americans, and children really love to talk with them and joyfully wait for them to come so they can see them and get acquainted. This camp included many very special moments that I'd like to talk about:

Mornings in camp

The advertisement for our camp was the brothers and sisters from America. This worked well, because this drew the attention of a lot of people and provided a positive lure to our camp. The children were happy to talk with Americans, and our brothers and sisters gave two hundred percent and still managed to speak with the parents who brought the children to the camp.

The children were overwhelmed with such a flurry of positive emotions that when they got home, they did not even give their parents a quiet dinner but instead told and retold their impressions. Many parents called and wrote to me, thanking me and saying how glad they were for their children, that they were so happy.



Youth meetings

During these four days, we held two youth meetings, one in the church in Desna, and for the second we went to the village of Smolin, which is located near yet another military base, where the Petrenok family ministers. In Desna, we held the youth meeting near the church, where we had a service for the youth, told the Gospel, and also sang Christian songs. We tried to befriend these young ones so that we could invite them to church in the future. We played volleyball and cooked hotdogs over a fire. Everyone expressed good emotions from that time.

Basketball tournament

I wanted to utilize our brothers and sisters to the maximum in ministry, and the most important thing was to make a lot of noise, so that people in Desna would hear that we're holding a camp at the church and that we have guests from America. Therefore, I went to one of the basketball coaches and suggested we hold a friendly match between Desna and America. He agreed, and then they picked up on this idea and came to me and suggested that, rather than a basketball game, we could hold a basketball tournament, to which we invited teams from different neighboring towns. We also invited young people

from the church in Bilogorodka. Then, when we had agreed on a tournament, I began to get nervous, wondering whether there are any basketball players in the American group. Well, I based my hope in the fact that in America everyone plays various games.



When we arrived for the tournament, we were amazed because there were a lot of people there, and there were some serious teams. The American brothers and sisters began to say, “Igor, are you joking? This is a serious tournament. We thought we would be playing with the kids from the camp.” At that everyone laughed, understanding the importance of the event, and we had a very fun time. At the awards, our friends from America received awards for participation, and one girl, Anya, received a cup for being the best player of the tournament.

We were all ecstatic at such an outcome. The most important development was that this event served as a good testimony for everyone in attendance.

The Bible

While the American brothers and sisters were playing in the tournament, BIEM’s director in Ukraine, Eugene Buyko, distributed New Testaments in Ukrainian language to the local civil authorities and spectators. And people were very glad to receive a New Testament in Ukrainian. In addition, brother Eugene witnessed much to people about God, and the people with whom he spoke joyfully listened and received it. Even later, when I visited the mayor’s office, he told me that Zhenya had spoken with him and that he had taken an interest in reading the Bible.



Considering all these events, we rejoiced and praised God. Understanding how great God is and how marvelously He arranged everything.

Igor Fomichov

P.S. We are thankful to the brothers and sisters who came to participate in ministry for the Lord. We’re also thankful for everyone who prays for Desna. May God bless you abundantly.

Kyiv, Ukraine

For the leaders and for most of the children who frequently attend summer camps, there are familiar and understandable events. This includes Bible lessons and music lessons, games, and various

sport competitions. It seems that everything is expected and predictable. But God has His ways and plans for the salvation of each soul.

In June, a children's day camp was held at the Temple of Salvation church in Kyiv. Over 200 children attended. And among those kids were two boys, twins from a difficult situation. The parents of Kostya and Kirill were drug users. After the birth of these twins, for a week they lay with IVs, since their bodies were affected by drugs, and they had withdrawal symptoms. Even in here final months of pregnancy, the mother couldn't refrain from heroin. The parents of these boys died from using narcotics. Their guardian is an aunt with a weakness for alcohol. But, as they say, even in the darkest tunnel there is a light at the end of the tunnel. By God's mercy, these boys' neighbor is a Christian woman who is a member of Temple of Salvation. This year, she decided to invite Kirill and Kostya to the Christian camp. It turned out that the boys didn't even own any clothes that were clean and in one piece. So, before camp, this Christian woman visited a store, where she bought the boys new clothing. The most interesting and touching event, which displayed the character of the boys, happened during "Gold Rush," the final game of the camp. And the most interesting is that the secret was revealed after the conclusion of the camp, during the leaders' fellowship.



But first, let me tell about the "Gold Rush" game. Leaders distribute walnuts in the playing field. The children must find them and then trade them in at a special "bank" for paper play money in denominations of 10, 50, or 100 dollars. Last, using the play money, the children can go to the "store" and buy sweets, toys, and school supplies.

However, the game is not so simple. On the playing field there are bandits and police running around. The bandits can take away their golden walnuts if the children don't exchange them in time. This is the children's very favorite game, and no problems with the rules ever arise. What our surprise was when it was discovered that one of Kirill's twins, being in camp for the first time, caught the rules on the fly. In a couple of minutes, he came up with a scam that no one had encountered before.

The boy saw what marks the "policemen" were wearing and somehow found these marks on the field. He agreed with the guys in his group that he would protect them from the bandits. According to the rules of the game, the police can arrest bandits and prevent them from picking up the nuts. Since there are more than 200 children on the field, it's not realistic to detect false police. For this, Kirill requested \$1,000 from each child. The cost of one nut is \$ 10.

Cyril himself collected nuts, exchanged them at the bank, and also collected a duty from others. If, as a result, each child left with a couple of toys and sweets, then Kirill and his brother took home two boxes of gifts from the camp. Before anything else, the boy bought toothpastes, soap, shampoo, socks, and school supplies

You may ask, how did we not immediately notice that one child was purchasing so many gifts? The fact is that many children stack prizes in one place, and then they carry them through the crowd to cars or the church.

Let's go back to Kirill. Here was an 11-year-old boy who came up with a scam and implemented it on the spur of the moment. He was not afraid of exposure, and he acted boldly and confidently. Because his whole life is a competition for survival. Cyril knew that summer would end and that in school they would need notebooks, pens, and felt-tip markers.

During the camp, we talked with them. Kirill and Kostya repeatedly emphasized that they will do anything to get out of poverty and not starve.

We are grateful to God that He draws to Himself children who walk in darkness.

Many thanks to the BIEM mission for financial and prayer support in organizing the camps and the opportunity to evangelize children in this way!

Let's pray for these boys, that the Word they hear will grow in their hearts!

The Buyko family

Western Belarus (Drogichin, Kobrin, Popina)



Peace to you, dear friends who love the Lord and His work!

While giving praise to the Lord for all the blessings, which we have experienced in holding Christian summer camps, it's impossible to pass over you, dear BIEM mission, and not thank everyone who has sacrificed of their means and prayed for the camps. If not for the Lord and for your loving, sacrificial hearts, we never would have experienced such blessings.

Together, our three churches in Drogichin, Popina, and in Kobrin were able to hold such a blessed camp. Also, we requested assistance from the church in Pinsk, since they have a good operating time and spiritual program. The theme of our camp was “Time to Overcome,” based on the book of Daniel. The camp set before the children and teens the examples of Daniel and his three friends to show how crucial it is to conquer everything sinful that lives in the heart in order not to be defiled. And we explained who can give strength to conquer, and who Himself defeated the main enemy, the Devil, on Calvary’s cross.

Praise the Lord, there were very many kids who wanted to come to camp. Maybe it’s because we’re going through difficult times here that unbelieving parents eagerly sent their children to us. Our camp lasted for eight days, and not all the parents had sufficient finances to feed their families and to prepare their kids for school. I do not know the motives of the parents who joyfully gave us their kids. We greatly rejoiced that we could speak to the children about the Lord and His true people. There were 124 children in all, and of those 61 were from non-Christian homes. Praise be to Jesus Christ.

Children walked forward and prayed to the Lord and asked Him to forgive their sins. During that week, 17 kids repented. Every day, God protected us from physical injuries and gave us remarkable weather and protected everyone from illness. The children had a great time in camp, but when it came time to return home, some of them cried. They didn’t want to go back to their families, where fathers and mothers lead a sinful lifestyle of drunkenness, smoking, and cursing.

Therefore, to absolutely everyone who is connected with the BIEM mission we, the pastors of the three churches—Nikolai Ryzhuk of Drogichin, Andrey Taranovich from Popina, and Mikhail Ryzhuk from Kobrin—express our heartfelt gratitude. Your generosity took the Gospel into all these families, and in this way Jesus Christ received praise. But I still don’t have a chance to rest amidst the camp ministry since today Sergei and Alexander Khabovtsy have begun picking up unbelievers from underprivileged families for the next camp, and I need to labor there as well. I greatly need spiritual and physical strength, and it’s not always easy financially since a lot of driving is involved. Furthermore, my car needs repairs. Please pray for us as we hold the next camp and for people to come to Christ.



Nikolai Ryzhuk

Zdolbuniv, Ukraine (Rivne area)

Peace to you!

Dear friends, brothers and sisters. Summer has flown by and so fast that you do not have time to even describe what happened in the summer. God has blessed us with many blessings and one of the greatest blessings we have had in the summer is a children's camp. We held a children's camp in July and it was a great time for children and all adults who were involved in organizing and conducting the camp!

There were about 80 children in the camp, who could hear and see various important lessons for their future lives every day. Teachers prepared four topics that the children could learn and study according to each topic according to the golden verse from the Bible. We had a day camp, so the camp started at 10:00 so that all the children could gather on time, because the children were the ones who lived near the prayer house where the camp was held, and they were the ones who had to get far to the camp. But every morning we could see the happy faces of the children hurrying to the camp.

On the first day of the camp, the children were offered a topic about two builders building their house on different foundations, and they were shown how to better understand what the consequences might be after the trials come.

On the second day of the camp there was a theme about the Good Shepherd, who is Jesus Christ. The children also had the opportunity to learn about the character and love of the shepherd, as well as about the behavior and characteristics of the sheep. It was also a great surprise for many children to see a real sheep and a shepherd guarding it, and for the children it was unforgettable that they could pet the sheep and learn many different details from the life of the sheep.

On the third day of the camp, the children were also pleasantly surprised, they were prepared personal invitations to the wedding feast. The table was beautifully decorated, and they had the opportunity to attend a banquet, which was a prototype of the banquet that should be in heaven. The children were told that there should be a feast in heaven, and it will be for those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior! It was a beautiful day.

The fourth day was also distinguished by its peculiarity. On this day the children were offered another Bible story about 10 virgins, 5 wise and 5 foolish. This story made every child think about the state of their small, young soul. Along with this story they tried to teach children that they need to be ready at all times to meet the Bridegroom.

This is how the four days of the camp flew by and we are grateful to the Lord for all His blessings and the opportunity to serve Him. Thank you, friends, for the financial help you provided for our joint service with you.

Pavel Usach

Central Russia

Eight days in the Roman Empire. Children's Christian camp on the island. The theme for this time: "Believing Like Paul."

Who better to acquaint us with the Roman Empire than Paul of Tarsus, a Roman citizen and our beloved brother in Christ. Every day the kids learned as if from a persecuted Christian. He became the apostle to the Gentiles. For eight days the kids learned about the life of Paul and learned how to believe like Paul. During the time of the children's stay, the island was transformed into the Roman Empire, complete with words taken from Roman times. The children even received Roman citizenship.

A tremendous amount of work was undertaken for this time. All the teams, the organizers, the mentors, the cooks, the brethren who did the building, and many others contributed labor so that our children could not only rest but also be immersed in the Word of the Lord from morning until late into the evening.

Every day the children had lessons from the life of Paul. Some stories of how Paul went through persecution were acted out in theatrical presentations. I believe the children will well remember these stories from the life of Paul. They learned new verses from the Word of God.

God blessed us this year with marvelous weather. There were many games that reinforced spiritual truths to the children. There is a lot that could be said, but I want to share how in practice both adults and children experienced what it means to trust in the Lord during hardships. When the camp ended, children and adults were returning across the Volga River. The weather had been wonderful, the sun shining, and there hadn't been a bit of wind. The kids were impatiently looking forward to being reunited with their parents. But during the boat trip back, a wind sprang up, then rain. Being the ones responsible for the children, even we adults grew a bit fearful. But the children showed us what faith is. They continued to sing and said, "It wasn't for nothing that we learned how to trust in God during troubles." We reached the shore safely and returned them to their parents. The sun came out just as if nothing had happened, and all the children and adults praised the Lord for this lesson for life as well.

In all, there were 90 children there, ranging in ages from 6 to 15. Much effort went into it, both financial and physical. Praise be to our God for everything—for special mercy, for blessings, for faith that these young souls will love God and serve Him like Timothy, about whom Paul wrote, who from childhood knew the Scriptures.

Pastor Mikhail

Shipovtsy, Ukraine

Also, a children's day camp was held in the village of Shipovtsy, and many thanks to everyone who prayed and supported this ministry. The Lord blessed this ministry, in which about 80 children took part. In order to further honor Jesus, we agreed to help the local school clean up the grounds, mowed and at the same time received permission to hold sports games there. Everything went well, only in one day a whole storm



arose, which raised dust and it rained heavily, it was necessary to urgently deliver all the children to their homes. A full car was packed, including in the trunk. But despite everything, the next day there were again many children. Thank God for everything! As soon as we left the place where we spent the camp, from the tree under which we were standing with the children, a fairly large branch fell for taking pictures, Thank God that the Lord has preserved it here too.

The only problem was the lack of water in the well and it was almost impossible to wash after the camp, as well as to use the bathrooms in the house, since there is an outdoor toilet. For some time I had to go to buy on the lake in order not to use water in the house. But Thank God, after a few days, the water level began to slowly recover. Probably it will be necessary to think about the well. Pray that the Lord will provide for this need as well.

Pray for upcoming next camps.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

The Skripnik family



Second Baptist Church, Bilogorodka, Ukraine

This summer, the Lord blessed our church with the opportunity to hold two camps. For the first time in years, we had an entire team of Americans come to our camp. The kids were very excited at their coming and very glad for the opportunity. We thank God for giving us such a marvelous camp and the chance to minister to the children together.



It's very joyful that many children are interested in studying English, and they enjoyed chatting with the American friends. It was a great plus that the Americans brought along their photo albums. That provided a chance to communicate even without exactly understanding each other's' languages.

We distributed the Americans among the different activities going on—the handcrafts, music, Bible lessons, and English. After lunch, we play all-camp games, and our American friends helped a great deal in that.

Some ran with the children, assisting them in accumulating points for their team, and others stood in specific locations to explain the goals and how to fulfill them.

The theme of the camp was “Five Colors,” in which each color signifies an important stage in the Christian pathway. (Black symbolizes a sinful heart. Red represents the blood of Christ. When stands for repentance and cleansing. Green is new life in Christ. Yellow reminds us of golden new Jerusalem.) The bracelets made with beads of these five colors is also famous. The most interesting thing is that we here had prepared for the camp separately and had prepared along the theme of “Five Colors,” including the bracelets, and our American friends had prepared the same things for us! Another amazing thing is that, to our great surprise, the Americans and we Ukrainians had prepared orange tee shirts for our teams.

During music time the Americans helped greatly, not only by singing themselves, but also in teaching the kids proper pronunciation in English and answering the children’s questions about certain sounds.

In addition, on one day we had a special day (a favorite day not only for the children but for the whole team!)—water day. The all-camp game that day related to water. By the end of the day everyone was soaked but very happy.

We are very thankful to God and to our American friends for the help and for their making the Word of God understandable to the children.

We eagerly look forward to our friends coming next year. Praise God!



Goncharivske, Ukraine

Hello, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

We’d like to share with you some of the moments that the Lord has led us to experience in this month.

Praise God, during this month we had the opportunity of holding a summer children’s day camp on the grounds of the local school. We had 112 children in the camp. This was a blessed camp in which children heard the Gospel and 50 children prayed the prayer of repentance on the final day of camp. Praise God for that!

The public school didn’t hold a camp of its own this year. We had the children’s full attention. But all the same, the teachers came and were with the children, and they heard the Gospel. There were also parents who asked that the camp go for more days, since it’s peaceful for them when the children were under our supervision. It’s nice to hear that the parents trust us with their children, and this is

God's work through us. And now, in Smolin, we're experiencing something like what we experienced in when we began the ministry in Goncharoviske. We are praying that God will use us to the max in ministry for Him.

Sasha Petrenko

Bilogorodka 2, Ukraine

This year there was a special blessing for our church – we held two camps!

This was a very important project for all of us.

This to this ministry, we feel the unity in the church. All ages are united in the work of God: some working in the kitchen, some cleaning, some who work with children directly on the leadership team . . .

Right before our eyes, our teenagers are growing spiritually, taking responsibility for children's groups.

In the first camp, the Lord blessed us with an American team, which was a great support. Whoever had the desire could practice their English with them, which we strongly encouraged. ☺ Thank God that through such American-Ukrainian fellowship we could preach the Gospel to children!

We are still very grateful to God for our second camp (as always at the end of summer and ends on the "Independence Day of Ukraine on August 24) camp! We had prepared themes about Moses. Bible lessons intertwined with the themes of the first camp (Bracelets of 5 Colors). The children were especially happy, of course, for the handcrafts. Everyone was always looking forward to "Aunt Amy" and "Uncle Sam," who bring suitcases full of very interesting, colorful, modern crafts). My favorite was painting T-shirts. Many thanks to our American friends for such a ministry!

On the last day of the camp, as usual, we held a charity fair of handmade craft items. In this way, we were able to collect 6,300 Ukrainian hryvnias (\$240) for a disabled girl who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy in the village of Bobrytsa (located near Bilogorodka). On Sunday, this girl's father (named Vladislav) came to church for the first time and thanked us for the finances. He expressed gratitude for our pastor's prayer. About 10 days after that, the government gave them 3 injections,

\$10,000 each, for free! Vladislav's family accepted that as a miracle. We ask you to pray for this girl, Ulyana, and her family. Now they know the way to church.

This year the camp for our church became a special blessing. After it, youth meetings began to be held on Saturdays. (In the camp this year the older group was the largest, and someone suggested we continue to fellowship with them through youth fellowships.)



The teens study the Word of God, chat over cups of tea, and prepare for Sunday worship.

The topic of one such fellowship was the story of Moses. The youth were divided into 4 teams, and each team painted the life of Moses however they wanted. Then an adult jury chose the winner. It is interesting to observe how the same story can be presented in different ways. The winners, of course, received a prize. 😊

Dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for the spiritual growth of the church in the village of Bilogorodka, especially for the development of this new youth ministry.

The Buyko family

Lviv, Ukraine

Grace to you, and peace, from our Lord Jesus Christ! We sincerely thank you for your prayerful and material support!

The summer camp too place! Thank you for the support! In our church we have few children or youth, but now there are some unbelievers who will no doubt repent and serve the Lord. Since the camp ended, we are continuing to meet with them every Sunday. At 3:00 we have children, and at 5:00 we have teens and youth. Please pray that they will stick with the church. One Sunday evening we were sitting with the young people in the churchyard when suddenly a strong blew in and swept away our food and tent and ruined them. Everyone got frightened. Praise God, we were not hurt!

Yura Levtseniuk

Western Belarus

God's peace be with you all, coworkers of the BIEM mission!

Praise the Lord for marvelous blessings in yet another camp that was held. For us, the camp that was held last week, will probably be the last camp for this summer. I believe this will be our last for this year because we have neither the finances nor the energy to hold another. About 140 children and several parents were in the camp. Ninety percent of them were unbelievers, and the majority of them were in a Christian camp for the first time.

The theme of the camp came from the first chapters of the Bible, where mankind fell into sin, and about the Savior Jesus Christ, who came to save us from sin and destruction. Praise God, despite several complications (two children hurt their hands), the Lord blessed abundantly. The listeners

received very well the sermons and lessons. These biblical truths are new to them, and everything was presented in a simple way that they could easily grasp.

Each evening when we had our worship service, while I preached I praised the Lord as He touched hearts. Children came forward for prayers of repentance, and they asked Jesus to come into their lives. Praise Christ! And praise God for protecting everyone from coronavirus.

Praise God that you at the mission and everyone who sacrificially gave have helped us to do a great work to the glory of our Great God! During this summer, we had 370 children and their unbeliever parents. Of those, 72 repented. Some in camps received an understanding of the Truth, others received comfort, others were able to eat normally and on time while in camp (many children live in homes where there is drunkenness and poverty). But those who received Christ have obtained salvation.

Nikolai Ryzhuk