



**Friendship
INTERNATIONAL**

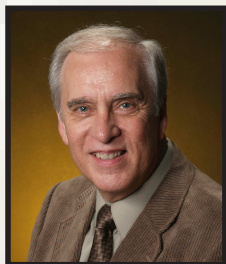
*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
Reaching Out to a Needy World*

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Del Huff
Executive Director

YAY, It's Camp Time !

Is there really value in children attending summer camp?

There are many factors that make Christian camping a positive and valuable experience. First, in Christian camps, there is extensive exposure to the Word of God. **Hebrews 4:12** tells us that the Bible is living and powerful. A typical day in a Christian camp will have some form of personal or group devotions, an evening chapel service, and a Scripture memorization program.

There is also the opportunity for campers to observe and learn from godly mentors (counselors, staff, and speakers). Many campers come from broken homes or grow up with less-than-ideal role models because one or both parents are unsaved or weak and immature in their faith.

Another benefit is what is commonly absent at a Christian camp: TVs, cell-phones, mp3 players, computers, video games, etc. These distractions serve to busy the mind and keep young people from focusing on the deeper questions of life such as, "Why am I here?" "What will happen to me when I die?" "Is there really a God who loves me?" Once distractions are removed, campers find themselves surrounded by God's creation, an environment that turns their minds to Him, to the eternal and away from the world.

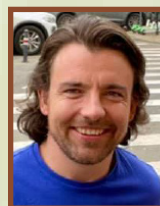
God has greatly used Christian camping in calling out ones to be saved and to serve Him as Lord, whether as missionaries, pastors, or just as importantly, as "full-time Christians."

Please pray with us for God's working in the lives of many campers this summer. And a BIG thank you to those who have already sponsored one or more children to attend camp this summer.



At Friendship Camp

a fantastic time with 50 children from different children's homes and struggling families. Our leaders were a team from Scotland and translators who were children of Romanian ex-pats living in Germany. The theme of the week was the miracles of Jesus and the



Camp Season is Officially Open And We Are Excited by Callum King

As I write to you we are sitting round the camp fire at the end of the second day of our second week of camp.

The first week of camp was



kids got really involved in learning the weeks' memory verses. As well, the Scots and Romanians from Germany had prepared a fantastic program of games and crafts for the kids to enjoy. Praise God for the generosity of the people who raised the funds to sponsor all of the kids to come to camp! God's love was demonstrated through His people to these children who otherwise would not have been able to come to camp. Praise God for the seeds that were planted in their hearts.

This week, as well as the Romanian kids, we have 9 children who have travelled from Ukraine to be at Friendship Camp. Even though these children are from the west side of Ukraine and haven't been directly affected by the Russian attacks, they live with regular air raid sirens, power cuts and other secondary effects of war. A week at Friendship Camp is a time when they can, at least for a moment, forget the

troubles of home, be recharged and built up in God's word. As well as Romanian and Ukrainian children, we also have our good friend Chip Riley from America who is leading the camp and a small group from Hungary who have come to be part of the camp. It really is an international camp! This week we thank the people of America for their help in bringing a number of Romanian children to camp who come from foster families as well as the children who have come from Ukraine. The camp has set off to a great start and the kids were very happy to see faces and friends from last year.

Each child who comes to camp has a different story and for many, Friendship Camp provides a safe context where they can open up and share their stories, hurts and joys with the camp leaders. This is special privilege for the leaders and gives an opportunity to offer good biblical advice, guidance and counselling. There are too many stories to tell and often they are very personal but as leaders we have been reminded of the pain and suffering many of these children have already experienced and how important it is that we bring all of them before God in prayer. Please pray with us!

Next week we will again bring many kids from struggling families and from another children's home.



Please continue to pray for all the practical aspects of running the camp. On the morning of the first day of camp we had an inspection from the health department. So far we have managed to make several relatively small improvements around the camp which were required but there are still some things which need resolved. A new law means we must have a qualified nurse on-site at all times. Pray that we would find a person with the correct qualifications to take on this role.

Praise God for his faithfulness. Only with His blessing and through the support of His people are we able to continue with his ministry.

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Vienna, Budapest
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For more infos go to www.friendshipintl.org
Click on "Send Me" and download the brochure

Reflecting On Our Beginnings

Editor's Notes: Natalie's story continues. This is chapter 2. Here is a brief statement from the last article from June UPDATE'23. If you are interested you may catch up from the first article by going to friendshipintl.org, click on UPDATE and open the June '23 edition.

In closing of last month's article, Natalie was explaining the difficulties in getting across the border into Romania, especially because of all of the musical instruments and sound equipment her van was transporting and how they had to contact her church from back home and get a special letter verifying that everything had been donated by her church and was going directly to the Romanian people. Here is where God intervened and the Border police showed favor and allowed them to pass through the border into Romania. Meanwhile, the others in the group were waiting and praying for Natalie and her van to be allowed to cross. And now the story continues.



REMEMBERING FRIENDSHIP INTERNATIONAL'S FIRST MISSIONARY TRIP TO ROMANIA - Chapter 2

by Natalie Klostermann

God is faithful! When we were finally through the border crossing, we drove on until we met up with the other vans. Once we were again together, we rearranged the seating in the vans so that each group would

head out for their different assignments and destinations where we would be serving.

Del pulled me aside at this point and said since I was not going to be able to stay for the entire time of the trip, he wanted to make sure I had the full experience of our missionary trip, so he was going to pull me from my original assignment with one group and I would be moving from one team to the other as they served in different locations.



My first destination was to an orphanage in Cluj-Napoca. This was where the Romanian family traveling with us were originally from. We were assigned different homes for accommodations, which proved quite interesting. Here are some examples of what I experienced. First, my hosts had cisterns, water holding tanks, built inside their home. The dictator Ceascsu would turn off the water in the homes and businesses as a way of controlling the people. So the people had to be creative and found a

way to store up water after a rain. They used this water for everything, drinking, cooking, bathing, washing clothes, etc. Also, I was surprised to find that the homes all had out-houses. Wow, was I glad I brought a flashlight for night time visits. It was also a joy to visit several of the villagers in their homes and have the wonderful opportunity to share God's word with them.



For me visiting the orphanage in this city was a special treat. We spent precious time with the children and were able to share the Gospel with them as well as the attending workers. We also brought gifts, played with them, sang songs for them and taught them simple songs in English with the message of Good News. The team was there for several days.

When it was time for me to leave and move on to the next assignment, the children came up to me and begged me to take them with me. Oh, that was so hard. I was able to assure them that even though I had to go, Jesus would stay and be with them and never leave them or forsake them. There were a number of the children who prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior. Only eternity will prove how many that might have been. I held each of them in my arms and said He would always be there for them and they should keep telling the other children they could have Jesus always with them.

Editor's Note: To be continued, Chapter 3