

MISSION
EURASIA

Summer Bible Camp Report 2020

'Summer of Hope' triumphs over COVID!

Lyuba (pictured) is one of many lives impacted this summer for Christ. Read her story on page 6.

**Your prayers
and support make
a difference!**



Thank you for helping us reach 16,500 children and youth through neighborhood Bible day camps during the pandemic this summer, when so many are searching for hope that only Christ can provide!

“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

An eternal difference

in times of crisis



Sergey Rakhuba, President

It was a difficult summer — one of hardship for families, political unrest, conflict, social-distancing guidelines, and many masks. **But it also has been a summer of hope!**

We witnessed creative approaches to ministry, families being encouraged and delivered through crisis, and hope through Christ transforming lives!

The COVID-19 pandemic has crippled many families financially and challenged all of us. And it impacted our neighborhood summer Bible camp program, which we’ve held for more than 20 years for tens of thousands of children. This year, we had to use new, innovative approaches to ministry by forming 250 teams of two to three School Without Walls (SWW) leaders, moving to smaller neighborhood Bible day camps, and offering ministry events online.

With God’s help, this crisis became a strategic discipleship opportunity. While our neighborhood Bible day camps took more effort this year, **our teams of young leaders saw more than 2,500 souls won for Christ! THANK YOU!**

A closer look at all 14 countries we serve!

Country	Camps	Children
Armenia	42	560
Azerbaijan	11	180
Belarus	21	560
Georgia	8	650
Israel	20	120
Kazakhstan	28	630
Kyrgyzstan	66	890
Moldova	102	1,370
Mongolia	10	350
Russia	111	3,700
Tajikistan	24	1,160
Turkmenistan	3	100
Uzbekistan	17	280
Ukraine	149	5,960
TOTAL:	612	16,510



These smaller day camps had a HUGE impact:

Our teams reported 16,510 children attended in-person day camps with another 5,020 girls and boys who participated in 187 online activities. In addition to children and teens, we were able to impact 54,600 parents, family members, school and orphanage workers, and others.

Most importantly, our team reported 2,500 HEARTS REACHED FOR CHRIST!

And just like every summer, **children sang songs about Jesus, played games, and learned about God’s love for them.** Each of them received a special **Hope for Kids Kit** that contained food, hygiene items, sweet treats, and a children’s Bible or storybook...

Thanks again for your prayers and support for Mission Eurasia!

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” —Matthew 6:34

Hope for children

and their families!



Throughout Eurasia, families have been struggling to survive on little money during lockdowns, social unrest, and few options. In addition to reaching children through our neighborhood Bible camps, we also have seen families impacted with the gospel.

In countries like Ukraine, finding work has been difficult and government assistance for those in need has been delayed. Many have lost hope! “We are surviving only because of our garden,” said one mother, Natalya, whose family has barely been able to make ends meet.

A mother’s story ...

We’ve heard incredible reports of how our neighborhood Bible day camps not only have had an eternal impact on many of the children but also their parents, said one worker. Aisa, a mother of three, shared that, while the camp transformed her children and inspired them to read the Bible, it influenced her even more!

“I started praying more for them, reading the Scripture with my husband, and striving to be a good example to them as their mother and a Christian.”

We believe God will use these camps to reap a greater harvest than any summer yet! In fact, as a result of them, small Bible study groups have already formed, which will lay the groundwork for new churches in the region.

But families like this received a box of food, cleaning products, facemasks, Scripture — and an invitation for their children to attend a neighborhood Bible day camp from our School Without Walls (SWW) team.

For young boys like Natalya’s son, Denis, poverty and the pandemic lockdowns only made life more difficult. “We already played all our games, the TV is broken, and we don’t have internet in our village, so we can’t even do our studies,” he said. “But, today, Christians from Berdyansk visited us, and they brought us food to eat, including sweets! And, they gave us children’s Bibles, and we can’t wait to read them tonight.”

Finding Jesus online

While many throughout Eurasia were restricted of COVID-19, our School Without Walls (SWW) to keep children and teens engaged in daily B

Virtual Bible Camps

Given the rural areas, lack of computer technology in many homes, and children fatigued from distance learning, Mission Eurasia sought out creative online approaches to ministry during the pandemic.

Those unable to access the internet at home gathered with others through one device and received packages with treats and materials for Bible lessons. Campers participated in Scripture memorizations and Bible lessons shared in video format.

The team in Moldova reported that 71 children took part in these meetings from other villages, cities, and even other countries.



Lyaman is 12 years old, and she grew up in Azerbaijan in a family with her two sisters, Aileen and Yegian.

Their parents separated temporarily, but have since reconciled and are now believers.

Once very withdrawn, Lyaman attended our summer day camp and is now more confident. She smiles more after being able to connect with other children — and learn more about Jesus.

Her father, who struggled with alcohol, has turned his life over to Christ and desires that his children also grow and develop in their faith.



led to limited contact with others because
teams found creative online approaches
to Bible camps.



One of the SWW leaders in Azerbaijan, Mirzoev, has been participating in the summer camps online since last year.

Mirzoev says she decided to help her local camp “because I want to serve the Lord.” She noted it was her first time to conduct a lesson online.

“The most useful thing for me was that, despite the fact that the children were on the screen, the emotions, experiences, and joy of communication were the same as if we were close,” she said.

Her hope was that each day’s two-hour camp would restore relationships with children during the pandemic and help create a camp environment that captured a sense of normalcy. Mirzoev noted, “From the fact that many are now sitting at home in quarantine, this camp made me feel how important physical communication is.”

“My outlook on the communication of believers with each other has changed. Now, every communication with believers has become important for me.”

She went to camp near a war zone...
and something

amazing happened!



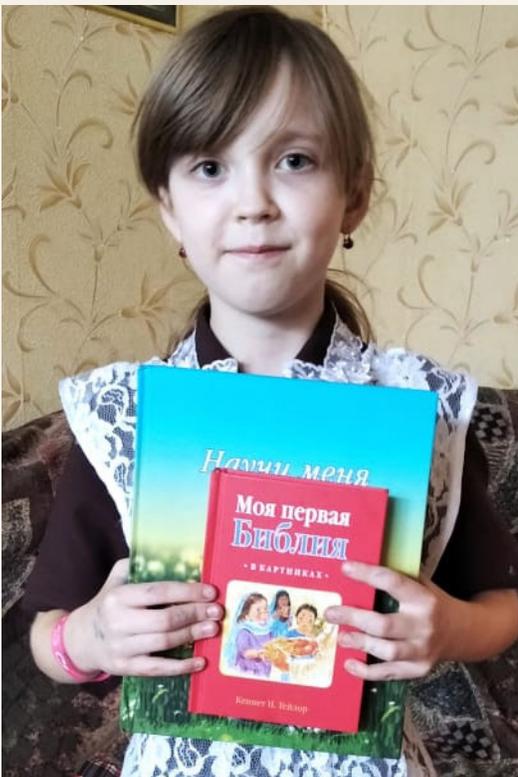
Lyuba, 10, lives near the war zone in Berdyansk, Ukraine.

Her parents don't believe in God or attend church and it took some convincing for them to allow her to attend camp. She has gone to church and summer Bible camp for three years. Led by our School Without Walls (SWW) leaders, these camps help children like Lyuba learn what it means to have a real relationship with God through Jesus Christ — something that previous generations in post-Soviet countries were not allowed to learn.

This year's day camp was particularly special for Lyuba. She learned how Christ could change her life like He had changed the life of her friend Lisa, one of our SWW leaders.

"I also wanted Him to change my life," Lyuba said. "My parents don't believe in the Lord, but I know that He is real, and this camp taught me a lot more about Him."

We are so thankful Lyuba's parents allowed her to attend this summer camp. That decision resulted in an even bigger decision — to follow Jesus! She shared her faith with other children at camp and others now have an opportunity to find that hope!



God's word is spreading.

This year, our ministry partners helped us raise funding to distribute 100,000 copies of *My First Bible* to children at our day camps — an eternal investment. Thank you!

For many of these children at our summer day camps, it truly was the first time they were able to hold their own copy of God's Word. Anna, a School Without Walls (SWW) graduate, shared how the *My First Bibles* are impacting lives in the Russian republic of Udmurtia:

**"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105**

"Thank you so much for the bright and colorful Bibles for children," Anna writes. "We gave almost 30 of them to the children of the Christian school. Kids were very impressed. We plan to use them for learning English. My daughter Nina (8 years old) is now reading this Bible to her younger brother."

"Adults love these Bibles," Anna says. "Stories from the Bible become clearer to them when they are shown in pictures." The children's Bibles are also in demand in the villages. Nearly every day Christians travel to the villages of Udmurtia, evangelizing local villagers.



Our future': A counselor's story

Our summer camps were not only life changing for the attendees but also eye opening for our counselors!

Dordjik, our School Without Walls (SWW) student who was a camp counselor in Kalmykia (Republic in southern Russia), shared the following about his experience:

"Children and students are our future and if we don't invest time in them we will lose this future," he said. "That was what prompted me to participate in the summer project. The main thing was to participate in spreading God's Kingdom but then, of course, share my experience, knowledge, and skills."

Among the lessons he learned as a counselor was the importance of teamwork and flexibility. But more than anything, he learned to trust God more.

"I started admiring even more how God works through believers and how He inspires each one of us to spread His Kingdom," he said. "Can I say that during the camp I developed my skills as a leader who is not afraid of taking responsibility for his people, church, region, and community? Absolutely!"

He noted, "I am definitely planning to participate in projects like this in the future. I will be making more friends with new students to spread God's Kingdom and prepare the new generation for new victories."

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13

Evangeline's story

Lives are being changed every day. Just ask 6-year-old Evangeline of Novomoskovsk, Ukraine. While she has endured health challenges and great suffering, her parents — Sergey and Valentina — say she is growing strong physically and in her faith.

Instead of fearing death, Evangeline sees it as a road to eternity with the Lord. Sometimes the young girl speaks about God with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that is far beyond her years, her parents say.

This summer, Evangeline helped share the gospel with other children while serving alongside her parents during neighborhood Bible day camps. Sergey, who is a pastor, now sees his daughter's name as an example of God's providence. Evangeline is already so passionate about sharing the Good News with everyone she meets.

"I am so happy to be at camp and I am glad that the children receive Bibles here," Evangeline, the youngest of six children, said. Even though Evangeline's health issues are not resolved, her family continues to find hope in the Lord.

"I am learning to read, but my mother and siblings still help me read the Bible," Evangeline added. "I love talking about God with my father and other children, and my father and I pray a lot together. I can't wait to be with Jesus in Heaven, but in the meantime, I believe that He hears me when I tell other children about Him."



THANK YOU for partnering with Mission Eurasia through prayer and your investment in our neighborhood Bible camps this summer. During this global pandemic, people need hope more than ever and God is using the young leaders, who you helped us train and equip for ministry, to continue reaching the Next Generation and shining the light of the gospel into the spiritual darkness.

Please continue to pray for these children and families in the days ahead, that they would grow in their faith and share the love of Christ in their community!

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