



Christmas for Youth Prisoners and Street Girls



Every time I see a picture of a street child, I ask the Lord to enable me to do more, to share more, to pray more, and to give more! All because of one reason – my desire to see more children rescued and saved from the curse of living on the streets!

In 2007 our teams throughout Eastern Europe were able help hundreds of children every day. We truly thank God for all who gave of themselves and stood with us in this work.

Join us in 2008 as we continue proclaiming the favorable year of the Lord and so that we can see many more street children changed by the love of our Lord!

Nasko Lazarov
US Director

The faces you see on the pictures are very precious for us. We knew many of the boys at the time when they were living on the streets and before their detention to the juvenile prison.

They are also precious because Jesus spoke about them in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."



He came to save them!

Young prisoners and girls from the streets of St. Petersburg, Russia, hearing the Christmas message.





The Christian music group consists of former drug users who are now free and renewed through faith in Jesus.



The boys from the colony during the program.



Our St. Petersburg ministry leader Vadim Taran with boys of the Colony, some of whom we knew from the streets.

Testimonies, Word and music to the boys at a Colony

In December of 2007 some of our ministry time was spent at the Youth Juvenile Center of Kolpinskaya Kolonia. Children as young as 12 years of age are detained there for all sorts of crimes, ranging from the small and petty to much larger ones. Oftentimes their only conflict with the law is their presence on the streets when the police decide to "clean" the streets. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time lands these children in jail. Frequently they are detained until they turn 16 so they can be prosecuted as adults.

Christmas gave our St. Petersburg team an opportunity to share the hope of the Gospel with the boys at this juvenile center. The mime acts, songs, and Christmas story all seemed to be foreign concepts to these young men; something none had ever seen or heard of before. Eventually the boys loosened up a little and were more receptive to what we had to say.

Members of our team were able to share their real life stories with the boys, and because many on our team were saved from a life on the streets, the boys were attentive and even considerate of what was being spoken. The words of the Gospel were able to penetrate the ears and hearts of the young listeners. The Spirit of God was moving. We could tell that the hope of the Gospel was bringing light into the darkness of these children's hearts.

The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus came to bring hope and a new life. Children, adults, criminals, non-criminals...we are all those who need the Lord in our lives. Thank the Lord for this opportunity to share the Good News of the Christmas story at this juvenile center, and thank the Lord that we have been invited back!

Street girls hearing the Christmas story at church

In addition to visiting the juvenile center, we were able to take some street girls to a Christmas celebration at a local church. These girls had a wonderful time at the celebration. They were warmly welcomed by the congregation and felt, possibly for the first time, truly accepted and appreciated.

Usually these girls are shown conditional love and affection from the people they interact with on a daily basis. However, at this Christmas celebration in St. Petersburg, the girls were able to get a taste of a 'normal celebration' and a 'normal life.' We believe these young women will remember this experience for the rest of their lives, and we hope and pray the Lord will use this experience to take them from the grips of street life and into His Kingdom!

As we start 2008 we could reach many more children with your help. Please, pray and ask God how you could help!

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