



English Camp

1-13 July 2010

Opovo, Serbia



With Steve and Tanja Brown- JV Serbia

Aside from the usual games, food, English lessons and fun, this camp will always be a special memory and have a place in my heart. I have to say that, by far this has been the best camp I have ever participated in.

Whilst I prayed and expected with great hope to see God do some amazing things at Serbia English camp, God completely blew me away by the extent of His power and amazing Love!

As with all camps in Serbia, there is a pre-camp and a post-camp. This is an opportunity to meet the other leaders and students, and the day before camp, to travel with them by coach to Opovo where the camp would be. It was during this coach ride that I first met two teenage boys (M&D). These boys called themselves Satanists. It soon became obvious that we might have some problems at camp. However, to our amazement, the walls and barriers started coming down after just the first day. They started realising that we were different. They would do and say things to try and provoke us, but when we would only respond in love and when they realised that we actually cared, their hearts started to change. One of our guys from Romania asked M. why he liked Satan so much- to which he replied that He didn't really know, but that it was just fun. A relationship started between these two guys and M. Started to open up about his life.

On the second last night, we held something called a Labyrinth. It was a sequence of activities where everyone would do something at each of the six stations, allowing them to process and think about their lives and God. I was situated at the third station, which involved everyone writing a letter to themselves. What I witnessed was more often than not, a person coming in saying joyfully "what's next?", but leaving, some after an hour and a half of writing, with a very solemn face as hearts were being touched by the Lord. Some other stations included throwing a rock of forgiveness, a hand washing and lighting a candle for one of four reasons. Around 80% of the youth, even the toughest of them, came to tears. One girl, committed her life to Christ for the first time and another didn't light a candle, but after witnessing and talking to some of the others, came back after half an hour asking if it was too late and that she wanted to light a candle then.

M. and the Romanian guy continued to talk. M. told of a dream he had during camp in which he came to realise, meant that he had to give up his old habits and lifestyle and die to himself before he could truly live for God and be saved. M. told him that he wants to make those changes.

Ten days after camp, one of the mothers showed up at church to find out what it was all about. "Are they a cult?" she asked. "My son came home and he's totally different. He was closed and unhappy, but now he's open and a joy to be around! He's really changed." She now wants to visit church more to see what has caused this change in her son!

God is continuing to work and continues to amaze me with the most awesome things He has done!! I am just humbled that He would choose me to be apart of this fantastic ministry!

Please pray for these youth and their families, that the Lord would continue to reveal Himself to them and that as they go back to normal life, that they wouldn't fall back into old temptations.