

# the **Gazetta**



Children's Summer  
Camp Recap

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# Love One Another

A WORD FROM THE CEO

There are times in our life where it helps to have a little guidance and direction about where we're heading or what our next step should be. In John 13, Jesus not only gives His disciples direction, but He also gives them a command. Jesus said,



**“I give you a new command:  
Love each other. You must love each other  
as I have loved you. All people will know that  
you are my followers if you love each other.”**

– John 13:34-35 NCV

To be known as a follower of Jesus, we must share the love He has for us with others. This is the foundation of all we do at Music Mission Kiev. We talk about and demonstrate the love Jesus has for all people. We strive to model His love in everything we do as we serve others in Ukraine.

In this edition, you will read some great stories about that love, including one about how we took some “different” youth groups to camp. In fact, we tried something we have never done before. We brought three distinct groups together to experience camp. Mixing these groups was a recipe for chaos, and we knew it. We added lots of prayers and trusted the Holy Spirit to be active at our camp, and we believed it would turn into something special. And it did—read on to learn more.

In this edition, you will also learn about the prestigious presentation of the hand-written Bible presented by the Ukrainian Bible Society. The pictures and story give just a glimpse of how sacred and majestic this time was for all Ukrainians.

Our final article is about a recent interview with Viktoriia R. from our YouTube series called, “The Portrait.” Viktoriia shares her incredible journey of faith, and the role Music Mission Kiev has played in her life.

The stories included in this Gazetta are a small snapshot of how faithfully God is working in the lives of the people we serve. As I travel to speak at different churches this summer and fall, these updates are just some of the stories and pictures I share. They are wonderful reminders of how much our partnership glorifies Jesus Christ as we share His love with others. We are privileged to be part of this mission, His mission.

If you are not already partnering with us, I encourage you to join us on this journey so we can continue to proclaim the Gospel to Ukraine and the world. If you are already partnered with us, I'd like to give you a challenge: Think of two people you can share our mission with. Give them a call or send them a message and let them know about how they can play a part in sharing the Gospel message of Jesus with Ukraine and the world.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg K." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Greg





# SUMMER CAMP

## Children's Summer Camp Recap

FROM IRA & OKSANA



Our children's camp is always a wonderful time to learn more about each other, share personal experiences, and help children learn about God. We study God's truth and work to embody it into our lives.

This year's camp was unique because we were finally able to implement our plan thwarted by the pandemic last year. We decided to bring all the children we serve to one camp—including Stara Basan, Druzhkovka (Donbas), and Kyiv (children of the parents involved in St. Paul's Church or KSOC). We had 70 children in total, from 6 to 15 years old.

Our camp took place near Pereiaslav, on the shore of the Kaniv Reservoir (80 km from Kyiv). Since these kids have come from different areas and backgrounds, it took a while for them to adjust. Fortunately, the "breaking-in period" was not long.

Ira shared, "I love camps because it is a blessed time to get to know each other, to communicate closely with children. This time it was no exception."







No amount of busyness interfered with talking to the children and hearing about their experiences. In camp, you really become friends with them, and they already trust you with their experiences, pains, and joys!

It was an incredible journey for the 21 teenagers from Druzhkovka. We wanted to show them new places in our beautiful country! To Ira's surprise, when she talked to the teenagers, she found out that many were traveling by train for the first time in their lives. Many of them were traveling outside Druzhkovka (war zone with Russia) for the first time!



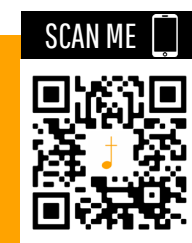
It was great for our staff to be with Dima, Lyuba, and Nastya (our partners from Donbas) for two weeks! Lyuba shared how many of the children didn't have good home situations. "Often, the children saw violence, and the atmosphere was so bad that many wanted to run away from home." She also mentioned how they don't always get a chance to learn about the children's inner world. However, at camp, they all opened up in a different way—we all learned so much about them and became even better friends. Our team believes all the youth became firmly established in their faith in God. We had never heard so many prayers from the lips of children in Druzhkovka!



For the children from Kyiv, we had the chance to introduce them to new places in our Kyiv region. For many, this camp was the first time in their lives where they talked about spiritual truths from God. Some found it challenging to make friends with the other children, but that's what makes camp so great. We teach them how to understand the Word of God, pray, look at the world with different eyes, communicate with other children, make decisions on their own, resolve conflicts, and take care of themselves.



The kids from Stara Basan at camp are like fish in water. Some of them are here for the fourth or even the fifth time! Everyone knows each other and how the camp goes, but this did not prevent them from discovering new truths and gaining new knowledge, both in the Word of God and in friendships with the other kids! Everything done at camp is an...



Article Continued Online  
SCAN QR CODE WITH SMARTPHONE CAMERA  
OR GO TO [MUSICMISSIONKIEV.ORG/CAMP](https://musicmissionkiev.org/camp) TO READ MORE.



# Ukrainian Bible Society

PRESENTATION OF HAND WRITTEN BIBLE & 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

In June, Pastor Ruslan and Serhiy attended a celebration of the Ukrainian Bible Society's 30th anniversary at St. Sophia Cathedral. It was both honoring and humbling to know that Music Mission Kiev has traveled with them for half of this journey (since 2006).



The Kyiv Symphony Chorus was invited to open the 30th anniversary conference with The Lord's Prayer. After a short message and prayer of invocation, our singers performed "Bless, the Lord O My Soul." You could tell everyone was deeply moved by their performance. As Gregory Komendant, President of Ukrainian Bible Society, said turning to the choir, "You represent Christian Ukraine so well."

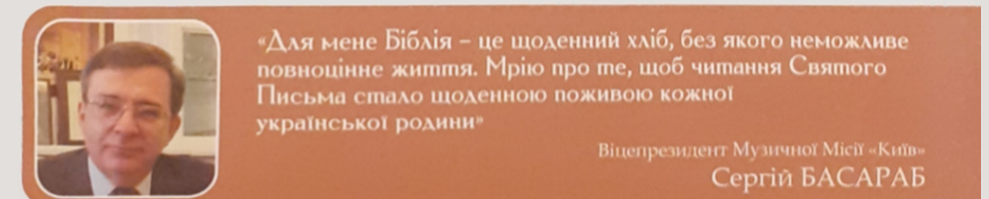
The speakers at the conference, who were heads of denominations and Bible Society leaders, highlighted great achievements in fulfilling the Ukrainian Bible Society's triune mission: translation, printing, and distribution of the Word of God. In the course of 30 years, more than 13 million Bibles have been distributed in Ukraine. In addition, five different Ukrainian translations have been printed,

including the modern version recently completed by the team led by Father Rafail Turkoniak. The Ukrainian Bible Society has also printed and distributed many Bibles in Russian, Crimean Tatar, and Roma languages.

Ezra 8:18, which was printed on the big banner in the conference hall, was a fitting theme in the speeches we heard, "The gracious hand of our God was on us."

In connection with the 30th anniversary, the Bible Society printed a very informative brochure covering every area of the Ukrainian Bible Society's ministries. In this brochure, representatives of 20 denominations and organizations (who are also official members of the Ukrainian Bible Society), were asked to provide short answers to one question: What does the Bible mean to you? Below, you will see the page with the answer provided by Serhiy.

For me the Bible is my daily bread. Without it a truly fulfilling life is impossible. My dream is that the reading of Holy Scriptures will be a source of daily nourishment for every Ukrainian family."



Віцепрезидент Музичної Мсії «Київ»  
Сергій БАСАРАБ





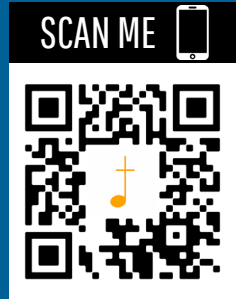
# The Portrait

MEET VIKTORIIA RYBCHYNSKA



 Watch Video

SCAN QR CODE WITH  
SMARTPHONE CAMERA OR GO TO  
[MUSICMISSIONKIEV.ORG/PORTRAIT](https://musicmissionkiev.org/portrait)



*This article is a snippet of an interview with Viktoriia R. from our YouTube series called, “The Portrait” (Episode #5), which we post on our Ukrainian website to share our mission with others there. Viktoriia shares an amazing journey of faith and she has one of the most positive dispositions about everything in life. If you enjoy reading the written version, be sure you watch the entire video online by scanning the QR code above on your smartphone.*

## How did your love for music start?

I have enjoyed singing since my childhood. I remember well how every summer my parents would take me to my grandparents in the village, and I would stay there for summer school break. It was my paradise! Every day I was giving concerts outside. My audience was our neighbors, cats, dogs, imaginary listeners, and, of course, my family. So my parents understood I should go to a music school.

## How did you become a KSOC artist?

I studied at Dragomanov University. Volodya Cara, my classmate, had already been a choir member. He told me about the enrollment of new singers and asked me if I wanted to come. I vividly remember members of the enrollment committee: Victoria Konchakovska, Serhiy Golubnychyi, and Matthew McMurrin. They liked me a lot, so I was quickly accepted. I remember my very first rehearsal with KSOC—lots of friendly people. Then an elegant grey-haired man approached me saying, “Hi, sunny girl! I’m Roger McMurrin.” I understood he was the founder of the choir and orchestra. That was the day I fell in love with the KSOC, and even today, they are my music family that I simply adore.

## How does your faith in God affect your life?

As a little girl, I was going to church with my grandmother. She would take me to church services, where I participated in the choir. It was a surprising thing because the church choir was made primarily of elderly people, so I was the only young person there. I remember my peers would laugh at me not understanding why I was attracted to the church choir.

As years passed, I was growing, and I started to pray. When I was going through some hardships, I would speak to God in prayer using simple words. My grandmother would teach me, “Pray the way your soul feels, speak to God, even if it is only a few words.” And so I did.

I am a Christian, and Christians keep God’s commandments. And the key commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Well, it did not seem to be easy to love your neighbor when he does evil back to your kindness. But everything comes from the Lord, and He gives you strength and understanding. You just respond with kindness to people’s evil. And the key thing is love. I think without love, there could be no humanity; we would be senseless people.



Didn’t you love Viktoriia’s answers and attitude? She is a long-time member of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and is evidence of how God reaches musicians through our mission.

Our KSOC season kicks off in September. The KSOC is our model of evangelism that opens doors for people and places we have never been able to share the good news of Jesus. Our General Funding is how the KSOC is supported because it is part of our foundation for sharing the Gospel.

In order to ensure that Music Mission Kiev remains vibrant and strong in this upcoming season of ministry, please consider making a gift today. Your generosity will be rewarded many times over through the work we accomplish together.

As I mentioned earlier, I am traveling and sharing all God is doing at churches and gatherings. Please consider having your church invite me to come and share all the exciting ways God is working in Ukraine. Thank you, and God bless you!

Greg





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