

Newsletter 7 22 August 2016 (14th volume) Camp Ukraine 2016 & Working Hands 2016



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Dear reader!!

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Ukraine

The situation in Eastern-Ukraine is not improving. Russian troops are on manoeuvre close to the Ukrainian border. Advanced Russian missile systems have been stationed at Crimea. Unrest in Ukraine seems to be increasing. Despite treaties regarding the reduction of hostilities, the fights are continuing. There are deaths and wounded. We don't know how this will evolve. It all appears to be part of a large geo-political game.

Camp Ukraine 2016

Monday morning the 25th of July it was cosily busy in 'De Burgt' in the centre of Rijnsburg. 13 participants and the 4 extra drivers were ready to depart for Camp Ukraine 2016. After some encouraging words by alderman Mostert, singing and prayer the group left in 4 cars. At Zevenaar near the Dutch border the 6 participants from Rouveen and Heino joined the group. The outward journey passes without incidents. At arrival at Motel Net, just across the Austrian - Hungarian border, there is a nice meal. The group goes to bed early after some small talk. You do deserve a good night's rest after a journey of approximately 1300 km. There was one flat tire that was replaced quickly. It was quite warm at the sleeping rooms. After a nice breakfast Tuesday morning the group leaves in the direction of Budapest. The extra drivers are dropped at the airport. The rest of the group continues in the direction of the Hungarian-Ukrainian border. Upon arrival at the border there was a cloudburst that lasted for 45 minutes. Visual sight was about one meter! As a consequence the border police stayed inside and contrary to earlier years the cars were not checked. Of

course we had nothing to hide. After passing the border we went to Corine van der Kooi who was waiting for us at a petrol station. We received the usual instructions from her. Subsequently we went to the three camp locations. Immediately after you have crossed the border you do notice clearly that you are in a different kind of country. Pot holes in the roads, horse and carriage. At the three camps they were eagerly waiting for the Dutch group with a special kind of welcome. At Bethany so-called pirates had hijacked the children. They had to be liberated by the Dutch, which was almost successful. Wednesday was the first real camp day. It was amazing how quick the Dutch and Ukrainian leaders became one joint team. There were lots of games such as 'Living Stratego', 'Colonists of Ukraine', customs game, etc. Next to this the Ukrainian leaders held daily bible studies with the children. Many of the children originated from broken families. There were also children from the troubled eastern part of Ukraine. The camps were like a 'oasis of peace' for the children with love and encouragement. Quite some children wanted to stay at the camp! The camps are not only important for the kids. Also for the leadership it is enriching to be a few weeks "out of your comfort zone" every year. A short time detached from the worries at home and enjoying the surroundings, the sincerity of the children and from the interaction with youngsters and somewhat older people coming from an entirely different culture. However everything comes to an end. Friday morning the 5th of August the kids went home with a bag full of precious memories and a little courage for the future. Saturday and Sunday were spent together by the Dutch group. They visited a market and a bunker complex. They departed for the return trip on Monday morning and, after a stopover in southern Germany for the night, they arrived Tuesday 7.30pm at the parking place of flower auction Flora-Holland. Camp Ukraine 2016 came to an end. Thank you Lord.

Working Hands 2016

Both projects, the dormitory at the school with many orphans at Shepetivka and the childcare at Hrytsenky will be opened at 1 September.

Schedule

Tuesday 29th of November: info event Camp Ukraine 2017 and Working Hands 2017 at 7.30pm at De Voorhof, Vliet NZ 36, Rijnsburg

*Camp Ukraine 2016 and Working Hands 2016 activities of Foundation Oekroe at Rijnsburg
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