

Dear Friends and family,

Again, this year, Nancy and I are excited to going to Ukraine again this summer. We will be leaving about July 23 and returning Aug. 1. We will be going to Zhitomir and to a camp for deaf young people. This year they are expecting around 130 campers up from 50 from last year, and will range from 5 to 20 years old.

We will be teaming up with a group from Indianapolis as well Raleigh NC. as well as many local workers and teacher from Ukraine who will be helping as translators, and support people. It will be an exciting time to renew old friendships and to provide a week of fun and excitement for both the campers and the staff.

Just to give you an idea of what we will be doing on a daily basis, here is the tentative daily schedule, (we might need a rest when we get back).

7:00am – Staff Morning Devotional - walk through schedule for the day for all staff/signers/leaders.

8:00am - Morning Exercises

8:30am - Large Group Devotions-prayer, and introduction of theme for the day.

9:00am - 9:45am – Breakfast -

10:00am - 11:15am – Group meetings-lead campers in study of Bible theme for the day.

11:30am – Morning Break - Clean up and get ready for theme lunch (each day there will be a crazy theme for lunch. Example: crazy hat day, Indian day, clown day, etc)

12:00pm - Lunch - Note: each day a small group will be assigned as servers for the lunch meal. This may be something like helping the kitchen staff put out silverware, plates etc., &/or clean up afterwards. The idea is to teach them about serving.

1:00pm – 2pm Rest/Quiet time

2:15pm - 3:30pm - Games/competitions/Swimming

3:45pm - 4:45pm - Arts/crafts

5:00pm - Dinner

7:00pm – Church Service

Worship, Teaching Skits/Drama

8:45pm - Evening Snack

9:30pm - Free Time – fellowship, time for home work, relaxing, if available bathing

10:30pm - Lights Out - bed time for campers

10:45pm - Staff Meeting - discuss how the day went and adjust/set schedule for tomorrow.



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Last year when we went, we were rather concerned about how we would fit in as we didn't speak Ukraine or know Ukrainian sign language, however we were able to be encouragers and helpers in a number of areas. It was a blessing to get to know the deaf leaders and staff workers who also reached out to make us feel welcome and even taught us a little sign language.

This year we will be involved in more of the camp activities from teaching, leading in games and sports as well as trying to be encouragement to the campers and staff in Ukraine. However, if it is anything like last year, they will be even more of an encouragement to us. They have had a difficult recent past with Chernobyl and difficult economy with as high as 70% unemployment. We found out that these young people are great at soccer and volleyball and it sure was a challenge for us "oldies" to keep up. We are excited about serving yet knowing that there will be more than twice as many campers as last year, and that we will be taking a more direct role in leading and teaching we will certainly be a challenge.

Bob and Nancy

