

Newsletter 6 15 August 2017 (15th volume)

Camp Ukraine 2017 & Working Hands 2017



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Dear reader!!

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Camp Ukraine 2017

Monday July the 24th approximately 4am we finally departed for Camp Ukraine 2017!

On behalf of the municipality of Katwijk, alderman Krijn van der Spijk gave an encouraging speech for the Camp Ukraine 2017 participants at "de Burgt" (i.e. the former town hall of Rijnsburg). Jaap de Mooij read a piece from the Bible and asked for a blessing for Camp Ukraine, organised for 15th consecutive year by Foundation Oekroe. Not all of the 24 participants departed Monday morning. Four of the participants took a flight from Amsterdam to Budapest on Tuesday morning, July the 25th, where they boarded the minivans. Furthermore 5 participants departed in a minivan from Rouveen. Both groups met each other at the AC restaurant at Zevenaar (i.e. the Dutch - German border). Four experienced drivers supported the group (both ways). They drove large parts of the journey and flew back to Amsterdam from Budapest airport (and vice versus on the way back). It seems complicated, but it all worked out perfectly fine. Between departure from and return to Rijnsburg there are exactly 375 hours. The stopover hotel at Mesonmagyarovar was reached after a safe journey during which we had lots of rain. After the rooms were allocated it was time for schnitzel, French fries and salad! Subsequently we went straight to bed, as a journey of approximately 1275 km is quite exhaustive. The other morning: get up, eat breakfast and get away! First we drove to Franz Liszt airport at Budapest to swap the 4 drivers with 4 participants who took the plane and then finally the last part of the journey to the Ukrainian border. The border crossing went fairly well. Fortunately we were all allowed to enter Ukraine! After the border crossing, the group split in 3 subgroups who went to 3 different campsites: Lavki (near Mukacevo), Bettany (in the village of Klinovets, about 10 km from Lavki) and

Perecsin (about 65 km from Lavki). The Ukrainian kids and leaders came from Svalyava, Hlynsk and Ostroh. Each camp had its own theme: Mount Everest, David, Daniel and Paul. Based on those themes the kids were told how great it is to follow Jesus in your life and to obey God. Central is God's overwhelming love for us! It was made clear that a life without God is a dead end! Many of the Ukrainian children



heart for the first time about the love of God based on the Bible! The children enjoyed the stories and had very specific questions like: "What does that mean for my own life?" Next to the stories from the Bible

there was of course plenty of time for games & sports. From living Stratego (based on the boardgame) to customs game and totem robbery. Sometimes the rules were explained in a different way than we are used to in the Netherlands, however there was lots of fun! Many children, actually over half, came from families where the father was missing. There were even children who had to take care of their parents because they were addicted to alcohol or drugs. The stories they told were more than poignant! It was great the kids were a few days away from their pitiful home situation and could refuel in a loving environment.

Also for the Dutch camp leaders it were great camps with room for laughter and tears. The Dutch group also did Bible studies together which is always enriching. It was once again a splendid group of young and somewhat elderly people who were in the lucky position to give the Ukrainian kids a wonderful holiday and a few days off from the nasty home situation! The second week was bloody hot! 40 C!

The support of many of you was indispensable for the success of Kamp Ukraine 2017. This applies to all who have in whatever way supported with gifts and prayer. A special thank you for the car company Dol and gardening company van der Burg, who both lent us a minivan for many years. Above all, our thanks go to our Lord in Heaven: He has given the possibility to go on!

Next year Foundation Oekroe hopes to execute Working Hands projects and organize Camp Ukraine again. Dates for Camp Ukraine: 30 July - 14 August 2018.

*Camp Ukraine 2017 and Working Hands 2017 activities of Foundation Oekroe at Rijnsburg
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