



Summer Bible Camp Report 2019

We plant and water. God gives the increase.

A photograph of two young girls with brown hair, smiling and holding a magazine titled 'Spark'. The girl on the left is wearing a white shirt with black polka dots, and the girl on the right is wearing a white shirt with black polka dots. The magazine cover features a large spark and the word 'Spark' in large white letters. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Planting Seeds of Faith in Tender Hearts!

*Thank you for helping us share the hope of Jesus
with **12,428** children and youth at Bible camp!*

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” —Matthew 19:14

Thank you

for making the summer of 2019
a Summer of Hope!

For 20 years now, Mission Eurasia has counted on our faithful prayer partners and supporters—people like you—to help us offer a *Summer of Hope* to thousands of Eurasia and Israel’s most vulnerable and hurting children through summer Bible camps. Once again, you’ve come through! Thanks to your compassion and generosity, *thousands of Eurasia and Israel’s most vulnerable and hurting children* encountered Jesus this summer.

Your support was also instrumental in raising up and training the *hundreds of dedicated young leaders* who, in partnership with local evangelical churches, hosted fun-filled, Bible-centered camps for some of the region’s most difficult-to-reach children and youth—orphans, refugees, homeless, victims of war, unreached children, and children with special needs.

These young leaders, prepared and equipped through Mission Eurasia’s School Without Walls (SWW) and Empower conferences (Mission Eurasia’s camp ministries training initiative), offered many of these children their very first introduction to Jesus, sending them home with 25,800 copies of God’s Word so they and their families can continue to read about a Savior who loves them and longs to have a personal relationship with them.

We hope you will both enjoy and be encouraged by these stories—for you have had a hand in writing each one of them. **THANK YOU!**

Country	Camps	Children
Azerbaijan	2	70
Armenia	4	410
Belarus	15	1170
Georgia	4	485
Israel	1	48
Kazakhstan	8	476
Kyrgyzstan	21	715
Moldova	21	1542
Mongolia	5	460
Russia	43	2450
Tajikistan	39	1300
Turmenistan	2	45
Uzbekistan	3	87
Ukraine	31	3170
TOTAL:	199	12428

This summer, a total of 12,428 children and youth at 199 Bible camps in 14 countries experienced the love of Jesus Christ thanks to you.



The Seed is the Word of God and God Gives the Increase

Millions of children in Eurasia are trapped in poverty and hopelessness, living in regions hostile to Christianity or dominated by violence and despair. For many of these children, Mission Eurasia's summer Bible camps are the only opportunity they will have to hear the gospel or be introduced to the love of Jesus Christ.

Led by young Christian men and women equipped through Mission Eurasia's leadership training programs, dozens of these camps take place each summer, across Eurasia and Israel, impacting thousands of young lives. And the reach and impact don't stop there—the seeds being planted in these children's hearts are blossoming back at home, among parents, siblings, and friends. Each child who attends a summer Bible camp receives and takes home his or her very own age-appropriate copy of the Scriptures. *The Word of God never returns void.*

In the pages that follow, you'll meet some of the children and young leaders fresh from this summer's experiences. These are lives you've touched ... and ongoing stories you are helping to write.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

—Proverbs 22:6

Georgia

Predominant Religion: **Orthodox**

General population: **3,846,000**

Evangelical Christians: **1.39%**



Vissarion's Story—

"Now, I see the world in a completely new way."

17-year-old Vissarion, comes from a non-Christian family. He had never heard about Jesus before friends invited him to the Summer Bible camp in the mountains of Ateni, Georgia. 165 young people attended this camp, and on the last day 30 of them—Vissarion included—said a prayer of repentance and accepted Jesus as their Savior. Before leaving to return home, Vissarion thanked each of the SWW leaders personally. Today he goes to a church in Tbilisi and prays for the courage to share his newfound faith with his parents so they may also find new life in Jesus Christ.

"I have never had so many friends who truly love and care for me. Now, I see the world in a completely new way. The Lord has not forsaken us, and we have the wonderful purpose of glorifying Him with our lives."

—Vissarion

A Summer of Hope

Stories of young lives
changed because of your kindness

Lera's Story—

***“At camp, I finally realized that God
is my foundation!”***

For 16-year-old Lera, *Go Camp*—a special Bible camp in the picturesque woods near Mogilev, Belarus—was the third summer Bible camp she's attended. This year, she put her faith in Jesus Christ.

During *Go Camp*, participants enjoyed fun outdoor activities, formed new friendships, and learned about God. SWW leaders led discussions over several important topics like happiness, success, and truth. Many of the young people came carrying deep hurts in their hearts and, at camp, they were able to talk about this pain with their peers and SWW leaders. Leaders shared their own testimonies of how they'd found healing in God's love. These testimonies touched Lera's heart.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

—Jeremiah 29:11

Belarus

Predominant Religion: **Orthodox**

General population: **9,414,000**

Evangelical Christians: **1.32%**



“I am 16, so I don't often think about the deeper meaning of happiness, success, and truth, but at camp I learned about the real importance of these topics. Go Camp is a place where you get pushed out of your comfort zone. All of the games and activities we do are relevant to life, so they make you think about how your behavior and words affect others. When I was young, my parents tried to help me form a solid foundation for life, but I could never find anything that lasted. At camp, I finally realized that God is my foundation!”

—Lera

Azerbaijan

Predominant Religion: Islam

General population: 9,904,000

Evangelical Christians: 0.21%



Oktaý's Story—

“The children had such a great time, they didn’t want to leave!”

Oktaý is one of the SWW leaders who hosted a summer Bible camp in Namran, Azerbaijan, attended by 40 children. Each morning campers began the day with worship and prayer, and in the evening, they participated in skits and games focused on biblical themes. Through all these activities, SWW leaders helped the children engage with the Bible and encounter Jesus.

“The children had such a great time, they didn’t want to leave! Even though I have served in many other camps, I learned a lot by helping to lead this one. I love talking with the children and getting to know each of them personally throughout the week. Since they are all unique individuals, I prayed that God would give me wisdom in my interactions with them so I’d have opportunities to share His love. Throughout the camp, I felt God growing me in patience and giving me genuine love for these Muslim children. I knew that I wanted to continue reaching and working with these children. I was also conscious of my behavior, because I knew that my actions would communicate my faith just as powerfully as my words. ५५

—Oktaý



Masha's Story—

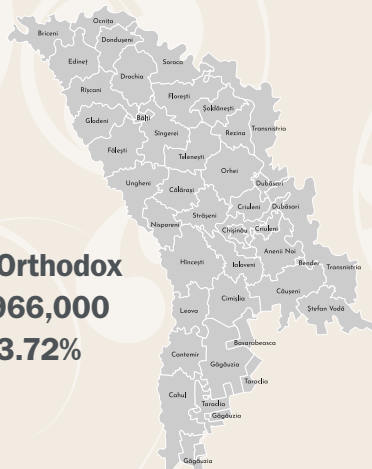
“I want to keep coming back.”

SWW leaders, partnering with volunteers from ShareWorld Global (one of Mission Eurasia's ministry partners), hosted a summer Bible camp in Ciobalaccia, Moldova, attended by 92 children between the ages of 7-13.

Masha is 10 years old. She lives with her mother and brother. She's been coming to our summer camps for three years—friends invited her the first time, and now she looks forward to it every year.

“This is my third time at summer Bible camp, and I loved jumping on the trampoline, swimming in the pool, playing different games, and eating delicious food. Most of all, I liked listening to Bible lessons. I have made a lot of new friends, and I know I can rely on them and trust them during hard times. During the Bible stories, we learned about David and Goliath, and I was reminded that we must put our faith in God at all times. I also really enjoyed singing the worship songs with my counselor, Yana. I hope that the leaders will continue holding more camps like this in our village, because I want to keep coming back.”

— Masha



Moldova

Predominant Religion: Orthodox

General population: 3,966,000

Evangelical Christians: 3.72%



“But whoever would be great among you must be your servant.”

—Matthew 20:26

Anastasia’s Story—

“I hope to continue serving in summer Bible camp ministry for many years to come.”

Anastasia is a 22-year-old SWW leader. She’s been serving in summer Bible camps since she was 14. An assistant at first, today she helps to coordinate the camps.

“*Serving in this ministry has been such an important part of my life, because it has helped me fulfill God’s calling, experience joy, and grow spiritually and socially. This ministry has shaped and transformed my life. During this particular camp, I was able to grow my evangelism, speaking, teamwork, teaching, and communication skills by working with my fellow leaders and sharing the gospel with the children. It is so encouraging to see how, each year, our camps are more impactful and effective than the year before. If God allows, I hope to continue serving in summer Bible camp ministry for many years to come.*”

—Anastasia



Mongolia

Predominant Religion: **Buddhism**

General population: **3,104,000**

Evangelical Christians: **1.6%**



Chinbolor's Story—

“For me, all of this was new, and it has deeply impacted how I want to live the rest of my life.”

SWW leaders from Russia hosted summer Bible camps in five communities in western Mongolia: Ulaangom, Khovd, Uliastai, Govi-Altai, and Bulgan. In all, 460 children learned about Jesus. For 80% of them—like 14-year-old Chinbolor—this was the first time they'd ever heard the gospel.

“This summer, I went to my first Bible camp. My parents are not believers, but they were still willing to let me go. I really enjoyed playing games, learning Russian, and eating good food. The Bible lessons were also very interesting, and I learned a lot about God, how He created the earth, and the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. For me, all of this was new, and it has deeply impacted how I want to live the rest of my life. I hope I can come back to camp next year! ”

— Chinbolor





*"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."
—Matthew 18:5*

Lisa's Story—

"I want to stay at this camp forever!"

Lisa is a sweet and friendly eight year old. She comes from a broken family—her parents divorced years ago. Lisa's father is blind, playing the harmonica in the local market for change. Her mother suffers from a mental health disorder, which leads her to drink. Lisa's older brother, Robert, looks after her as best he can. Both Lisa and Robert are thrilled to have attended a summer Bible camp in North Ossetia—it was an opportunity for them both to experience real love and joy.

"I love it here. I want to stay at this camp forever so I never have to go home again."

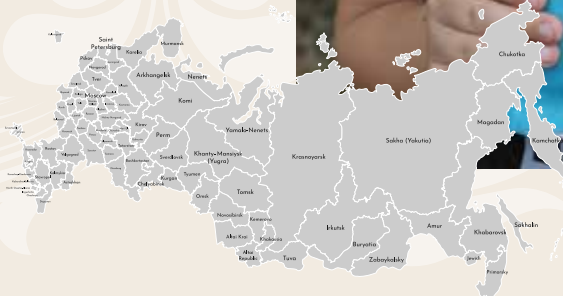
—Lera

Russia

Predominant Religion: **Orthodox**

General population: **142,654,000**

Evangelical Christians: **1.21%**



Aziz's Story—

“The Bible lessons about friendship were my favorite part of camp.”

14-year-old Aziz, is one of 60 children who attended summer Bible camp in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Camp leaders prayed fervently because the father of one of the children attending the camp was a local police officer who was on record, saying he wanted the team to remove any mention of Jesus from the camp. But by camp's end, this father attended the final session and didn't object to the Bible lesson.

Aziz's parents are divorced. He lives with his mother, grandmother, and aunts in a small apartment.

“I was so excited when Ruhsora (a SWW leader) invited me to camp, and I had so much fun playing games and making new friends. Before camp, I didn't know the true value of friendship. I used to fight with my friends for no reason, but now I understand that I should be thankful for my friends and treat them with kindness. Most importantly, I learned that I need to pursue real friendships that will be there for me in difficult times. The Bible lessons about friendship were my favorite part of camp.”

— Aziz



*“Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.” —John 8:12*

Parvina’s Story—

“I loved learning about Jesus, so now I want to get to know Him better.”

Parvina is 14. Her parents divorced when she was five and her mother has raised her alone. Parvina’s cousin, Nisso (a SWW leader), invited her to summer Bible camp this year.

“This was my first-ever camp, and I can’t even put into words what these last five days have meant to me. This was the best summer of my life! I had so much fun doing the different activities, and I loved learning about Jesus, so now I want to get to know Him better. I learned a lot of new things that I will apply to my personal life. Before camp, I was very reserved, and I didn’t have many friends. But, during these five days, that has completely changed. I have made so many good friends. I also discovered my acting skills during the skits. Most importantly, I realized that each of us has a choice about what we want to do with our lives, and we must choose to follow the right path.”

—Parvina



Tajikistan

Predominant Religion: Islam

General population: 9,062,000

Evangelical Christians: 0.09%



Empower Camp Training Events

Empowering the Next Generation for Compassionate, Effective Ministry

At the heart of our summer Bible camp ministry are our Empower camp training events. Each Empower conference equips hundreds of our School Without Walls (SWW) students and other Christian leaders throughout Eurasia to organize and lead summer camps for children and youth that are safe, fun, and gospel-centered.

This year, thanks to your generosity, we held Empower training events in Armenia and Russia (Urals), equipping 250 young leaders to host 30 summer Bible camps, impacting 3,100 children and youth for Jesus Christ!

“At the Empower conference, I realized there are many different ways to lead effective summer Bible camps. And, since a new generation of children and youth is participating in these camps, it was so helpful to learn modern methods we can use to reach these young people with the gospel. ”

—Edita, Empower conference participant
from Azerbaijan



“This conference was very important. As a pastor, I recognize the need to understand the goal and purpose of a particular ministry before actually doing it. It is very important to have a clear goal and plan for how this goal can be achieved. Today, I had the chance to re-evaluate the purpose of camp ministry, so thank you for organizing this wonderful conference! ”

—Arthur, Conference participant
and pastor from Ukraine

“Thanks to this conference, our SWW leaders acquired new skills that will help them lead impactful summer Bible camps. Many of these leaders left the conference with a better understanding of God’s calling for their lives, and with practical tools that will strengthen their ministry efforts. Our SWW leaders have great ministry potential, and we believe that their summer Bible camps and other initiatives will help to transform the hearts of children, youth, and adults all across their nation with the hope of the gospel. ”

—Igor Sirbu, SWW coordinator, Moldova

Thank you for equipping our camp leaders to share the hope of Christ with young people whose lives are changed forever because of the Good News they heard at camp!

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” —1 John 3:18

Called to Serve

Short-term summer mission trips offer participants the chance to plant gospel seeds in young lives

Mission Eurasia’s President, Sergey Rakhuba, led a team of volunteer families from the US on a short-term mission trip to Berdyansk, Ukraine. It was amazing to see people of different ages working together alongside School Without Walls (SWW) leaders to impact the lives of 180 children during a summer Bible camp. Many of the children who participated in this camp live near the front lines of the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, and many others come from broken families. For a week, the team showered these hurting children with God’s love, and many of them were deeply impacted by the Good News. At the end of camp, 100 of the children put their faith in Jesus!

Members of this team also participated in outreach to the community. In addition to our summer Bible camp, a secular camp for children and youth was happening. Team members handed out copies of *Spark* magazine, and many of the children then visited Bible camp, because they were hungry to learn more about God. Team members also helped build a playground in the nearby village of Balkove. Many members of the community, because of their positive experience of working with these short-term missionaries decided to start going to church!



13

“*I see children receive Spark magazine and the Scriptures every year, but this was the first time that I got to see how much joy God’s Word brings to children who have nothing. The children we visited opened their copies of Spark magazine right away, and they couldn’t wait to start doing the crossword puzzles. It was amazing to see. I believe the seeds of faith that we planted in their hearts will help these children find faith in Christ, and as they discover God’s calling for their lives, they will serve as symbols of hope for Moldova’s future.*”

—David, ShareWord Global team member

Village Church Trip, Ukraine

A team of volunteers from Village Church in Dyer, IN, joined SWW leaders in hosting an English camp in Korosten, Ukraine. Children enjoyed practicing their English and couldn't wait to demonstrate what they learned. In the evenings, the team visited an orphanage for girls and participated in several other outreach events. They also got to visit a local church involved in our summer Bible camp ministry. They are already planning to come back next year!

ShareWord Global Trip, Moldova

For the last five years, our valued ministry partner, ShareWord Global has sent teams of volunteers to work with us in Moldova. In July, they helped lead seven camps, sharing God's love with 500 children in need. One of these camps took place in northern Moldova, where a young married couple (who met when they were studying at SWW) started a children's ministry that includes summer Bible camps. The ShareWord Global team was such an encouragement to this young couple, and with their help, the camp was a major success.

The team also visited an orphanage in the same village where they partnered with SWW leaders to host a special program for the children, distributing copies of *Spark* magazine. Even though these children have suffered a great deal, they are very friendly and open to the gospel.

Are you feeling called to minister to the vulnerable children of Eurasia and Israel in a more tangible way? Traveling with Mission Eurasia on an exciting and impactful short-term mission trip is a great way to serve God in a cross-cultural setting, alongside SWW leaders and national believers. Come and share Christ's love with hundreds of young people at our camps, answering God's call to serve His precious children, witnessing firsthand the transformative power of the gospel in many lives! For learn more about traveling with Mission Eurasia on a short-term mission trip, visit the "Mission Trips" page under the "Get Involved" tab at: missioneurasia.org.



“Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me.” —Matthew 25:40

Thank you

for giving joyfully to provide the life-changing gift of God’s Word to thousands of children at summer Bible camps this year!

We are also grateful to those of you who wrote special notes to the children on postcards that were hand-delivered and read to the children at camp! Your love, prayers, and warm wishes touched and blessed many young hearts.



15

From the lips of children ...

“When I received the Bible, I knew that this would help my mother and me learn about God and trust Him to take care of us. This camp changed my life. ”

—Lilya, 10, Ukraine

“These five days were the most unforgettable time of my life, so thank you for this amazing camp experience! ”

—Sabrina, 15, Tajikistan

“I am so thankful that I got to attend this camp! ”

—Dasha, Belarus

“Praise the Lord that we could sow seeds of faith in these children’s hearts! I believe we will see them bear fruit. ”

—Rufina, SWW leader, Kyrgyzstan

One Young Heart

Touched by the Love of Jesus: The Story of Marina

Marina is 10 years old and lives outside the city limits of Berdyansk, Ukraine in the Zaporozhye region. This is her story that she shared in Russian during our time together at a summer Bible camp in Berydansk last summer.

“ My name is Marina and I am 10 years old. I live with my mother, grandmother, and older brother, Vlad. When I was three months old, my father left us. I am still sad that my father didn't love me. I haven't seen him since he left and I don't even know what he looks like.

My grandmother loves Jesus and tells me stories from the Bible, but her Bible doesn't have any pictures. My grandmother signed me up for this camp and I am so happy that I could come. I couldn't sleep the night before I came to camp because my grandmother told me that I would hear more stories about Jesus and meet many girls and boys who also love stories from the Bible. I was so excited!

At camp, I was assigned to the “green group” of boys and girls and was so surprised that “Dyadya Vova” (Uncle “Vova” or Wally) was with us. He is the grandfather I never had and I wanted to sit close to him, hold his hand, and just enjoy his company. I was so surprised that he spoke English and Russian, which was wonderful! He made us laugh and smile because he could talk to us in our language. I was so glad to have a grandfather for one week!

My grandmother told me that she would pray for me while I was at camp because camp is where God touches the hearts of children. I loved everything about the camp: my first boat ride, my first swim in the Azov Sea, my first water park, my first jumping park, and my first experience with learning some words in English.

On Thursday night, I prayed for Jesus to become my Lord and Savior and to take charge of my life just as He took charge of my grandmother's life. I gave my heart to Jesus at my first summer camp. When I received the Bible with pictures, I couldn't wait to read it to my grandmother, my mother, and, of course, to my older brother. My life has changed so much because of camp! Now I want to share the *Jesus Storybook Bible* I received at camp with my family and friends!

Thank you, Dyadya Vova, for the wonderful week at camp and for the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. My grandmother is so happy that I decided to follow Jesus! ”

