



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL *Challenger*

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The Art of Evangelism

Last winter, BIEM's missionaries Vitaly and Alexandra Keller reported briefly about a strategy they were using to engage complete strangers in Kyiv, Ukraine, with the Gospel. This approach uses reproductions of classic paintings on the life of Jesus Christ. Since they and their coworkers continue to find this method effective, we decided to share more about it in the *Challenger* using a Q & A format.

BIEM: Please share why you're so enthusiastic about evangelizing through pictures.

Kellers: Evangelism through the paintings is a great find! We do not have to look for people or invite them for a conversation. They come to us freely to see the gospel-based copies of world-renown paintings. All we need to do is to tell the people a little about the picture itself, and then we smoothly transition into a description of the plot of the picture; that is, to the story of the Gospel. And so, absolutely at ease, we share the Good News with dozens of people a day.



What a joy to have people pause and say, "Tell me about this picture." In this way, passersby casually open the door for a conversation about Jesus.

BIEM: That sounds wonderful. Please share more details. How many pictures do you use? What kinds of pictures are they?

Kellers: We have ten pictures [good quality prints of classic paintings] at our disposal portraying the birth, life, and teachings of Christ, going into His death, resurrection and the Second Coming. People usually walk up

to the picture they like. But since each picture portrays a story about Christ, the Gospel can be told starting from any of them. You can also conduct a full tour of all ten paintings, which gives people a more complete picture of the life and ministry of Jesus.

BIEM: You've been doing this all summer. Aren't people too occupied with personal interests to stop and talk to strangers?

Kellers: This is the time of the year [summer] when strangers are especially relaxed and are willing to chat and spend an extra ten to fifteen minutes discussing spiritual things right on the street.

BIEM: But do people listen out of superficial curiosity, or is it possible to spark in them a deeper interest in Christ?

Kellers: People listen very carefully, and you can observe how pure curiosity in their eyes turns into genuine interest in the person of Jesus Christ and His saving mission on earth. At the end of the conversation,

continued on page 6



Because pictures spark curiosity, Vitaly has opportunities to explain the Gospel to adults, teens, and even young people.

God Led Him

Usually, children and teens are the focus of attention during summer camps. Occasionally a parent comes to Christ through camp. But this summer BIEM missionary Igor Fomichov shared how God worked in a totally unexpected way...

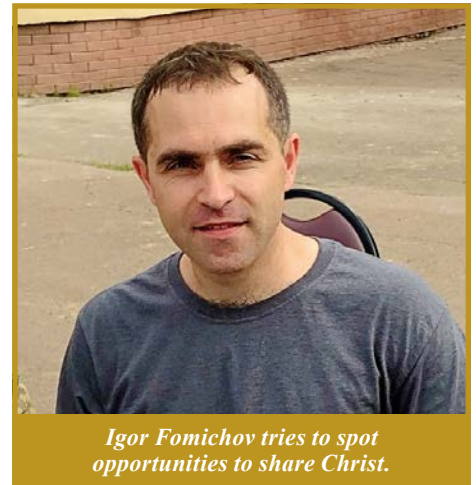
We held a tent camp not far from the village of Sokolovka. It's situated on the River Desna, and I needed to drive to get bricks for an outdoor kitchen. When I was driving back, I noticed a man who looked familiar to me. It was Vova, a man I'd once known. He stood in the company of two other men. All three of them had a criminal look to their appearance, and you could tell they use drugs and alcohol. I drove past them, but then the idea came to mind of going back and talking to Vova. Maybe I would have a chance to witness for Christ?

By the time I returned to the spot, Vova stood there alone. I stepped out of the car

and greeted him by name. He was surprised. He didn't recognize me at all. But when I told him my name, he remembered me. The two of us had hung out together before I became a believer, so I knew that he shot up and smoked marijuana. He asked how I am and what I was doing. I replied that God had changed my life. (I believe he already knew this, although he acted as though he was hearing it for the first time.) I told him that we were holding a children's camp nearby, at the riverside. He said he was glad to see me again, but then we parted.

On the very last day of camp, we were already preparing to take down the tents when I spotted that same Vova walking toward the river. He was wearing earphones, but I heard his music playing loudly. He walked to the water's edge, then turned and headed toward us in the camp. I strolled over and welcomed him.

He said, "I was looking for you."



Igor Fomichov tries to spot opportunities to share Christ.

When I asked what I could do for him, Vova replied that his soul was ripping apart. He wanted to cry and was listening to loud music to keep him from thinking about anything. He declared that he was perishing and didn't want to live that way anymore. He said he'd gone to a village

continued on page 5

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"Reaching the world for Christ since 1981"

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A Drunk and a Promise

The following incident comes to us from BIEM missionary Mikhail Titarenko in Fedorivka, Ukraine.

At a Sunday worship service, a man stood and shared his testimony of how he had become interested in Christ.



Mikhail and Natalia Titarenko faithfully serve the Lord in Fedorivka, Ukraine.

He said he had been out drinking. Late in the evening, he was staggering down the street. He stopped under a streetlight and was holding onto the pole to steady himself when a woman came along and started telling him about Jesus.

"After hearing her words, I couldn't be at peace. I wanted to find out about Jesus Christ, and about what He did on the cross at Golgotha."

After that man sat down, a woman stood. "That woman who came along and witnessed to a drunk man that night was me," she said. "Here's what happened..." On that particular morning, she had promised the Lord she would share about Jesus to at least one person that day. Over the course of the day she busied herself with cooking, housecleaning, and laundry. She didn't notice how fast time was passing. Before she realized it, evening was already deepening. "I hadn't said a word to anyone about Christ."

continued on page 5



Glancing Back to Summer Camps

Summer camps provide a wonderful way to introduce children, teens, and young adults to the Gospel! Camps lift young people out of their routine and provide a wholesome atmosphere where they enjoy nourishing food, fun games, God-honoring music, Bible teaching, and

handcrafts—all with adult leaders who reflect God’s love for them. We can’t thank you enough for your prayers and donations to make summer camps possible, but let us share quick peeks at some of the camps. This year, combined reports indicate 1,019 souls repented of sin and accepted Christ as Savior!



Camp speakers use the services to teach valuable truths from God’s Word. **RUSSIA**



Nothing livens up game time like wacky relay races! **UKRAINE**



The Hobitzes, two of our missionaries say, “Last year’s camp children, who were for the first time in a Christian camp, almost all became Christians during the camp and are bringing their friends to our Bible meetings and are making a public stand in school.” **REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA**



Games can teach, too! Just as believers learn to steer clear of sin, this course encourages kids to pass without touching the obstacles. **UKRAINE**

“ My name is Julia. I’m 17. This summer I served in a camp with disabled children. My ministry was leading games. In order for this to be fun and interesting for them, I tried to prepare games according to their abilities. With great joy I observed each camper. A few moments were difficult for them, but then my team would assist them. Even the grandmothers and moms who accompanied them would get involved. This camp united us and created camaraderie. In the end, when you see a tired smile, your heart just rejoices at their joy. It’s so painful and hard to be in their situation. How thankful I am to God for my salvation and health.

Thank you very much for your financial blessing, that I could help such kids at least a little bit and have a share in their difficult lives. ”



These campers responded to God’s Word. They came forward to repent of sin and ask Christ to save them. **RUSSIA**



In Popina, this tent outside the church generated excitement and provided a shady spot for services. BELARUS



Some Sunday school kids try to answer every question with "God" or "Jesus" or "the Bible." But when they learn to dig into God's Word for truth, they learn a valuable skill. UKRAINE



Making handicrafts engages both minds and hands. This craft includes the camp's theme verse, John 3:16. UKRAINE



In some lands, children come with confusing ideas about Allah and Muslim culture. But each day they opened more to God's Word and learned of Christ. WESTERN ASIA



With their Extreme Christian Camp, the church in Ternopil invites young adults to a time of camping, river rafting, and hiking in the Carpathian Mountains. Like all camps, the main goal is evangelism. UKRAINE



Teaching little ones their very first lessons about God—what an awesome opportunity! UKRAINE



Construction was the theme of this camp. "Every day, we laid a brick in the wall we were building, and every brick stood for a passage of Scripture the children would learn that day." RUSSIA

“ Youth camp had the largest attendance this year overall; we had over 130 young people attend camp, from six different regions of Russia.... The theme of youth camp this year was "I Will Serve the Lord." Every morning at camp started with an hour of prayer and Bible study.... Every day after dinner, we would have a time of worship and preaching and answering questions around the fire, which lasted well into the night. The young people would stay up to discuss Bible questions and fellowship. To our surprise and encouragement, however, the youth were always up and ready for the next day to start and were waiting for morning Bible hour to start at 8 a.m. ”



In Smiga, the camp had a sailing theme, so each Bible lesson involved the sea (Christ calming the sea, the great catch of fish, etc.) **UKRAINE**



Holding camps in Muslim lands can invite trouble, but our workers do it. Praise God, a number of young souls accepted Christ this summer! **CENTRAL ASIA**



In this competition, teams created water channels and tried to collect the most water. Easier said than done when the channel is made of short segments held by hand! **RUSSIA**

“ **WESTERN ASIA** – Many of these children were closed at first; they weren't open to fellowship. They spoke from their juvenile understanding of Allah like God and about Muslim culture. But with each day they became more friendly and talkative. They learned about the loving Lord Christ, and He opened their hearts and persuaded them through the Word of God, and through the adults' testimonies. Through us, the Lord sowed in them and led their hearts toward repentance. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ for these children's souls. The kids began to pray to the Savior, to sing songs to Him and to read His Word. The peace of God and joy of the Lord filled their hearts. ”

...God Led Him *continued from page 2*

witch, who was unable to help him. She'd declared he was cursed. He saw no way out and didn't know what to do.

I began to witness to him, explaining that he needed God.

“God doesn't hear me.”

I replied that God had led him here so that I could pray with him, and I offered to pray with him right there.

“I've never prayed before.”

I told him to repeat after me. Thus, we began to pray. Vova prayed so sincerely and repented, asking for forgiveness and urging God to save him. We prayed a long while, and he spoke so sincerely, pleading with God for redemption.

When we said, “Amen,” Vova opened his eyes. “Wow. I see trees... and a dog. I hear the wind. I've received my sight!” He said that he would find

me in Desna. He also invited me to come and visit his home and to talk with his mother.

I asked when he'd last eaten.

“Three days ago.”

We fed him and prayed with him again before he joyfully set off for home.

I was so overjoyed that God had led Vova there and gave me the opportunity to guide him in the sinner's prayer of repentance. God is good and merciful!

Our team of camp leaders became spectators of this event—of how, at literally the last hour of our stay by the river, the Lord led Vova to us, and he repented. Praise God!

Igor asks that we pray for Vova, that God will strengthen him and that he will grow spiritually and become a good witness for Jesus Christ. ■

...a Promise *continued from page 2*

But what about her promise? She pulled on a jacket and stepped out into darkness. On the street, she didn't see anyone. Then, in the illuminated ring around a streetlight she noticed one man, a drunk, standing there gripping the pole with both hands.

She hesitated. “What was the point of telling him about the Lord? Wouldn't it be the same as casting pearls before swine?”

But she had made God a promise. No one else was in sight. So she walked over and told that drunk about Jesus in order to fulfill her promise. Then she returned home, not knowing whether anything had come of her words.

As someone once said, God owns the key to each person's heart. Clearly, he gave the key to that man's heart to a sister in Christ who was concerned about keeping her promise. ■

...Art of Evangelism continued from page 1

we invite people to pray for salvation and to begin a Bible study with us.

BIEM: *Being outdoors makes you dependent on the weather. Is that a problem?*

Kellers: The weather in Kyiv in summer is almost always good, and we can exhibit our paintings in the open air. Even when thunderclouds appear in the sky, we pray, and the Lord takes them past us. Sometimes it is necessary to anchor down the paintings with weights due to strong winds, but these are trifles.

BIEM: *Along with the pictures you post a sign to say the pictures are for display only, not for sale. Why?*

Kellers: People tend to avoid talking to us if they think we are trying to sell the pictures to them.



A display under the chestnut trees of Kreschatik, the main street in downtown Kyiv, draws Ukrainians and visitors from around the world!

BIEM: *How often do you and your team go out?*

Kellers: We are out in the streets two to four times a week. Sometimes we set up in local parks; other times we go straight to the central street of Kyiv. There we can touch with the Gospel visitors to our city

from all over Ukraine and even visitors from all over the world!

Pray for BIEM's missionaries as they share the Gospel in a variety of ways. Pray, too, for their fellow church members, whom they instruct in evangelism. ■

A New Christmas CD!

As this newsletter goes to press, a new CD titled *Sound the Trumpet at Christmas* is in production. These classic Christmas numbers feature Sam Slobodian on trumpet. The producer/conductor is the well-known Glenn Christianson, with live recording of Sam and orchestra happening at Aire Born Recording Studio in Indianapolis. Although not quite yet completed, the CDs are scheduled for an October release in plenty of time for Christmas. This new CD will be priced the same as the previous CD's, *Sound the Trumpet I* and *Sound the Trumpet II*, which is \$15 plus \$4 shipping. At the same time the new CD is being produced, the quality of these earlier CD's is being upgraded through digital remastering. In order to encourage preorders of the new Christmas

CD, we are offering **free shipping** for a preordered Christmas CD. As a bonus, we are also offering the new Christmas CD plus *Sound the Trumpet I* or *II* (2 CD's) for a donation of \$25, or the new Christmas CD plus *Sound the Trumpet I* and *II* (3 CD's) for a donation of \$30. Both of these offers include free shipping as well.

To preorder, simply send a suggested donation to BIEM of \$15 for the Christmas CD or a donation of \$25 for the Christmas CD and *Sound the Trumpet I* or *II* (please specify) or \$30 for all three—the Christmas CD and *Sound the Trumpet I* and *II*. As soon as production is complete, we'll get yours into the mail! ■

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Sam Slobodian, Producer/Conductor Glenn Christianson, and Aire Born Studios' Chief Engineer Dave Price at a recording session.

The Continuing Impact of Godly Lives

Due to a wonderful response to the tribute article about Peter Rumachik and the generosity of other donors, BIEM will be able to provide a building for a new church in Siberia, near where Peter was once exiled for his faith. How wonderfully ironic that the USSR's method of punishing a Christian eventually resulted in a new church in that place.

In response to the Homegoing of longtime BIEM friend Robert Hill, Sr., we have received sufficient memorial funds to build an addition for a small church in Ukraine and also to ship another 40-ft. container of humanitarian aid. That container is being loaded even as this newsletter goes to press!

How beautifully appropriate when godly individuals have lived their lives in such a way that their departure to Heaven prompts others to give memorial gifts for the glory of God!