

STORIES

ENGLISH CAMP 2009

I think I could easily say this was one of the top three camps I've ever participated in. I was unceasingly amazed at the way God worked in both non-Christian and Christian hearts alike. There were a lot of young leaders at this camp which really helped everyone to bond quickly and become friends over night.

I'm sure everyone would agree that it was a great camp from all aspects, whether it be craft, games, sport, and not to mention the wonderful Serbian food including apricots the size of peaches. A trip to the local thermal pool was well appreciated and of course we had English classes and various talks and discussions through out each of the seven days.

There were many fun activities to fill the days and the weather was just right, especially where the water fights were concerned. Each night we had a different theme, whether it be Romania, America, Irish or Serbia Night or the Talent show. We had guest speakers, one of which talked about the difficult subjects like sex and abortion. And another night we had a guy called Milan, an ex-drug addict, give his 'story' of how he came to start a new life in so many ways.

Whilst this is merely an outline of things that happened in the small village of Vrdnik, Serbia, I hope the stories of some of the youth's lives and some of the pictures (see my facebook for more) will help speak many more words...



On the last night of camp, a student called Lori, who was in my discussion group, told us that when he walked through the gates of the camp at the start of the week he immediately lost all desire to smoke. He had been a

heavy smoker for some years and didn't understand why this happened. In the past, when he had tried to quit smoking, he suffered terrible withdrawals, but this time he felt no adverse reaction. It wasn't as though he had no opportunity to smoke and there was no rule to say he couldn't (only drugs and alcohol were forbidden).

On that last night, Lori asked us to pray for him, that he would not go back to smoking. After he told us this, Lori also asked if we could pray for his dad who has been suffering for a while with an injured knee that has effected his work amongst other things. So we prayed for both of them! The following day Lori spoke with his dad on the phone and asked him how he was, to which his dad replied that he was walking pain free and was just about healed. Our God is a true miracle worker even today, if only we pray in faith!



Twenty-one years ago, Stojce was born breech and as a result the midwife pulled he leg and hip out of line to say the least. These days he walks with one leg 7cm shorter than the other. Now that he has

stopped growing, Stojce is eligible to have an operation to fix this along with the daily pain he endures. However, because he is Macedonian and a theology student in Serbia, he has no money to make this possible. He is also engaged to a lovely Serbian women called Sara, but the priority is his operation before there will be any walking down aisles. But, I should mention that for Serbian night there was a mock wedding in which Stojce and Sara 'got married'. I ask you to please pray and if you are interested in contributing towards Stojce's operation please contact me and I'll gladly tell you more.



Two brothers, who lost their father a while back, came to this camp. At the beginning, they wouldn't talk to anyone and just stayed close to each other. They slowly relaxed and constantly wanted to be with the believers at camp. Vladan, the younger brother, came to sit by Steve every time they were in the same room. He was just looking for friendship and love! He invited Steve to his home some time to play video games with him. One afternoon, Vladan was sitting and playing with a guitar. He said he had never even touched a guitar before, so Steve taught him to play a few chords and worked with him on a simple strum of the guitar. He told Vladan that if he knew three chords, he could play many songs. That night, he came to Steve and said he had practiced with one of the Serbian church team members, who had taught him two more chords. "I can play five chords, now," he said. "You said I could play a song with three chords and I can play five. Where's the song?"

Steve simplified "Thank You For the Cross" so he could play it with the chords he had learned. He practiced and practiced! A few times, Steve saw him laying in bed reading the words of this song. They practiced together many times until Vladan got it perfectly. He's so proud of himself!

This has helped form a relationship that God used to show His love.

On "Gospel Night," Steve asked him what he thought about what was said about God. Vladan thought for a moment, then said, "It was good. I think it might be right. I'm not sure, yet."

Pray for Vladan! It feels like he's SO close to giving his life to Christ. Pray that God will use his Christian friends to continue the work God's doing in his heart! (story told by Steve and Tanja Brown- camp facilitators)