

119 August 2010 Paetkau News & Notes

It was an amazing sight - 500 people sitting under the stars worshipping God together. 450 + were young people from the Sumy Oblast and 7 other oblasts (provinces/states) from the Central Ukraine region. The remaining were guests who came from Sumy and area to take part in each evening services. The four day Baptist Union Central Region Youth Congress was the biggest event ever held at Grace Camp, and those who were part of the planning were a bit nervous about how it would all work out. God was faithful, and everything came together right on time. God worked out the details, giving wisdom, strength and creativity to all involved.



Interesting how those things that were seen as part of problem became part of a solution. The big concern was – where are we going to hold the evening meeting. No building on site was large enough. This was debated all winter, and finally the decision was to hold it outside, and tell people to come prepared for bad weather. All summer long we had been suffering through a heat wave with record temperatures and little rain. The skies were clear, and because of the heat wave, the bugs were almost non-existent.



We were able to get the roof on the new meeting hall on the second floor of the shower building a week prior, and the railings on the steps the day the congress began. Each day seminars were held there, with up to 150 attending. Where do you sleep 450 people? Especially when you don't have enough mattresses? Two days prior to everyone arriving, a local factory camp was located that wasn't busy that week, and we rented the extra mattresses and pillows necessary. The



Coca Cola was a popular item for purchase at the camp café during the conference

conference center became a massive girls dorm, with wall to wall mattresses on both floors.

Food – now that is a challenge. We were able to rotate over 300 people through the dining hall for 3 meals a day with minimal fuss, the remaining 150 rotated through the dining hall of the small resort next door

where they were staying. Ultimately, everything worked out and everyone left having had a memorable experience. Praise the Lord!

Once the dust settled, our family moved out to camp for 4 days to be “maintenance” as the regular fellow was on holidays. So our kids had the opportunity to clean up the territory. We all enjoyed the relative quiet and change of pace after such a busy summer. Ben Saucy, a SEND Ukraine MK who now lives in California, was back with his family to visit in Ukraine and came out for a few weeks to help with ministry and whatever else was needed. Daniel had a great time tormenting him. The Saucy family left Ukraine because of health issues a few years ago, and it was good to reconnect with them.





The end of the month we travelled south to the Black Sea, to attend our annual SEND Ukraine conference which was held at a camp near Odessa. It was quite the experience – everyone enjoyed the sea and sand and the time with teammates that we hadn't seen for quite some time.

This past summer was a challenging one, and in looking back over the June – August period we see how God worked through the various ministries and individuals to impact lives for eternity. Thank you for being part of it through praying for us and the ministries, and many also giving financially to those ministries.

September continued saw the beginning of the school year and a few other interesting happenings.... That will wait till next newsletter.

Talk to you soon,
John
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If you would like to be involved in helping financially with the camp ministries, please use the form that I have included or go to www.thepaetkaus.net/forms/page5.html for a printable form.

Drop by www.thepaetkaus.net for project and ministry updates, newsletter archives, photos etc etc...

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