

KIDS REACHING KIDS (KRK) IN RUSSIA

Six local churches in the Russia South and Russia North districts were supported in 2023 with funds provided by Kids Reaching Kids for their local Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) and other related activities. Each VBS session was filled with many activities, including:

- Evangelization in different ways
- Bible study (Bible plays, Bible reading, learning Bible verses)
- Small group discussions
- Sport activities (sports and action games)
- Worshiping (songs and dances)
- Fun activities (games, experiments, quests)
- Movie time (the Super Book series)
- Food and snacks
- Creative activities (crafts, participating in plays)

Some of the VBSs were camps and included overnight lodging. This year 125 children participated. While some children came from difficult circumstances, there were several important outcomes, for example:

- New kids started to participate in kid's clubs or Sunday lessons.
- There were opportunities to share the Gospel with non-believing parents.
- The kids' faith was strengthened by discipleship.
- Growing children became leaders.
- Team leaders got more experience and deepened their involvement in kids' ministry.

VBS also impacted the lives of children and volunteers in several ways. The children were strengthened and grew in faith. Children participated in a new environment and learned to be Christlike disciples. The children learned to understand God and know him better. Volunteers also learned what God wanted to teach them through the program and often they felt renewed after VBS sessions. Volunteers got inspired when they saw how the kids changed and grew in faith. Volunteers started to understand the kids better and recognize the challenges the kids face in their lives.

This year initiative team members from different cities participated in VBS. Here are few testimonies:

- The mother of one girl said: “In the modern world with the big temptations and lack of culture and spirituality, you give the kids spiritual things. We are very glad; please invite us more.”
- Two kids from the Roma people attended. One of them testified and thanked the church for ministry because they learned to read and write thanks to the ministry of the church.
- The grandmother of the participating girls noted: "The girls are looking forward to the next camp. They really liked the program, especially games and crafts. This time there were such interesting lessons that my granddaughter recorded on video to show us. We are very grateful to the organizers!"
- Sofia, a 14-year-old assistant, said: "It was the first time I participated in the camp as an assistant. I helped to carry out the quest, distributed sports equipment, did crafts, distributed food. One day I was standing at the station where the guys were supposed to receive part of the message and memorize a Bible verse. At first I was scared, but God helped me, and I succeeded. I was very surprised at how the children are happy to participate in everything, sing songs, listen to the Bible stories, learn and play. I liked it very much."
- It was a testimony for us to see how God works. The Lord touched children with the Holy Spirit. Some cried, repented, and asked for forgiveness (especially from non-believing families).

We are very grateful and thankful for the support in reaching children and their families for the Lord. Thank you for being part of our ministries.