

HOLDING THE ROPE

September 2019



Summer Camp 2019

By now all of you know that our summer and winter camps are the highpoints of our ministry throughout the year. They have changed over the years, with winter camp becoming much bigger and more like summer camp. Summer camp, on the other hand, is now consistently smaller than it once was for many reasons related to conflicts with students' other plans and obligations for the summer. Yet God continues to use both camps.

We had 61 students at summer camp and half as many staff from Ukraine, the USA and Great Britain. Both were good groups and camp went well. After years of studying texts from the Gospels at camp, this year we studied the continuing work of Christ through His disciples in Acts. Some of the texts proved difficult in the groups but, overall, God blessed our studies and God's Spirit worked in the hearts of our students. At least one student received Christ at camp and another confirmed to us that she also received Christ after Winter Camp. Interestingly, our largest university group at camp and both of these gals are from Pereyaslov-Khmelnytsky, to which we go only one day a month. Several other students seem on the brink of deciding to follow Christ, so please continue to pray for God's work in the hearts of these students.

As expected, my buddy Denis was not able to attend because of entrance exams for his master's degree, but we spent some good time together this summer and will go backpacking in Switzerland for a weekend in September.

Changes at Home

Dima spent the summer in Portugal, doing an internship for his tourism master's degree. He was a busboy...and I am not sure how much he learned about tourism from that! But we had a few open spaces for the summer in the apartment and I filled them with Bogdan and Artem, KPI students whom you know from previous newsletters. It has been good to spend more time with them and show them Christ's love on a daily basis. Both have some antipathy toward Christianity and I trust the Lord will use this time to draw them closer to Himself.

Andrey, who has lived with us for almost a year, finished his master's degree at Kyiv School of Economics – the best school of its kind in Ukraine. He is now looking for a job. Zhenya is working hard and awaiting the completion of construction on an apartment he purchased this year.

Changes on our Team



We will begin this academic year with some changes on our team which will present significant challenges for us. Denis, our gifted and enthusiastic Ukrainian teammate, will be leaving us to study in a six-month YWAM training program in Australia. I am mourning his departure from the team as he has been a real help and I have grown very fond of him.

A happier announcement is that our teammate, Juliet, will marry on September 3, but she will then take the month off. American colleague, Terry, is home in California after the death of his mom and we don't know when he will return. Dave is also in California dealing with some medical issues. So we are not starting the academic year with the strength we would like. Please pray for us and for wisdom regarding what we should and should not do at this moment.

Two weeks in Canada

I am grateful for all the great students from KPI whom I have met over the past years and grateful that they are now scattered to interesting places where I can visit them ☺ In August I went with KPI grad Vova to Canada to visit KPI grad and friend, Leonid, and his wife, Inna. They met at CCX. We enjoyed a week with them in Vancouver and then the three of us joined another Ukrainian-Canadian programmer for a week in Banff National Park.



The size and the beauty of the park are both amazing! So many grand mountains, glaciers, glacial lakes and rivers! We had great weather and a great time (except for the mosquitos ☹) and I thank God for the health and strength to continue to backpack, which I love so much!

Prayer and Praise Items

- ❖ For another great summer camp and summer.
- ❖ For KPI Tanya's openness at camp, even contemplating conversion!
- ❖ For a great time in Canada with friends.
- ❖ Pray for Dima as he completes his internship in Portugal and returns to finish his master's degree here.
- ❖ Pray for Vlad, Tolik, Vova, Dima, Leonid, Bogdan, Artem, Tanya, Andrey and Zhenya, to believe and follow Christ.
- ❖ Pray for President Zelenskiy and his team, who have an absolute majority in parliament and a real opportunity to bring changes.
- ❖ Pray for God's continued work in the hearts of students who went to camp...and some who did not.
- ❖ Pray for our diminished team as we begin another academic year.
- ❖ Pray for more native speakers to join our CCX team – especially younger ones ☺ Maybe you know someone???

Do Svidanya ("until we meet")

Doug

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you,
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth."*

Acts 1:8