

Hello Friends,

I want to thank you all so much for your prayers and to give you a recent short update. God has opened new doors for our ministry this summer. I have recently been given permission from the director to work and minister in "Kozelsk Orphan Camp" for the entire summer. This is really a rare and unusual opportunity that I have been blessed with.

This is the main camp in Kaluga region where children and teens are brought in from all over the region. Here are mainly children from orphanages, rehabilitation centers, boarding schools, and children who live in bad homes.

About 150 kids at one time arrive here and spend about 21 days. I have begun to teach them the sport of baseball, American football, kickball, volleyball etc. I spent every day last week in the first camp working with the kids. During the day we play games as well as have movie times and class discussions until about 2 pm. Igor, a Christian friend of mine has been hired recently as a sub director for this camp.

He is the one who actually made it possible for me to come here by introducing me to the director as a person who will teach American sports to the kids. He has been showing Christian movies to the children and then having discussion time after each movie. A great opportunity for them to hear the Gospel. From 2 pm to 4 pm is what they call "Quiet Time" During this time I go to the rooms of different groups of kids and communicate with them. We have so far spoken about life issues, plans for their life, personal problems and struggles etc..

This conversation often leads to the gospel and how much God loves and cares for them. Sometimes the kids even open up and share their personal problems. One day we were talking in one of the rooms during this time. We had a group of teens gathered around us. (they like to practice English with me and love to hear me speak bad Russian) I asked a friend of mine named Anton to share about his life with the kids. He is 23 years old and has recently become a Christian.

He told about how he was depressed and had many difficulties and problems in his life. He explained that after he had accepted the Lord, he saw how God was becoming more real to him, helping him with his problems and bringing healing into his life. The kids listened very intently and could relate to what he was sharing with them. After the quiet time was over they did not want to go back outside, but wanted to stay and communicate with us more. It's a great opportunity for us to spend quality time with them and get to know them more on a personal basis.

To plant spiritual seeds and to pray for them. I have witnessed salvation and how God can change and bring healing to these kids. I have learned that it sometimes takes a lot of time commitment in developing close personal relations before we

start to see changes. I have also come to believe that many orphan children have the gift or ability to see right through a person. I believe that they often know if you are fake or if you are for real. It's almost as if God has given them the gift of "Discerning of Spirits."

John 15:16 says that *"We are to go and bear fruit."* How do we bear this fruit? *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5) If we continue to maintain a close personal relation with HIM, believing and depending on HIM for everything, and realizing that we can be effective in ministering the spiritual gifts HE has blessed each of us with, only if we believe, rely and depend upon his power to be an effective witness to others. In order to bear fruit we must become personally involved in the lives of others.

It has been a blessing and what I believe are divine appointments in how often I have been reunited with children that I have lost contact with in previous years. I recently saw two pairs of sisters at camp that I had not seen in 4 years. I often wondered what had happened to them. I was so surprised to see them at the camp. I believe that many of the spiritual seeds that we plant and the attention that we give to these kids, are so important in their lives....

"The Word of God Will Not Return Void" Some teens that we met in the orphanage several years ago are now out of the orphanage and attending our weekly teen meetings. In the next year or two many kids I meet will leave the orphanage. They often end up in Kaluga to study in some sort of college or trade school. We can then reunite with them, and having already developed friendships, can minister to them on a more personal level. We leave our contact information with many orphan teens so they can contact the leaders of the teen ministry, if they have any problems that they need help with.

Our weekly teen group meeting has been going great and is continuing to grow. We are now in the process of planning our first teen camp in the month of July. This camp will consist of kids from the orphanage, some who have left the orphanage, as well as some teens from normal families. I invite you to come this summer, maybe as a group, to be a part of our outreach to these kids.

Please continue to pray that God continues to open up these doors for me, as he is doing now, for favor to continue working with kids at this camp. That hearts will be open to receive the gospel. To pray against all obstacles that will come against us. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood..." That God will give us unity and one goal as a church to "seek and save the lost" and to "open our mouths boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:19)

Thank you and God Bless you all!

David

***“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth”***

***1 John 3:18***

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